

WORDS FROM THE TAI-NAN CITY MAYOR:
(TRANSLATION INTO ENGLISH)

"THE HOLY MOTHER - MA TSU - IS THE GUARDING GODDESS FOR ALL FISHERMAN AND SAILORS ON THE SOUTH OF CHINA. LONG TIME AGO, THE IMMIGRANTS CROSS THE OCEAN TO TAIWAN ALMOST DEPEND ON MA-TSU TO PROTECT THEM FOR SAFE(TY). TO THANK FOR THE PROTECTION FROM THE MA-TSU, THOSE IMMIGRANTS BUILT THE TEMPLE FOR HER. AFTER DEVELOPING MORE THAN 300 YEARS, MA-TSU HAS THE MOST TEMPLES, AND THE MOST PEOPLE BELIEVE IN HER" (5,000 TEMPLES - 200 MILLION PEOPLE)

TEMPLE 1
- MY TURTLE -

HAPPINESS, HANDSOME SALARY,
LONG LIFE AND JOY

CARD 3 OF 3

DURING THE WORSHIP CEREMONY THE BELIEVERS ALSO ASK FOR FAVORS OR SEEK GUIDANCE FROM THESE DEVINE CREATURES. OTHERS ARE HERE TO SHOW THEIR APPRECIATION FOR GRANTING THEIR WISHES THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

CARD 1

I WANT TO EXPRESS MY
SINCEREST OF THANKS
TO I-JUNN CHENG, A COAUTHOR
OF THIS PRESENTATION FOR
MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR ME
ACCOMPANY HIM IN FEB 98
TO THE PENGHU ISLANDS, ^{where}
~~where~~ WE SPENT 10 HOURS
NON-STOP VISITING 5
TEMPLES TO WITNESS THE TURKISH
SACRIFICE CEREMONIES
PROFOUND EXPERIENCE

CARD 2

AND ALSO VOICE APPRECIATION
TO THE PEOPLE OF PENGHU
FOR WARM HOSPITALITY
AND UNCONDITIONAL
ACCEPTANCE INTO THE
TEMPLES OF THEIR GODS,

TEMPLE 2 CHENG POINTING
-1592- MING DYNASTY AT MAP

TIEN-HO (MA-TSU) - (OLDEST IN TAIWAN)
TEMPLE

SIGN: MA-TSU WAS THE MOST RESPECTED
NAVIGATION GOD IN THE SOUTH PART OF
CHINA. MA-TSU RELIGION SPREAD TO PENGHU
WITH THE ARRIVAL OF IMMIGRANTS FROM
FUJIAN PROVINCE AT THE END OF THE MING
DYNASTY, LATER ON SPREAD TO TAIWAN,
AND THE TO OTHER PARTS OF TAIWAN.
MA-TSU HAS GRADUALLY CONVERTED
INTO A PATRON SAINT TO THE
PEOPLE.

MIN-LING TRANSLATION.

CARD 1 OF 2 MA-TSU

COUPLED WITH TURTLE WORKSHOP
(960-987CE)

LIN-WAN-ANG ^(no Lin) WAS A GIRL FROM A COASTAL PROVINCE OF CHINA. ONE DAY HER FATHER AND OTHER BROTHER WENT OUT TO SEA AND MET WITH DISASTER, THE GIRL INVOKED THE GODDESS OF MERCY AND RESCUED THEM. LATER SHE OBTAINED ENLIGHTENMENT AND BECAME THE GODDESS MA-TSU, WHO HELPS FISHERMEN IN DANGER. IN TAIWAN, MARINERS LIVES ARE IN CONSTANT PERIL.

(AS SEA TURTLES ARE TODAY IN MANY AREAS)

VIDEO TUG OF WAR

AT THIS MOMENT, THE TEMPLES IN PENGHU ARE ALIVE WITH PEOPLE COMING AND GOING, PRAYING TO TURTLES PERHAPS ^{SEEKING GUIDANCE AND GOOD FORTUNE} ONCE IN A MILLENIUM

SAFETY AND PEACE, Venerating MA-TSU

THE SEA TURTLE SYMPOSIUM COINCIDES WITH THE CHINESE LANTERN FESTIVAL AND PENGHU SEA TURTLE SACRIFICE CEREMONIES - COUPLED WITH VENERATION OF MA-TSU.

