

The Qingming Festival

qīngmíngjié

清 明 节



Qingming has been regularly observed as a statutory public holiday in Taiwan and in the Chinese jurisdictions of Hong Kong and Macau. Its observance was reinstated as a public holiday in mainland China in 2008.

The **Qingming Festival** (The Clear and Bright Day), is a traditional Chinese festival on the 104th day after the winter solstice (or the 15th day from the Spring Equinox), usually occurring around April 5 of the Chinese calendar. The Qingming festival falls on the first day of the fifth solar term, named Qingming. Its name denotes a time for people to go outside and enjoy the greenery of springtime and tend to the graves of departed ones.

清明

杜牧

清明时节雨纷纷，
路上行人欲断魂。
借问酒家何处有？
牧童遥指杏花村。



Du Mu: He was born in Chang'an (modern Xi'an) into an elite family whose fortunes were declining. He passed the jinshi ("Presented Scholar") level of the imperial civil service examination in 827 at the age of 25, and went on to hold many official positions in various locales through the years. However, he never achieved a high rank, perhaps due to enemies made in a factional dispute in 835. He was appointed to the office of Secretariat Drafter shortly before his death.

qīngmíng táng dùmù
清 明 (唐 杜 牧)

qīngmíng 清 明	shíjié 时 节	yǔ 雨	fēnfēn 纷 纷	,
Qingming Festival	Time of	Rain	In succession	,
Around the Qingming Festival showers are frequent;				
lùshang 路 上	xíngrén 行 人	yù 欲	duànghún 断 魂	。
On the road	wayfarer	Just going to	feel like a lost soul	.
On the road the wayfarer trudged on like a lost soul.				
jièwèn 借 问	jiǔjiā 酒 家	héchù 何 处	yǒu 有	?
May I ask	tavern	where	There is	?
May I ask where the tavern is?				
mùtóng 牧 童	yáo 遥	zhǐ 指	xìng huā cūn 杏 花 村	。
Buffalo boy	a distant	Point at	hamlet nestled amidst apricot blossoms	.
The buffalo boy points at a distant hamlet nested amidst apricot blossoms.				

