



鎮瀾宮

Dajia Jenn Lann Temple

{ 大甲媽八厝 MAZU'S HOME }

文化導覽手冊



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護國庇民



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Dajia  
Mazu Guide  
Book

財團法人大甲鎮瀾宮董事會 發行



大甲媽八厝  
MAZU'S HOME

PART 6

# English for you

Dajia  
Mazu Guide  
Book



2010



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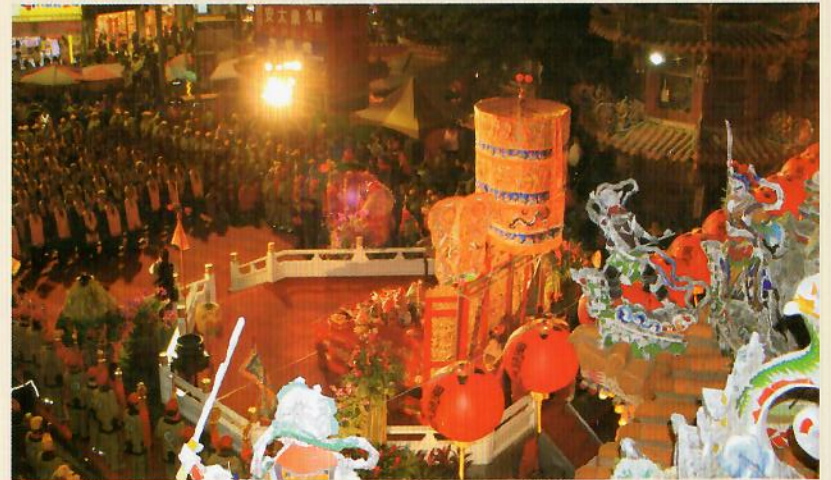
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# English For you

## Brief Introduction on Jenn Lann Temple :

Situated at Dajia, Jenn Lann Temple, also known as Mazu Temple. It's the center for folk religions. Its habitants include four towns (Dajia, Daan, Waipu and Houli) and fifty-three villages. It's famous for its endless burning incenses and lighted candles offered by the pilgrims, is one of the most typical Mazu Temple (the goddess of Taoism) in Taiwan area. Because this Mazu's generosity to the seekers of help, her dignified and awe-inspiring is illustrious, and with many lodges worldwide, the pilgrims visit this temple one after another all the year round. Every year "Da Jia Mazu goes round her territory" is not only a very famous Mazu celebration and activity but also a very famous international event in recent years. This celebration has become one of the activities in the modern religious world.







護國庇民





## ■ Mazu International Cultural Festival

The "Taichung County (City) Dajia Mazu International Cultural Festival" lasts 2 months, and has a great variety of fun activities. Every year the festival holds a different theme, but each activity upholds "love and hope", "positive society", "eco-freak festival" and "culture preservation" as its core values. The aim of the festival is to strive for innovation and creating a traditional yet modern festival, in hopes of promoting this unique and culturally rich Mazu event under the great spotlight on the stage of world tourism.

## ■ Jenn Lann children's home

The "Da Jia Mazu Social Welfare Association" builds its foundation not only on promoting the belief of Mazu but also aims to increase communal moral values and community safety. The association joins forces with the community to select and accomplish projects that are not yet to be achieved by the government, provides support to disadvantaged groups, individuals who are not covered or insufficiently covered by the current social welfare system.



Since the inauguration of this association in 2003, director Yan Qing-Biao, deputy director, Jeng Ming-Kun and the board of directors invested great efforts in raising funds all around Taiwan. By 2008, their efforts paid off, "Jenn lann children's home" was completed, providing orphans, hope in the future, help and guide them to build their goals in life, lighting out of new sparks in their lives.





## ■ Social Services

According to Mazu's great vow - "Favor equally given to the four seas", we actively exalt Mazu's compassion spirit. We frugally use the donation money from the believers throughout the country, and save money for public welfare and charities, such as giving relief to the poor, offering help in an emergency, sports activities, offering school grants and cultural construction. There isn't an activity which we haven't tried our best for. Here is a brief introduction.

◎Subsidize sports goods and wholesome recreational equipment to all levels of schools.

◎Hold "Jenn Lann Cup" games for baseball, table tennis, judo, handball and volleyball. Subsidize funds for building gymnasiums. Attach importance to education and sports activities.

◎Subsidize funds of school activities and constructions to all levels of the school in our administrative area. Offer school grants to the outstanding students in school.

◎Allot funds to hold "winter relief" and "help in an emergency" annually.

◎Build Jenn Lann Grand Building. Provide social societies and communities with activity centers. In the building there is a library

with abundant books on nature, science and literature, which the common people and the students may access. All cultural activities are actively promoted.

◎Hold "Decorative Lantern Show" and social education annually. Based on this festival, we hold a variety of exhibitions and evening music troupe, and exalt traditional culture and folk wholesome Recreation.

◎Build Jenn Lann Cultural Building in the west of Dajia junior high school. It is a palace style building with activity centers, an entertainment hall, a library, a conference hall and a historical hall. The architecture is magnificent and elegant.

◎Actively sponsor a variety of activities held by societies. Hold religious practices to pray for timely wind and rain, as well as country prosperous and people living in safety.

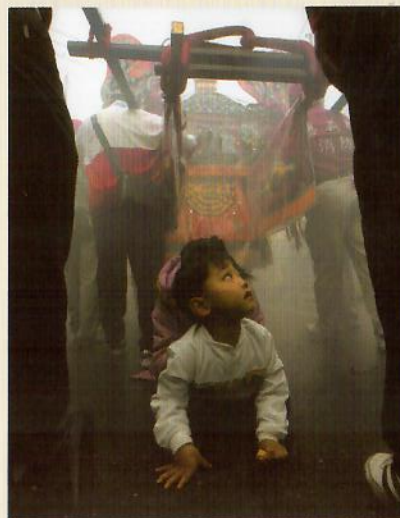
◎Hold public welfare, charities and social education annually. The results are outstanding. Our place is graded as "excellent" for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. In 91<sup>st</sup> year of Republic of China (2002 AD) we were awarded with a tablet written with "Do Charity leads to kindness" by the Premier of Executive Yuen, Mr. His-kun Yu (游錫堃) as a testimonial. He recognized our achievements on the public welfare, charities and the social education.



gloves. The lineup is strictly uniform. It has been a model team for the pilgrimage. Every night when Mazu stays at a temple. The team members form an isolating wall in front of the temple. It is for the convenience of the big palanquin team who want to undergo a salute ceremony, enter the temple and stay. The team can be regarded as Mazu's iron guard.