AND EVEN IF THIS HAPPENS MORE OFTEN THAN 1000 YEARS, IT WILL ONLY BE ONCE THAT BALAZS, CHENG, AND WANG BRING THIS BEFORE YOU, AS HAPPENING TODAY

I'LL CLOSE NOW BY POINTING
OUT THAT THE PENGHU PEOPLE,
AND THOSE OF US ~~HERE~~ AT THIS SYMPOSIUM
TODAY, A HALF A WORLD APART,
SHARE COMMON ELEMENTS IN
OUR BELIEFS IN THE MYSTERIES
AND WONDERMENT OF SEA
TURTLES. AND THAT, AT THIS
MOMENT, AS I SPEAK, WE ARE BOTH
EXPRESSING THOSE VIEWS IN THE
MANNER THAT OUR CULTURE
AND CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE SHAPED
US TO DO SO
IN OUR OWN WAYS, WE PRAY FOR SAFETY AND PEACE
AND CONTINUITY - FOR OURSELVES, AND FOR THE SEA TURTLES.

PENG-HU FROM: TOURIST GUIDE BOOK

"WHEN YOU TRAVEL HERE, IT SEEMS
YOU ARE IN PARADISE. SHE IS THE
HOMETOWN OF THE SEA, A PRETTY
ARCHIPELAGO, THE "HAWAII" OF
TAIWAN."

TEMPLE 3

"SHAN-SHUI" TEMPLE

FAMOUS FOR GOLDEN TURTLES

118 OUNCES (7 1/2 LBS) MOVING TURTLE

MANY TEMPLES IN PENGHU CONDUCT SEA TURTLE WORSHIPPING RITUALS DURING THE LANTERN FESTIVAL, THE MOST IMPORTANT FESTIVAL IN PENGHU.

LANTERN FESTIVAL IS THE 15TH DAY OF THE FIRST LUNAR MONTH (2-3-4 MARCH OF THIS YEAR)

THE RESIDENTS OF PENGHU BELIEVE THAT THE SEA TURTLE IS AN (AUSPICIOUS) CREATURE _{DEVINE}

BLESSED WITH GOOD FORTUNE. THUS THEY WORSHIP FOR PEACE, PROSPERITY AND GOOD FORTUNE.

MOVE!

FROM: ESSAY BY
LYALL WATSON

"WE ARE THE PATTERN-MAKERS, THE WATCHERS OF THE WORLD, SORTING THROUGH THE ENTRAILS OF THE EARTH IN AN ENDLESS SEARCH FOR MEANING. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY, AS THOUGH CONSCIOUSNESS CARRIES WITH IT THE PENALTY OF A PRESSING NEED TO KNOW. SO WE LOOK FOR SIGNS IN EVERYTHING, READING NATURE LIKE A BOOK, HOPING ALWAYS TO COME ACROSS SOME ~~THAT~~ SORT OF MESSAGE HIDDEN BETWEEN THE LINES. SOME CLUE, SOME HINT OF DIRECTION, ANYTHING THAT WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO UNDERSTAND WHO WE ARE, AND WHAT ON EARTH WE SHOULD BE DOING. THERE ARE NO EASY ANSWERS."

NOTE ONLY
THE PENGHU PEOPLE - 15 day after
DURING LANTERN FESTIVAL ^{new moon} of ^{first lunar} month.
OFFER IMAGES OF SEA TURTLES AS
SACRED SYMBOLS TO THEIR TEMPLE
GODS - AND VENERATE ~~THE~~
MA-SHU THE SEA GODDESS
GUARDIAN
PROTECTOR OF MARINERS

FOR ~~SAFE~~ PROTECTION FROM THE
SEA, LONGEVITY, PEACE, PROSPERITY
'AND GOOD' FORTUNE.

PENG-HU FROM: TOURIST GUIDE BOOK

"PENGHU IS AN OCEANIC COUNTY. MOST OF
THE RESIDENTS LIVE OF FISHING. * FACING
THE CHANGEABLE NATURE, IT IS MORE
VIOLENTLY REQUIRED FOR THEM TO PRAY
TO GODS. SO THEY RESPECT HEAVEN AND
EARTH AND ARE AFRAID OF GHOSTS AND GODS.
DUE TO THIS FACTOR, THE DENSITY OF TEMPLES
IN PENGHU IS THE NUMBER ONE IN TAIWAN,
AND THE TEMPLES ARE VERY LUXURIOUS."

"-insert-
* PENGHU'S COASTLINE IS VERY LONG AND MOST OF
THE RESIDENTS LIVE ON THE SEA SO THEY HAVE TO FACE
THE CHALLENGE OF EVIL WAVES."

