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### 人臻五福 花满三春

吉祥一词,始见于《易经》:"吉事有祥。"《左传》有:"是何祥也?吉祥焉在?"《庄子》则有:"虚室生日,吉祥止止。"《注疏》亦云:"吉者,福善之事;祥者,嘉庆之征。"

吉祥二字,在甲骨文中被写作"吉羊"。上古人过着游牧生活,羊肥大成群是很"吉祥"的事,在古器物的铭文中多有"吉羊"。《说文》云:"羊,祥也。"

吉祥,是美好、幸运的形象;吉祥,是人类最迷人的主题。艺术最终都是把理想形象化,而吉祥图,是中华吉祥文化最璀璨的明珠。旧时有联:"善果皆欢喜,香云普吉祥。"吉祥图有:吉祥如意、五福吉祥等。

五福,是吉祥的具体体现。福、禄、寿、喜、财,在 民间被称为五福;福星、禄星、寿星、喜神、财神,在仙 界被尊为五福神。五福最早见于《尚书》:"五福,一曰寿, 二曰富,三曰康宁,四曰攸好德,五曰考终命。"旧时有 联:"三阳临吉地,五福萃华门。"吉祥图有:五福捧寿、 三多五福等。

福, 意为幸福美满。《老子》:"福兮, 祸所伏。"《韩















一团和气 Harmony and kindness

# Happiness Designs of Chinese Blessings

"一团和气图"初创于明"酒狂仙客",画一道士盘坐一团,谓儒、道、释原为一气而成。《锄经书舍零墨》:和珅曾为吴白华侍郎之弟子,后和珅登相位,吴反拜和门下。和败被刑,有人赠吴一团和气图,讽吴有一团和珅之气。

The picture was created by a Ming Dynasty scholar. The picture features a Taoist priest stylized in a rounded form, indicating that Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism come from common roots. Record has it that He Shen, the notorious rotten official of the Qing Dynasty was once a student of another official, Wu, and when He Shen became Prime Minister, Wu became a follower of He. Upon He's collapse and subsequent trial, this picture was given to Wu as a gift to ridicule him for being close to He Shen.













一团和气 Harmony and kindness

# Happiness Designs of Chinese Blessings

阿福是我国南方民间流行的泥塑,手执"和气吉祥"之横联。旧时正月初九是玉皇诞辰,玉帝又名天公,是道教的首神。初九要祭天公,此日讲究和气,不能冒犯天神。旧时非常讲究和气,做买卖和气生财,在家和和睦睦。

This picture features Afu, a clay statue popular in south China with a horizontal couplet in his hands that reads "kindness leads to happiness." In the past, the ninth day of the first month of the lunar year was regarded as the birthday of the Jade Emperor, the head of Taoism. Rituals were performed and sacrifices offered to him on that day in which kindness is the focus. Harmony was highly treasured in the past both for business and families.



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> 电话: (86)10-68320585, 68997826 传真: (86)10-68997826, 68326333 网址: www.sinolingua.com.cn 电子信箱: hyjx@sinolingua.com.cn

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