### Grab the Incense

It is said that in Ching Dynasty in Dajia area, the leaders of the 53 villages had a meeting, and decided that the 53 villages took turns to handle Mazu's pilgrimage greeting and the parade. Every turn was 53 years. It was too long. Besides, some villages were rich and some villages were poor. They worried some villages could not afford the expenses. Thus, they used "grabbing the incense" to allow the interested villages to take charge of all the parade activities in name of "the 1st incense", "the 2nd incense" and "the 3rd incense". They were given a privilege. After they returned from the pilgrimage and sealed the palanquin, they were allowed to greet the palanquin, and offer incenses. The leader could personally insert 3 thin incenses in the incense burner inside the big sedan chair. In the past only these 53 villages were allowed to grab the incense. After 60th year of Republic of China (1971 AD), this right was gradually opened to the residents outside Da Jia.



### Interpreter

In the past TV live broadcast on the pilgrimage activities often made error reports. It is because the modern people don't understand or are not familiar to the event. In view of this in 87<sup>th</sup> year of Republic of China (1998 AD) the directors and the supervisors of Jenn Lann Temple hired district historical workers to make interpretation during the live broadcast. They also hold this folk activity can root down, and everybody can enjoy the folk songs and arts. Not just watching the scene of bustle, they are able to understand the true meaning of the pilgrimage.



This big palanquin is made of cane and elm wood, covered with one piece of delicately embroidered cloth. It has a rattan frame and a wooden seat. On one side of the head of the palanquin, there is one small blue light, and on another side

there is one small red light. The whole pilgrimage the palanquin is carried by eight men.

Inside Mazu's palanquin are the chief Mazu, the deputy Mazu, the Mei Chou Mazu and the clairvoyant and quick ear, accompanied by flags, an incense burner, and a sandalwood burner, there is "offered tea" available on request. Therefore when Mazu stays in a temple for one night, the palanquin team members must pour tea into more than 10 thousand cups in one or two hour break for believers request.

### Pilgrimage Flag

It is a personal flag, not a divine utensil. The experienced pilgrims won't worship it on the divine desk. They just place it at a clean place in the hall. Two small bells are tied to the top of this triangle small flag. Walking at night when the line of vision is not clear, the pilgrims may go in a group by means of the bell sound. The top of the flag is tied with magic spells from a variety of temples in order to pray for personal and family safety.

On the eve of the pilgrimage the pilgrims will bring their personal flags into Jenn Lann Temple, and worship Mazu. They will remove all the magical spells tied to the flag last year, then burn them together with "paper money". After that, each person will tie a new magical spell to his own flag, and take the flag passing over the incense burner for cleaning the flag and praying safety. Along the way of pilgrimage they worship many temples. They also take new magical spells to tie to their flags, and take the flags passing over the incense burners for praying safety. When they go on the pilgrimage, they hold the flags open. When they return, they roll up the flags, and each person hold a big incense to escort Mazu. They ceaselessly burn the big incenses. It means they bring "incense fire" back.

### Special Bike Team

We have a strict request on the bike team. No matter whether the team member is a male or a female, he / she must wear a crash helmet, a white shirt, a black necktie, one pair of khaki long pants, and one pair of white





### 36 Bodyguard Members

The body guard groups consists of one pair of dragon-phoenix flag, 12 color Plaques, 18 kinds of weapon, dragon head pole in front and phoenix tail pole behind. If the pilgrimage team meets a funeral family on the way, the honor guard members will scatter, and surround Mazu's big sedan chair so that evil spirits can't offend the palanquin, or hatred ghosts can't block the way to make a compliant.



### Solemnity duo (the generals group) Guards

They are the two generals in front of Mazu's seat. Their names are Qian Li Yan(thousand-mile-eyes) and Shun Feng Er (favorable-wind-ears). They wear gold bands around the head, hang invocation papers on the hair and holds paper money on the hand. Rumor has it that the papers could dispel evil spirits, bring good luck and cure diseases, so if any paper is dropped along the way, it is instantly snatched. Worshippers can also ask for paper money by casting the semi-lunar diving block during the pilgrimage, the clairvoyant leads the quick ear, looking awe-inspiring. The duo worships Mazu with gestures at the temple.

### Blow before the Palanquin

It consists of So Na (a trumpet-like wind instrument) small drum, small cymbal and small wooden fish (a Buddhist percussion instrument). It is small music group in front of the big palanquin.



### Sunshade Umbrella and Decree Flag

The sunshade umbrella is for Mazu to keep out of sunshine along the way. It is also a custom left by the ancient. "Everyman's umbrella", the parasol, also called "magnificent cover". The decree flag is used to repel evil spirits.

### The Big Palanquin

When the pilgrimage team parades, Mazu's palanquin controls the lineup. According to the folk legend, Dajia Mazu's palanquin is very intelligent. Therefore in the nine-day, eight-night pilgrimage, anytime you would find people who come to touch the palanquin or raise it for a short distance, crawling under the scared palanquin to ask for good luck not only a few people but many people delight in doing it, and never get tired of it.



### Prince Team

The major deity of the team the Prince, Na Cha who is armor-clad holding heaven and earth rings and a long spear, his back bearing color flags. The prince is very naughty. His master, Chi Kung, teaches him with love. Thus, there are many jokes happened along the way. Sometimes the price would give out pacifiers to newborn babies and they could have peaceful upbringing. By this, they wish their babies grow up safely and strong.



### Talent Boy Team

Under flag's guide the boys skip all the way to ask for the directions. Their actions are very cute. They are the wealth boy and the treasure boy. The wealth boy has his hair tied up in two pigtails, wears green baby clothes, holds a feather fan on the right hand and a duster on the left.



The treasure boy wears two buns, and dresses himself in pink, holds a feather fan on the right hand and a flag on the left. Accompanied by a wave of flags, the boys parade on the streets with joyful spirits, which lights up the holy scene.