PENGHU - TAIWAN STRAIT

- 100 MILES ACROSS -

INDRE

64 ISLANDS ^{OF WHICH} 20 POPULATED ISLANDS
49 SQUARE MILES - CORAL AND BASALT.

96,000 PEOPLE; MAKUNG CITY 60,000

(97) VILLAGES - ^{THAT CAN BE VISITED} 174 TEMPLES-BUILDINGS
(BUT THOUSANDS OF TEMPLES SMALL AS 1M²)

800 years - 400 years

FISHING - SQUID/FINFISH; PESCADORES ISLANDS.

TOURISM - 2 million A YEAR; AGRICULTURE

PENGHU ISLANDS-DIVIDING POINT

EAST CHINA SEA/SOUTH CHINA SEA

HOT SUMMERS/COLD WINTERS. STRONG NEMONSOON.

CARD 2 OF 2

WHEN CHINESE EMIGRANTS ^{FIRST} CAME TO
PENGHU 800 YEARS AGO, AND 400 YEARS
LATER TO SETTLE TAIWAN, THEY
BROUGHT WITH THEM THEIR TRADITIONS
AND BELIEFS. INCLUDING THEIR
BELIEF IN MA-TSU WHO WOULD
GUARD THEM THROUGH THE HARDSHIPS
OF THEIR NEW LIFE.

People and turtles do not give apart

= GOOD MORNING =

THE "MESSAGE" ^{EXCEPT BY ALL WALLS} MY TALK IS INTENDED TO
CONVEY TO YOU IS THAT THE CULTURAL
HERITAGE RELATING TO SEA TURTLES IS
DIVERSE, DEEP AND SIGNIFICANT ~~AND~~
~~MANY CASES~~ AND THAT MORE
INFORMATION OF THIS NATURE NEEDS
TO BE ^{UNCOVERED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY} PRESENTED AT THE SEA TURTLE
SYMPOSIUM, PUBLISHED IN THE
LITERATURE, AND USED TO ^{APPROPRIATELY} INTEGRATE
(APPROPRIATE) SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION ^{MANAGEMENT}
PRACTICES WITH LOCAL CULTURE, CUSTOMS
AND BELIEFS. AS A PRELUDE...

IN PAST PAST TALKS - KANILA - BORABORA

PENGHU SETTLEMENT - TURTLE SACRIFICE

(THE HAN (CHINESE) PEOPLE FIRST SETTLED IN PENGHU SOME 800 YEARS AGO, MORE THAN 400 YEARS BEFORE SETTING FOOT ON TAIWAN.)

CHINESE CULTURE TRANSMITTED TO TAIWAN VIA THE PENGHU ISLANDS.

TODAY MOST OF THE PENGHU RESIDENTS ARE ~~THE~~ DESCENDANTS OF CHIENGTU, FUJIAN PROVINCE OF CHINA. DESPITE CHANGING TIMES, MANY OF THE TRADITIONS, CULTURAL PRACTICES AND BELIEFS STILL REMAIN.
(MANDARIN LANGUAGE / TAIWAN LANGUAGE / PENGHU DIALECT)

CHINESE LANTERN FESTIVAL

15th NIGHT OF THE FIRST LUNAR MONTH. CHINESE NEW YEAR = FEBRUARY 16
(CHINESE YEAR = MARCH 2, 3, 4 MARCH 3 TEXAS = MARCH 4 ^{Penghu} _{TAIWAN})

WHEN THE MOON IS FULL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, CELESTIAL SPIRITS ROAM THE SKIES. TO HELP PEOPLE SPOT THESE SPIRITS, ESPECIALLY WHEN CLOUDS OR FOG HIDE THE MOON, THE ANCIENTS CARRIED TORCHES. WITH TIME, THE TORCHES WERE REPLACED WITH LANTERNS.

