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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。"















## 一本万利

A small investment brings a ten thousand—fold profit

《史记》:"天下熙熙,皆为利来; 天下攘攘,皆为利往。"旧时除夕夜 迎财神和大年初二祭财神,都是春节 期间的民俗活动。这种印有财神爷和 吉利话的新春帖子,是供迎、祭祀财 神用的,以求年初一分本,年底万分 利之福。

"All the business and hustle of this world are aimed at money"; citation from the *Records of the Historian*. On the eve of the Chinese New Year and the second day of the New Year, celebrations will be held and sacrifices made to the God of Money according to folk customs. New Year's cards with the portrait of fortune gods and words of good luck are designed for these very occasions. They are expressions of hope for a small investment at the start of the year in exchange for a large return at the end.

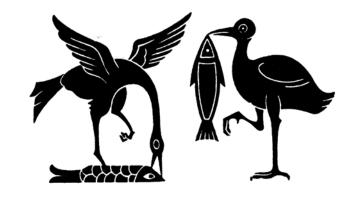
















Abundance and good fortune 《毛诗义疏》:"鹭,水鸟。好白而洁,故谓之白鸟。"鹭为吉祥鸟。 图为"一鹭食鱼",古时"鹭"谐音 为"多","食"谐"十","鱼"谐 "余",合为"一多十余"。表示财富 多而有余,大吉大利。此图多见于古 代传统吉祥印章之上。

The egret has been mentioned in Chinese records since ancient times. It is considered a bird of good luck. The picture here depicts an egret eating fish; since egret shared the same pronunciation as much in the past, and fish as plentiful, the message here is actually "abundance and good fortune". The image often appears on ancient seals of good luck.



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