### Horn Team and Horse-head Gong

In early years we had only two horns. Later on we had more. Now we have 60 horns. The team blow the horns along the way, but it is subject to the horse-head gong. When the horse-head gong is struck 13 times or struck hurriedly for many times, the team must blow the horns. The 13 times of striking are for normal blow. The hurried striking of the gong is to repel evil spirits when the crossing a bridge, passing a graveyard or funeral family.





The other side of the flag is written with the needle work. “Dajia Jenn Lann Temple – Procession (visiting ancestors) and Pilgrimage”. “The trinity flags are originated from the increment of the greeting groups along the way of pilgrimage. In addition to leading the parade, the leader's flag must be in charge of receiving the group who welcomes Mazu's palanquin.

### Pioneer Drum (Drum for Opening up a Road)

From its meaning we know it is a small music band walking in front of the pilgrimage team to open up a road. This is a toiling team because the team “pioneer drum” will blow the horns and beat the drums all the way and day and night after the pilgrimage team starts the journey. They want to notice the believers that the pilgrimage team has arrived.



### Embroidered Flag Team



The embroidered flag team of Jenn Lann Temple, established in 52nd year of Republic of China (1963 AD), It is aimed to enrich the variety of the holy pilgrimage. It is the biggest one in the whole nation. (Before our establishment, there were gentlemen

who held several embroidered flags to attend the pilgrimage, such as Mr. Huei-Huang HUANG (黃輝煌) at Hung-chun Chuang (橫圳庄) and Mr. Hung at His Chou Tsu (溪州仔). The incense burner decided if they would went south or not.) The purpose of establishing this team was to increase the scale of the pilgrimage team. From then on the number of the flags were increasing. It has been 360 more flags. In consideration of the manpower of our temple and the number of vehicles, over the past years we have controlled the number of the flags so that the team won't be too big. In recent years there are 300 people attending the team each year. Because of the limited number, the Application is always full at the night of the Lantern Festival.

### Happy Buddha Team (Maitreya Buddha Team)

「Maitreya trio」 founded in 1984, the Maitreya Arhat, the Maitreya Founder and the Maitreya Ku Buddha all hold a bottle gourd and a feather fan on their hands, dressed in green, yellow and pink, respectively. Drinking, Shouting and laughing, they stride along the street with their big belly hanging out, like they have a big room to put up with anything.





## ■ Pilgrimage Teams

### Informer

An informer is a fast pioneer in the pilgrimage train, who prepares the way for both Mazu as well as the worshipers by striking the gongs ahead of the way, so people would clear the street and get ready for Mazu. His presence makes the striking impression.



Bamboo hat on, umbrella clutched under the arm, teapot on one hand, he is clad in black garments and wool vest and wears glasses, smokes from the pipe and drinks from the bottle gourd. He chews on pork feet and leek, a symbol of that he never starves and he enjoys longevity. He puts color sticker on his ill feet and steps on a pair of straw loafers. He rolls up the pant tubes to show that he works hard and is dedicated to his job. His funny appearance is one little humorous touch in this holy journey.

### Front Flag, Front Light and Trinity Flags

Front flag (head's flag) represents Mazu. It is a square and apricot flag. The flag is embroidered with the needlework. "Front Flag, Dajia Jenn Lann Temple Mazu Holy Pilgrimage Safty. On top of the flagpole. The has a red gourd with two red pompoms. One big incense stick is inserted in the gourd. Beside the pompoms are one small blue light and one small red light, lamp corresponding to the lights on the sacred palanquin.

Front light represents the eyes of the whole pilgrimage team, and also stands for "bright". It's in each side of front flag. The light is painted with 8 immortals, and written with "The St. Celestial Queen of Dajia Jenn Lann Temple - Patrol (visiting the ancestors) and Pilgrimage. All places are peaceful". It means everything goes smoothly. The light holders stand on two sides of the leader's flag.

The trinity flags are the assistants of the front flag. The middle yellow flag represents Mazu. The flag is written with the needle work "The St. Celestial Queen of Dajia Jenn Lann Temple". in the middle.



The two blue flags on the two sides are the escorts. The flags are written with the needle work "Dajia Jenn Lann Temple Patrol (visiting the ancestors) and pilgrimage". The flag head is also ornamented with a red gourd without incense. The flag holders carry the flags on the shoulder in the parade. This trinity flag set was designed in about 50<sup>th</sup> year of Republic of China (about 1961 AD). At that time it was a solid flag written with black characters. After 68<sup>th</sup> year of Republic of China (1979 AD) the flag was embroidered with two dragons and two phoenix paying their respects. The center of the flag is written with the same words. One side of the flag is written with the needle work "The St. Celestial Queen of Dajia Jenn Lann temple".



### 9. Ceremony of the Palanquin Return.

For the patrol activities, this is the last ceremony held in Feng Tien Temple. The eve before the palanquin returns, our directors and supervisors lead all the believers to recite respectfully the return passage, and respectfully ask the St. Celestial Queen to sit on her palanquin for returning to Jenn Lann Temple. Pray for safe return with all the people. At the end of the ceremony the staff members of Feng Tien Temple at Hsin Kang, Chia Yi Hsien and the people in all circles respectfully see off the St. Celestial Queen of Jenn Lann Temple to return. From the palanquin stay, praying for blessing, expressing birthday good wishes to the palanquin return, these four ceremonies are held at Feng Tien Temple, Hsin Kang, and the expressing birthday good wishes is the biggest ceremony, and impresses us most. In addition to the original pilgrims who follow Mazu's palanquin from Dajia to Feng Tien Temple, there are many devout believers from all over the country. Some temporarily quit their work. Others temporarily forget their body diseases. Some walk haltingly. They persist on arriving at Hsin Kang, and express birthday good wishes to Mazu. Their devout hearts touch us very much.

### 10. Seating Ceremony of Seating

After a 9-day-and-8-night tour, the whole Mazu procession activities are going to be over. After the Mazu statue returns to Jenn Lann Temple, Dajia, and is seated on her original seat in the main hall, our directors and supervisors lead all the people to kowtow to Mazu. We express our gratefulness to her that she protects us all the way home. We beg Mazu to stay in the temple forever, guard us and bestow us auspiciousness. After the seating ceremony, the whole procession activities can be regarded as ended. However, at this time the whole Dajia district makes a night of it, like a city People in cheerful mode say farewell to one another. They make an agreement that they would come again to follow our "The Dajia Mazu Holy Pilgrimage" next year.







