



Asparagus 蘆筍 Festivals 嘉年華

“The dragon’s teeth are growing,” shouted Granny Beck.

“What are you talking about?” yelled Grandpa Mike.

“Look,” said Granny. “The asparagus is coming up. When I was little, my daddy teased me and told me it was dragon’s teeth. I was afraid to go into the garden for fear I would get eaten.”

“Asparagus season is starting,” agreed Grandpa. “If we lived in California, we could go to the Stockton Asparagus Festival. They have cooking demonstrations and competitions. There are asparagus eating contests with cash prizes and lots of fun things to do.”

“Grandpa, California is far away and flying is so expensive. You are dreaming if you think we can go there.”

「惡龍的牙齒長出來了。」貝琪奶奶大聲說。

「妳在說什麼？」麥可爺爺吼回去。

「看！」奶奶說。「蘆筍長出來了。我小的時候，我爸爸和我開玩笑，騙我說蘆筍是惡龍的牙齒。所以那時我很害怕走到花園裡，怕會被吃掉。」

「蘆筍季已經到了。」爺爺同意。「如果我們住在加州，就能去參加斯托克頓蘆筍節 (Stockton Asparagus Festival)。蘆筍節上有烹飪展示會和烹飪競賽，還有可拿獎金的吃蘆筍大賽，另外還有一堆好玩的事。」

「爺爺，加州太遠了，坐飛機過去要花好多錢。如果你認為我們能到加州去的話，就是在做夢。」



“If we are dreaming,” said Grandpa, “Let’s dream of going to England. There are asparagus festivals in Cornwall, York, Worcestershire, and West Brookfield. We could go to Evesham, England, the home of the British Asparagus Festival. We would have all the asparagus we wanted, and you could see your dragon. In Evesham, the citizens celebrate St. George’s birthday and asparagus at the same time.”

“St. George killed a dragon in old stories,” said Granny. “There are no dragons to hunt. But we could hunt asparagus. The tips of the plants look like teeth coming out of the ground. I read that the English are trying to make asparagus the national symbol of England.”

Grandpa said, “Evesham invites the queen to join the festival.”

「如果是在做夢的話，」爺爺說，「讓我們夢想我們到英國去了吧。在康瓦耳、約克、烏切斯特郡和西布魯克菲爾德都有舉辦蘆筍嘉年華。我們可以去英格蘭的伊芙夏姆，那裡是英國蘆筍節的故鄉。我們可以吃各種我們想吃的蘆筍，妳還能看到妳小時候的惡龍。伊芙夏姆的市民同時慶祝聖喬治的生日和蘆筍節。」

「在古老的傳說中，聖喬治是屠龍的騎士。」奶奶說。「現在已經沒有惡龍可以獵殺了，但是我們可以獵蘆筍。蘆筍的尖芽就像是從地下長出來的牙齒。我曾經讀到，英國人有想過把蘆筍拿來當國家的象徵。」

爺爺說：「伊芙夏姆的居民曾邀請女王來參加蘆筍節。」





“But, she does not go. Instead, the city sends asparagus to her. Large boxes of asparagus are loaded into expensive cars. Special drivers deliver the boxes to Buckingham Palace and to the House of Parliament in London.”

“They are serious about asparagus,” said Granny.

“They are serious until after the delivery to London. Then the people have fun and play with their food for almost two months. They make asparagus floral arrangements and sculptures. A group called ‘Asparabuddies’ sponsors a race. People run while flipping asparagus pancakes. Asparagus is served as a food and as a drink. People drink asparagus juice for medical reasons. They use asparagus to make soap and even turn it into toothpaste. It makes teeth turn green until you rinse them well.”

“The festival has an Asparagus King,” added Granny.



「但因為女王不克前往，所以他們把蘆筍送過去。一大箱一大箱的蘆筍被裝進高級轎車中。特別的駕駛把這些箱子送進倫敦的白金漢宮和國會大樓。」

「他們對蘆筍真是嚴肅以待。」奶奶說。

「把蘆筍送到倫敦前，他們都還蠻嚴肅的。接下來的快兩個月時間，他們開始玩樂，在各種遊戲中使用蘆筍。他們製作蘆筍插花和雕塑。一個叫做『蘆筍兄弟會』的組織會贊助一種比賽。參賽者邊輕翻蘆筍煎餅邊賽跑。蘆筍可以製成食物和飲料。人們認為蘆筍汁有醫療效果。他們會把蘆筍做成肥皂，甚至牙膏。這種牙膏會讓牙齒變綠，除非你好好漱乾淨。」

「蘆筍節會選出一個蘆筍之王。」奶奶補充說。





“They call him Gus. King Gus wears an asparagus crown as he tells children stories about St. George and about dragons and asparagus.”

Grandpa added, “The French, the Italians and the Germans also have asparagus festivals. Spargelzeit means asparagus season in Germany. The Germans eat mostly white asparagus. They call it ‘white gold’ because it is expensive. They serve the vegetable with almost every meal during Spargelzeit. They grow more fresh asparagus than almost anywhere in the world but still buy asparagus from other countries.”

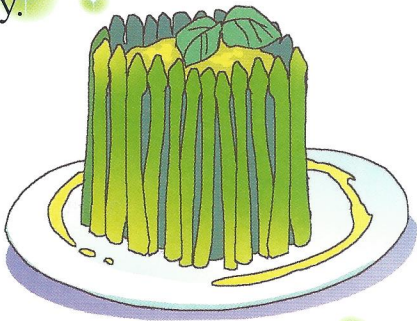
“Are you hungry for dragon’s teeth?” asked Granny.

“Yes, but I am afraid,” answered Grandpa.

“What are you afraid of?”

“I am afraid there is not enough asparagus.”

“That means we get to share,” smiled Granny.”



「他們把蘆筍之王稱做『葛斯』(Gus)。葛斯王頭戴蘆筍製成的皇冠，向孩子們說聖喬治屠龍的故事，還有蘆筍的故事。」

爺爺補充說：「法國人、義大利人和德國人也有蘆筍節。在德文裡，Spargelzeit表示蘆筍季。德國人大部分是吃白蘆筍。因為白蘆筍很貴，所以在當地有『白金』之稱。在蘆筍季時，幾乎每一餐都有蘆筍可吃。德國的蘆筍產量是世上數一數二多的，但是他們仍向其他國家購買蘆筍。」

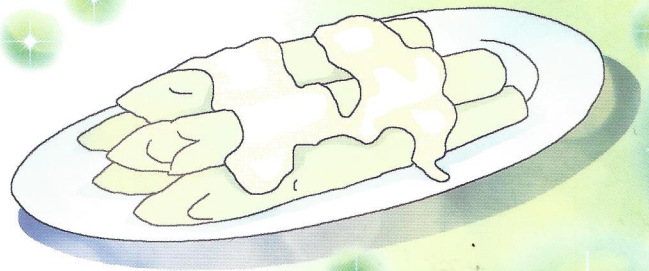
「你想要來點蘆筍嗎？」奶奶問。

「好呀，但是我有點擔心。」爺爺回答。

「你擔心什麼？」

「我怕蘆筍不夠吃。」

「那表示我們兩個人要分享了。」奶奶笑著說。



英文朗讀線上收聽：

<http://www.c-talk.com/flash.htm>