

清明

Qing Ming

Qing Ming: 5th Solar Term
'Clear Bright'
'Tomb Sweeping Day'
April 4, 2013
Sun = 15°

Qing Ming occurs this year on April 4 and is known as 'Clear Bright' or more commonly 'Tomb Sweeping Day'. It is the fifth of the 24 Solar Terms which divide the year into 24 'terms' or seasonal markers. Based on the 360° passage of the Earth around the Sun, each term is 15° which translates into 15 days per term.

Qing Ming begins as the sun reaches the celestial longitude of 15°. Celebrated since the Western Zhou Dynasty (1122 - 770 B.C), **Tomb Sweeping Day** marks the rebirth of life, honors the ancestors and is the beginning of the planting season as temperatures rise and rain increases. It was common to color boiled eggs and break them open to symbolize new life.