### **5. Ceremony of Raising the Palanquin**

The so-called "Raise the Palanquin" means the moment when Mazu's palanquin is lifted by the Palanquin team at zero hour of midnight to set off to Feng Tien Temple in Hsin Kang. All the bells, drums and the horns sound at the same time. Our directors and supervisors lead the believers to knee before Mazu's palanquin, and respectfully invite Mazu to set off, go around her territory, go on the pilgrimage, and bless the pilgrims peaceful all the way.

Strictly speaking, the whole "Raise the Palanquin Ceremony" begins at 3:00PM of "Pray for Peace Ceremony". The whole process begins from reciting the sutras and the statement, and sitting on the sedan chair to the 11:00 PM of the midnight when Mazu's palanquin is raise to set off. At the moment when Mazu's palanquin is lifted, everybody is very exciting. The patrol atmosphere reaches to the apex.

### **6. Ceremony of Staying**

After 3 days tour, Mazu's palanquin finally arrives at Hsin Kang in the afternoon, then patrols in downtown. At about 7:00PM Mazu's sedan chair enters Feng Tien Temple. Then, we respectfully move the Mazu's statue off the palanquin, and place it on the deity table in the temple. After that, we prepare a variety of offerings. Our directors and supervisors lead the pilgrims to recite the sutras and the statement in Feng Tien Temple, and thank Mazu for her blessing that all the members safely arrive at Hsin Kang. Kowtow to thank deity's favor.

### **7. Ceremony of Praying for Blessing**

This ceremony will be held at 5:00AM next day in the main hall of Feng Tien Temple after the palanquin stays in. We have to prepare all the necessary offerings, and recite the sutras and the statement. Hold a "Pray for Blessing Ceremony" for the believers who participated "Light the bright lamp" and "Pay homage to Rice Tub" in Jenn Lann Temple. At the same time, they pray to Mazu for blessing all the sentimental beings.

### **8. Ceremony for Celebrating her Birthday and Express Good Wishes, Longevity**

After the ceremony of praying for blessing, we hold this ceremony at 8:00AM. We prepare the offerings, and our directors and supervisors lead all the pilgrims to stand in front of the main hall of Feng Tien Temple. All of us devoutly express birthday good wishes to the St. Celestial Queen. We recite the sutras and the statement, and knee 3 times with the head touching the ground 9 times. We wish Mazu long life. When the ceremony is going to be over, all the people raise flags to cheer. In the clear bell sound and the magnificent flag sea, one stream of the devout heart is pushed to the apex. This is the most touching moment, and the climax of the whole procession activities.



## 2.Raise the Flag Ceremony

The first flag is the nine-day and eight-night pilgrimage command flag. According to the traditions, it's usually the vice director Jeng Ming-Kun who seeks out Mazu's divine will to decide the date to raise the flag. On the set date of the ceremony, fruits and flowers are prepared as offering to the Goddess. By midnight, different units of the Jenn Lann temple, first flag unit, offering ceremony unit, messenger unit and prayer unit, etc., begins a chanting prayer to raise the flag. The raised flag marks the beginning of this annual pilgrimage to the world, and thus begin all preparations. Jenn Lann temple's front team starts by preparing the flags, costumes, props and the training. The front team is responsible for route verification, posting the temple's announcements on pilgrimage route to the general public, including temples to visit, as well as the public morals.

## 3.Ceremony for Praying Peace



The ceremony time is selected at 3:00PM on the date which is one day before we set off. Before we hold the ceremony, we must prepare all the necessary offering items. During the process of reciting the sutras and the statement, we report to the St. Celestial Queen about every patrol event this year, and pray for peace and smooth going for all the members participating the pilgrimage.

## 4.Ceremony of Sitting on the Sedan Chair

This ceremony is held at 6:00 PM on the date which is one day before we set off. It is after the ceremony of praying for peace. The high rank officers and the noble men respectfully invite St. Celestial Queen to sit the palanquin with people's cheerful voices, and ask her to bestow blessing to the believers of the villages along the way where she patrols. Bless everyone peaceful and smooth going in the coming year.



In March every year more than one million of believers from all over Taiwan organize a very big pilgrimage team. They start from Jenn Lann Temple to Feng Tien Temple in Hsin Kang and return on foot for nine-day and eight-night journey. This patrol team parades through 4 coastal cities in central Taiwan ( Taichung, Chang Hua, Yun Lin and Chia Yi ), 21 villages and more 80 temples. They travel more than 300 kilometers. The thrilling sight is unrivaled.

Every year Dajia Mazu's patrol and pilgrimage is not on the same date. On the Lantern Festival day of the year the President of our temple will toss divination blocks (one pair of clamp shell-shaped wood) to decide the date and the time of pilgrimage.

In the whole nine-day and eight-night procession activity, we follow the traditional rites which contain 10 major ceremonies-

- (1) Divination Blocks ceremony
- (2) Raise the Flag ceremony
- (3) Ceremony for Praying Peace
- (4) Ceremony of Sitting on the Sedan Chair
- (5) Ceremony of Raising the Palanquin
- (6) Ceremony of Staying
- (7) Ceremony of Praying for Blessing
- (8) Ceremony for Celebrating her Birthday and Express Good Wishes, Longevity
- (9) Ceremony of the Palanquin Return.
- (10) Seating Ceremony

Each ceremony must conform to a certain procedure at a certain place and time. No slight carelessness is allowed.

## ■ Ten great ceremonies



Starting from the era of the Japanese occupancy, the Dajia Mazu Holy pilgrimage has been one of the most famous religious events in Taiwan, as well as one of the most significant Taiwanese traditional festivities. In recent years, thanks to the great support and guidance of government bodies, the annual "Taichung County (City) Mazu International Festival" has gained world fame, and has transformed from a community religion into one of the three major religious events around the globe.

### 1.Divination Blocks Ceremony

At the hour of dusk by the day of Lantern Festival, 5 gods of the Jenn lann temple are respectfully moved out of God's shrine. Fruits, flowers and various sweets are prepared as offering for the divination blocks ceremony. The temple Director, Yan Qing-Biao, tosses the divination blocks, crescents seeking out Mazu for the Goddess' will on her preferred hour to start the tour. As soon as the hour is decided, the worship monk leaders gather to report the pilgrimage details to "Dajia Goddess", prepare the necessary procedures for the event and accept participative applications of pilgrims from all over the world.



Because of the change of time, the political need, illustrious celestial achievements and her relief to numberless people, Mazu had many titles, such as female celestial, witch, conferred “Sun Chi” (literal meaning as “very helpful”), Lady, Princess-consort, Celestial Consort, Celestial Queen and the St. Celestial Queen. Here are some representative legends about this.

### ■ Procession and Pilgrimage

The most important event in a year for our Temple is the Dajia Mazu. Holy pilgrimages in the third lunar month every year. This procession and pilgrimage activity began when we established this temple, and went on Mei Chou pilgrimage. At that time we sailed from Daan Seaport or Wen Liao Seaport directly to Mei Chou. In Ching Dynasty we held the pilgrimage about every 12 years till Japan governed Taiwan. At that time Daan seaport was abandoned. Japanese government strictly banned the activities between two shores of Taiwan strait. In late period of Ching Dynasty and early period of Republic of China, the pilgrimage to Mei Chou was suspended. Later on the cattle traders traveled between Dajia and the cattle village in Pei Kang. Because of their cattle trade and the economic activities, they prayed to gods for blessing, and fulfilled their promises to gods. The religious activities of repaying gods became the beginning of Dajia holy pilgrimage to Chao Tien Temple in Pei kang. The year 1987 was



the 1000th year Mazu obtained Tao (enlightenment). The Mei Chou ancestral temple invited people worldwide to return to the ancestral temple to participate the activity. We visited Mazu's birthplace - The Ancestral Celestial Queen Temple at Kang Li where we worshiped the Mazu. Since then our relationship with the ancestral temple continued again. In 1988 the annual procession and pilgrimage was changed to go to Feng Tien Temple (奉天宮) in Hsin Kang (New Seaport 新港). It will hold a nine-day, eight-night activity to let Goddess of mercy go meetig believers at other neighboring places. Today it remains unchanged. For the time being the most big scale on religious magnificent event in Taiwan is the Dajia Mazu Holy pilgrimages. In addition to travel to Mei Chou China to visit the ancestor, the most famous activity is Dajia Mazu goes around her territory.



Two demons lived in Peach Flower Mountain in the northwestern area of Mei Chiou. Their names were Qian Lin Yan (farsighted) and Shun Feng Er (be able to hear voices a long way off) respectively. The residents suffered hardships because these two goblins made trouble. She conquered them and subdued them as her two divine generals.

Qian Lin Yan could see the disaster thousand miles away. Shun Feng Er could hear the piteous voices from four directions for help.

From then on they protected Mazu on her both sides. They assisted Mazu to repel evil spirits and suppress wicked creatures everywhere. They three became the best combination as the divine protector of sea. There were other stories about her relief to the victims of disasters.

4<sup>th</sup> year of Yung His, Sung Dynasty (987 AD), Mo Niang (Mazu) was 28 years old. It was September 9 in Autumn, she told her family that she wanted to travel to a far and high place. Thus, she said goodbye to their parents, and crossed the sea to Mei Chiou Islet.

As she climbed the Mei Chiou peak, Suddenly white clouds gathered in the mountain peaks. There came the celestial music. The songs were loud. There were many boys and girls celestials over the clouds. They protected Mazu to fly to the heaven. From then on some people saw her wear red clothes between the cliff and the waterfall, and fly over the sea.

Some people saw her linger between the cliff and the waterfall. Some people saw her sit on her crossed feet on the cloud of far end. Some people met her in the dream, and she predicted auspiciousness to them...If people had troubles, and asked for her help, or told her their wishes, it was sure that Mazu would answer their request. Thus, people worshiped her as a goddess, and respected her as "virtuous and powerful female". People built a temple for her. This was the first Mazu temple called "Mei Chiou Ancestral Temple".





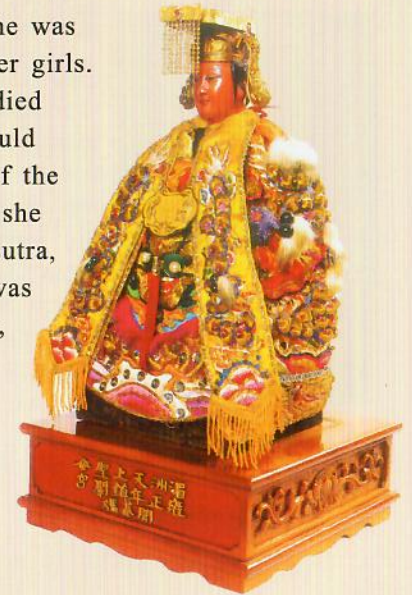
believed in Bodhisattva Guan Shi Yin (Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva 觀音菩薩). Because they had only one son, they prayed for another one everyday.

One night when Nee Wang, Mazu's mother slept soundly, she saw Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva gave her a divine pill. She ate it, and became pregnant. All the Lins were very happy.



On March 23, 1st year of Chien Lung (the reign title of Sung Tai Tsu, Grand Progenitor of Sung Dynasty) (in 960 AD), Nee Wang gave birth to the 6<sup>th</sup> daughter. It was today's Mazu. Lin's couple prayed for a son, but were given a daughter. They somewhat felt disappointed to Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva. However, there was one red beam from northwest casting into the room when this she-baby was born. This miracle appeared between the heaven and the earth. Besides, Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva forecasted about this baby in the dream. Therefore, they believed that this daughter was not a common people. The couples loved this little daughter more. What surprised people was that the she-baby had never made sound or cried from the day she was born to the age of one full month. Therefore, her parents named her "Mo" (Mo means soundless or silent), and called her "Mo Niang".

Mo Niang was very clever when she was a child. She was different from other girls. When she was 8 years old, she studied at home with private tutors. She could understand the profound meaning of the books. When she was 10 years old, she concentrated her mind on reading sutra, and worshiped Buddha. When she was 13 years old, one mysterious Taoist, white hair and ruddy complexion, gave her a Taoist book and a secret teaching. When she was 16, she observed a well, and was given a precious magical spell book by god.



She studied it very carefully, and comprehended the profound meaning of all the sutras. Since then, she had supernatural power, and could transform herself into any form as she wished. She could repel evil spirits, and displayed magic power to help others. When she was 21 years old, a drought in south part of Fu Chien province lasted for one year. The farmers suffered from such a great disaster. The county officer invited her to ask for rain. She prayed to the Heaven, and it rained immediately. Thus, the farmers were saved.



### ■ Gold Mazu

Jenn Lann Temple has received more than one million gold medals which were given by the believers as a repay to Mazu for their prayers. Gold Mazu is placed in the basement of Jenn Lann Temple. Over the years, and Jenn Lann Temple melted them and built a Gold Mazu in 2005. There are three Gold Mazu's in Taiwan now. The Gold Mazu in Jenn Lann is the biggest one. The Gold Mazu figure with 4 feet and 2 inches height and 7260 Tael(兩)weight.Can you guess how much is this Gold Mazu?

### ■ Jade Mazu

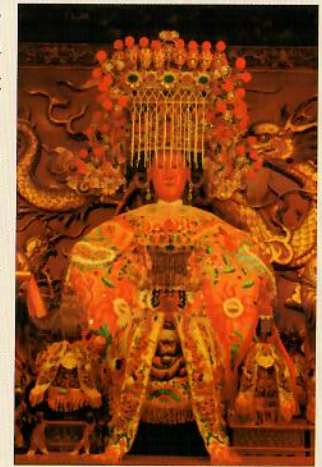
A faithful merchant from the mainland (Shanghai),a jewelery company, prayed to Mazu for wishes to come true, and in return, he showed his thanks by presenting a donation-emerald Mazu. This emerald Mazu's height 130cm, weight of 1500kg and was designed and carved by the master sculptor from Fujian, It took about one year to complete the JadeMauz.

According to the appraisal, the value of this emerald Mazu is at NT 400,000,000. Now, the JadeMazu is placed in the Holy Parents Palace-Mr. Chi Ching Kung and the wife of Chi Ching Kung(St. Father and Mother). It is open to worship for the public.

### ■ The story of Mazu

Due to the geographical location and the historical background in Taiwan, there are many folk religions and deities. Among these deities, Mazu also called “Mother Saint of Heaven” is known as the Goddess of Sea, who protects fishermen and sailors has the most believers and the noblest position. For Taiwanese, it is not a superstition to believe in Mazu, but a deep-rooted belief. People regard her as their parent, and worship her as a deity. People respect and love her from the depth of their hearts. Mazu's birthday is in March in spring every year. It is a revelry festival. Pilgrims worship her. It is an exceptionally grand occasion.

Mazu was a native of Mei Chiou Islet, Pu Tien Hsien, Hisng Hua, Fu Chien Province, China. She was the youngest daughter of Mr. Wei-chueh Lin (林惟愨), who was a cost defense patrolman to mop up robbers and thieves, and seize smugglers. Her grandfather, Mr. Fu Lin (林孚), was an officer called Warrior General (a high ranking military officer) in Fu Chien Province. Her father married Nee Wang, having 5 daughters and one son. The couple gave to the poor, and did good deeds in all their lives. They both





3. Stone carving : It was created by Sa Lu Master worker. Mr. Hsiang-sheng Nieh. The stone carving of Jenn Lann Temple was his mindful works made when he as young.
4. Five-port door corridors, the north and the south side chambers were painted by Color Painting masters, Mr. Ping-shun Hung, Mr. Teng-sheng Lee and Mr. Shen-chih Hsieh.
5. The wood carvings of the panels and the ceilings of the shrines in the inner hall and the worship hall were contracted out to Nan Tou City Mr. Wan-sheng HSIAO, a master worker.
6. The sculpture master, Mr. Ching-chih Kuo made copper sculptures on the side walls outside the temple based on the themes that Mazu saved people on the sea. It was regarded as the biggest copper sculpture in the world.

### ■ God Statues

There are totally five Mazu statues in the shrine. They have different function in the temple to guard the security. The biggest one is called palace Guarding Ma(鎮殿媽). It's placed in the center of the shrine. to guard the security.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> one is placed in front of Palace Guarding Mazu. to accept main worship from adherents.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> one sometimes can accept people's offer. and she is carried to the palanquin during the Mazu pilgrimage.

The 4<sup>th</sup> one is responsible for medical treatment, it is said that under her seat will be found the wood flour as the medicine and she is carried to the ordinary people's house when they pray for health, career, and other things in life.

Mei Chou Mazu(湄洲媽) was carried from Mei Chou, the birthplace of Mazu in 1987. She is also carried to the palanquin during the Mazu pilgrimage.

They say to have been two demons whom Mazu conquered and subdued, turning them into her own loyal guardians and friends. They are Qian Li Yan and Shun Feng Er.





2. Art master Mr. Chen-Yang Shih (a Lu Kang native) : Being the winner of Wooden Carving Lineage Award of the 7th term, he and his father, Mr. Kun-Yu Shih, carved the shrines for Jenn Lann Temple in 1970.

3. Art master Mr. Li-Shui Pan (a Tainan native) : Being the winner of Color Painting Lineage Award of the 8th term, he subcontracted the carving of the door gods. He also provided Mr. Chen-Yang Shih and Mr. Wan-Sheng Hsiao with the drawings of the screens behind god sculptures and the drawings of the door gods so that they could carve the screens and the door gods.

4. Art master Mr. Han-Ching Lee (a Hsue Chia native) : Being the winner of Color Painting Lineage Award of the 9th term, he and his son, Mr. Chung-Hsien Lee constructed the color painting for the front hall.

5. Art master Mr. Li-Hai Yu : Being the winner of National Technics Award of Educational Department, from the 1st term through the 3rd term, he made the divine desks with ebony.

Entering the splendid world of Jenn Lann Temple, there are numerous "Master class" works. Every work shown below is a crystal of art and culture. It is worthwhile to appreciate them carefully.

1. Wooden carved shrines : It is the masterpiece made by Lu Kang Mr. Chen-yang Shih and his father, and praised as one of the most delicate wooden carvings in Taiwan.

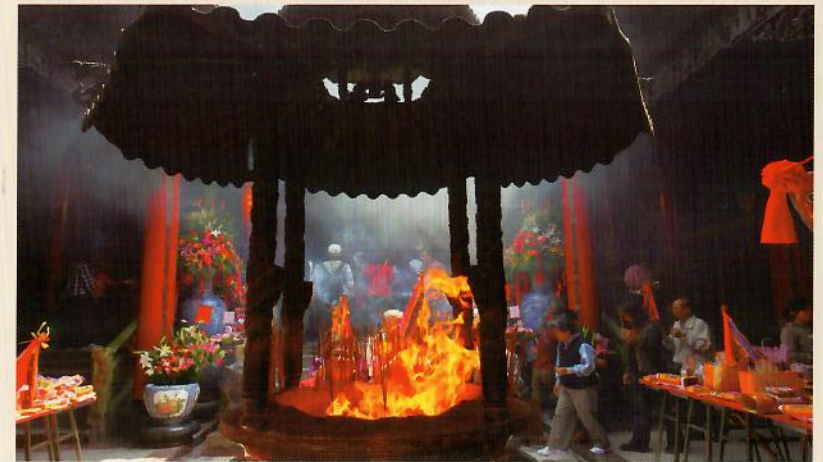
2. Clay and Mosaic work : Mr. Chuan-yu Lee was the disciple of Clay and Mosaic Master Kun-hu Hung, and Mr. Shih-yi Lee was the disciple of Mr. Chuan-yu Lee, and contracted the clip and paste project. They blended the skills of sculptures, inlays and color painting in the works. The double dragons at both ends of the temple ridge, the 3 gods ( happiness, wealth and longevity ) on the middle of the temple ridge, the pagodas, the flows, the birds, the dragons, the phoenixes, the 8 fairies, etc. . . on the beam are splendid and unsurpassed.





### ■ Construction Style Of Jenn Lann Temple

According to the archives Jenn Lann Temple was built during the reign of Chien Lung, Ching Dynasty. It is called "Tienhou Temple".(Queen of Heaven) It has been more than 280 years since then, and is the religious center for the people in Dajia area. Besides, its believers are all over the world. It has good attendance at the temple (many incense sticks and candles burning) all the year round. The temple building is lofty and magnificent. The painted rafters, the carved beams and the glittering golden decorated walls are very gorgeous. It can be said as the most splendid temple in Taiwan, and is a popular sightseeing spot.



### ■ Gorgeous Mazu's Hall

The building of Jenn Lann Temple collects 5 skill-lineaged art masters of national treasure class. The masters have numerous good works. The coverage is from the structure of big wood to the decoration. All of them are in excessive detail and gorgeous, which shows the artisans outstanding skill on construction, carving, clip, paste and painting. Any piece of the works is a canonized works. It is magnificent temple of Taiwan temple art.

The construction and the decoration of Jenn Lann Temple collect the works from 5 skill-lineaged art masters of national treasure class.

1. Art master Mr. Chin-Mu Wang : Being the winner of Big Wood Works Lineage Award of the 1st term, he made an overall layout for Jenn Lann Temple. He is the designer of the appearance of current Jenn Lann Temple.



## Relieve People from Sufferings by Hearing Voice -A Religious Little Giant -

President : Ching-piao Yen (顏清標)

He has been the president of hsien legislative body, a legislator (speak out for the people) and the president of Jenn Lann Temple. He is benevolent, generous and frank. He models himself on Mazu's alms and compassion spirit, and leads Jenn Lann Temple team To relieve people from sufferings by hearing voices, develop strength to serve our society, and create a peaceful and happy land together.

## Chief Designer of Jenn Lann Temple

Vice President : Min-Kun Jeng(鄭銘坤)

He was born in the small town Da Jia. Being the vice president, he has an international eyesight. He is faithful to the historical archives. He masters native growing conditions, and sticks to self's cultural standpoint, he works together with President Yen, and create this district small temple to an international famous big temple.

## Directors and Supervisors

Consolidation, Cooperation and Diligent Working with temple affairs

**Managing director (常務董事) :**

Mr. Tsai-fu Wu (吳財福)

Mr. Ying-lung Yao (姚應龍)

Mr. Ho-peng Wu (吳鶴鵬)

**Director (董事) :**

Mr. Tsao-Kun Wang (王朝坤)

Mr. Hung-Wen Lee (李鴻文)

Mr. Chin-Chia Lin (林金甲)

Mr. Chin-Sheng Wang (王金生)

Mr. Chun-Shung Chen (陳春雄)

Mr. Ma-Liang Chen (陳馬量)

Mr. Kung-Shung Huang (黃光雄)

Mr. Te-Chic Huang (黃德治)

Mr. Ming-Chic Yang (楊明池)

Mr. Lai-Fa Hsueh (薛來發)

**Managing supervisor (常務監事) :**

Mr. Shui-Tien Chen (陳水田)

**Supervisors (監事) :**

Mr. Tien-Sheng Lee (李天生)

Mr. Sheng-Ming Chen (陳盛銘)

Mr. Chih-Chou Kuo (郭智州)

Mr. Fu-Chang Liang (梁福昌)

Mr. Mingzong Lin (林明宗)

**Advisors (顧問) :**

Mr. San-fu Chao (卓三夫)

Mr. Dong Zhanxiong (董振雄)

**Gneral Affairs (總務) :**

Mr. Yu-lin Liu (劉玉麟)

**Gneral Affairs assistant (總務助理) :**

Mr. Tiandeng Lin (林添登)

Mr. Qing Shun (李清順)



The journalists of Taiwan TV station went with us, and broadcasted for months the scenes which they video-recorded there. This event received many responses.

On October 23 (Lunar September 9), 82<sup>th</sup> year of Republic of China (1993 AD) we visited the ancestral Mei Chiou based Temple And the Shrine of Celestial Queen at Hsien Liang Harbor. We held a Ribbon-cutting ceremony to donate the Shine of Celestial Queen Mother Saint of Heaven at Hsien Liang Harbor one Bell and Drum Tower.

May 4, 83<sup>rd</sup> year of Republic of China (1994 AD) we started to construct "Jenn Lann Cultural Grand Building" as scheduled. On March 5, 89<sup>th</sup> year of Republic of China (2000 AD) the building was completed. It lasted for 7 years. In order to glorify Mazu's culture and promote the development of local culture and art, this building provides the residents with the best place.

July 16, 2000 Mother Saint of Heaven(Mazu) of our temple set off on her virginal voyage of pilgrimage to visit the ancestral Mei Chiou temple. She worshiped her ancestors with incensed. Then, we held a millennium & century celebration with 3 kinds of offerings at the court of Mei Chiou ancestral temple.

In June, 90<sup>th</sup> year of Republic of China (2001 AD) we assembled the Mazu temples all over Taiwan who had the same idea as we had to organize "Taiwan Mazu Social Gathering", Mr. Min-Kun Jeng (鄭銘坤), the vice president of our temple, was the initiative chairman of the Society and restored Mazu's old home in name of Taiwan Mazu Society.

On May 4, 91<sup>st</sup> year of Republic of China (2002 AD) we convened the 1st time of the 6<sup>th</sup> term Believers Conference, and selected Mr. Ching-piao YEN (顏清標) as the 7<sup>th</sup> term President, Min-kun CHENG as the Vice President, and other members as directors and supervisors. They took an oath in the inauguration ceremony on May 11.

Since this temple was founded and starting from the Presiding Zen Master (住持禪師) through the administrators, the committee and the board of directors and supervisors, all of us have been devoting ourselves to glorifying the compassion and salvational spirit of the Mother Saint of Heaven. There are pure hands everywhere in the world.





On October 31 (Lunar September 9), 76<sup>th</sup> year of Republic of China (1987 AD) this temple on behalf of all the Mazu temples In Taiwan went on the pilgrimage to the ancestral Mazu Temple in Mei Chiou, China, and the ancestral Shrine of Celestial Queen at Hsien Liang Harbor, China, and participated the Celebration of 1000 years for The Assumption of Mazu. Then, we respectfully brought back Mazu statues from the ancestral Mazu temple in Mei Chiou to worship in our temple.

Next year (1988 AD), on December 4 the rebuilt Jenn Lann Temple was completed. We held a celebration for the temple completion and peaceful life for five-day fast. During the celebration we held folk art and songs, and other cultural activities. The scale was the biggest all over Taiwan. We melted the religious belief into culture and art. It made the fasting have more meanings.

On April 23, 78<sup>th</sup> year of Republic of China (1989 AD) our temple concluded a treaty with the ancestral Mazu Temple in Mei Chiou,



Pu Tien City, Fu Chien Province, China as the closest relationship temples. On October 8 (Lunar September 9) we visited the ancestral Shrine of Celestial Queen at Hsien Liang Harbor, Pu Tien City, Fu Chien Province, China and for the first time we respectfully brought back the statues of St. Father (Mr. Chi Ching Kung 積慶公) and St. Mother (the wife of Mr. Chi Ching Kung) to Taiwan, and worshiped them in our temple. We donated a stele "The birthplace of Mazu" to the ancestral Shrine of Celestial Queen, and held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the same day.





In the 13<sup>th</sup> year of Republic of China (1924 AD), the construction was completed. After the Zen master in charge of the temple passed away. The temple was owned by the resident association. The local gentlemen, Mr. Ching Du (杜清), Mr. Hsiang-kuo Du (杜香國) and Mr. Chin-kun KUO (郭金焜), were the guardians.

In October of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Year of Republic of China (1934 AD) Mr. Yen-yi WANG (王燕翼) lived at the west door of Da Jia staged a reconstruction of Jenn Lann Temple. In April next year a big earthquake hit areas of Ching Shui and Hou Li. The dead and the wounded people were countless. However, Da Jia was safe. The residents were very grateful for the blessing of Mazu, and rebuilt the temple. When the temple reconstruction was completed on October 16 the 25<sup>th</sup> year of Republic of China (1936 AD) Chen Lan temple fasted and held a Celebration for Peaceful Life for the first time.

In 35<sup>th</sup> year of Republic of China (1946 AD) after Taiwan restoration, this temple organized an Administrative Committee. The committeemen were selected from the village leader, Li leader, village and chen representatives to preside over the temple affairs.

In 53<sup>th</sup> year of Republic of China (1964 AD) the representatives of the Mazu believers staged a reconstruction, and it was agreed. It lasted for 7 years to add two buildings (the south building and the north building) and the Bell and Drum Tower. Masters of carving were invited to make 6 shrines. Thus, the temple had an entirely new outlook.

In 64<sup>th</sup> year of Republic of China (1975 AD) this temple benefited the residents by means of religion as its purpose. The Jenn Lann building was built. The 1st floor was the activity center. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor was a library. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> floors were classrooms. November Next year a big library was built. It provided the local students and the residents for studying place.

In 67<sup>th</sup> year of Republic of China (1978 AD) the administrative committee was reorganized to be a foundation. The board of directors and the meeting of supervising directors were established to manage the temple affairs.

In 69<sup>th</sup> year of Republic of China (1980 AD) the local residents found that the beams and the columns were rotten. They dismantled this old palace, and rebuilt it at the ancestral site. On June 5 same year they held a Ground Breaking Ceremony.



After that, the residents, the local gentlemen named Mr. Kun-shan Lien (連昆山), Nee Chaiao-hua-lung (巧化龍氏), Mr. Fung-Hau Chen (陳峰毫) (a country man and scholar called Chin Shih Who was a successful candidate of the civil national exam held by The emperor), and Mr. Chin Ting Chung (宗觀庭), a Feng Szu (name of a magistrate) in Da jia, donated land to rebuild the temple several times. In the 18<sup>th</sup> year of Kuang Hsu, Ching Dynasty (1893 AD), Mr. Feng-yi Lin (林鳳儀) expended the temple. Mr Ching Du (杜清) rebuilt it again in the 32<sup>th</sup> year of Ming Tzu (1899 AD). That is the scale of today's Jenn Lann Temple.

### ■ Age-old Jenn Lann Temple

It is said that Mr. Youg-hsing Lin, a native of Mei Chou Island Pu Tien City, Fujian Province, respectfully brought a Mazu statue from Mei Chiou Mazu Temple to Taiwan in the 8<sup>th</sup> year of Yung Cheng, Ching Dynasty (1730 AD). He settled down in Da Jia. At that time the migrators there devoutly believed in Mei Chiou "Mazu". They came to worship her one after another. The goddess was very efficacious. The local gentlemen noticed that her temple had endless pilgrims. Endless burning incense and lighting candles offered by the pilgrims, they received Mr. Lin's consent to build a small shrine at the present site in 10<sup>th</sup> year of Yung Cheng (1732 AD), and worshiped her. The temple started being built formally in the 35<sup>th</sup> year of Chien Lung, Ching Dynasty.



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