TODAY - DAZZLING CELEBRATIONS - 2-4 MARCH 99
THREE DAYS - LIGHT-COLOR-LASERS TAIPEI

AUSPICIOUS -
AFFORDING A FAVORABLE
AUSPICE

AUSPICE - DIVINER

DIVINATION - THE ART OR PRACTICE OF
FORSEEING OR FORTELLING FUTURE EVENTS
OR DISCOVERING HIDDEN KNOWLEDGE
USUALLY BY THE INTERPRETATION OF
OMENS (OR BY THE AID OF
SUPERNATURAL POWERS

~~THE~~

TAIWAN -

86 GODS - 9 ARE MAJOR

GOD = GROUPINGS AT TIME
= OFFICIAL POSITION (AND NOT ALWAYS A NAME)

C. THOMPSON

EARLY IMMIGRANTS -

WHY DID THEY HAVE TO TAKE THIS BIG RISK TO CROSS? NOT TO EXPAND CHINESE TERRITORY, NOT TO EXPAND THE CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY, THEY WANTED TO ESCAPE THE MISERY OF LIFE IN CHINA.

THE AMBIGUITY PERMEATES EVERYTHING IN TAIWAN TODAY. EVEN RELIGIOUS LIFE. AT THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE GODDESS MATSU'S BIRTHDAY, PEOPLE ARGUED WHETHER MATSU SHOULD BE VENERATED AS A LINK TO CHINA, OR, IF THE MANY MIRACLES SHE HAD PERFORMED FOR HER FOLLOWERS MADE HER TRULY TAIWANESE.

-TUG OF WAR - VIDEO

IT IS,

INDEED, SPECIAL THAT A MOHAVE DESERT BOY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, TRANSPLANTED TO THE MID-PACIFIC HAWAIIAN ISLANDS 35 YEARS AGO, CAN TEAM UP WITH TWO ^{CHINESE} COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS FROM TAIWAN, TO BRING TURTLE SACRIFICE RITES AND THE SEA GODDESS MA-TSU OF THE PENG-HU ISLANDS, TO A SEA TURTLE SYMPOSIUM IN TEXAS.

T'IEW-SHANG SHENG-MU

"Holy Mother in Heaven"

OBSCURE CULT ORIGINS, BUT GENERALLY
ACCEPTED STORY - BORN 960 (CE) SUNG DYNASTY,
ISLAND OF MEICHOU - FUKIEN PROVINCE.

BIRTH ATTENDED BY AUSPICIOUS PORTENTS.

EXCEPTIONALLY PIOUS. PRESENTED WITH CERTAIN

CHARMS AND SECRET LORE BY TAOIST MASTER

AT 13. AT 16 MANIFESTED HER MAGICAL POWER

BY SAVING MOTHER AND FATHER, WHOSE BOAT

CAPSIZED. DIED 987 (27) TEMPLE BUILT

TO ATTRACT HER CONTINUING FAVORS.

L. THOMPSON "CHINESE RELIGION"

CARD 2 of 3 MA-TSU

AS DECADES THEN CENTURIES PASSED, STORIES
OF MIRACLES WROUGHT BY THE GODDESS
ACCUMULATED UP AND DOWN THE SE SEABOARD,
AND SHE BECAME A FAMILIAR GUARDIAN
SPIRIT, PARTICULARLY AMONG SEAFARERS.

12th CENTURY IMPERIAL COURT GAVE OFFICIAL
RECOGNITION AS A DEITY OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

- THE CULT CONTINUED TO GROW UNTIL THE
GODDESS BECAME ONE OF THE MAJOR DEITIES
OF SE CHINA, AND THE MOST IMPORTANT
DEITY OF SAILORS, FISHERMEN, AND ALL
WHO MUST HAZARD THEIR LIVES UPON
THE SEA.

SHE RECEIVED HIGH TITLES BY
IMPERIAL DECREE -

1409 "TIEN FEI" IMPERIAL CONCUBINE OF
HEAVEN WHO

"PROTECTS THE COUNTRY AND SHELTERS THE
PEOPLE, LOOKS AFTER [THOSE WHO CALL ON
HER] WITH MYSTERIOUS LING, AND SAVES
UNIVERSALTY BY HER GREAT KINDNESS."

TITLE / 1683 "TIEN HOU" CONSORT OF HEAVEN

TO THE PEOPLE, SHE IS MORE FAMILIARLY
KNOWN AS MA-TSU, A FUKIEN
WORD FOR GRANDMOTHER.

TAIWAN

PORTUGUESE

ILHA FORMOSA "BEAUTIFUL ISLAND"

230 MILES LONG

130 MILES WIDE

> 2/3'S OF ISLAND = FOOTHILLS & MOUNTAINS.

100 MILES FROM CHINA, TAIWAN STRAIT
2 MILLION REFUGEES - 50 YEARS AGO.

21.5 MILLION POPULATION.

* CHINESE RELIGION *

... IS A MANIFESTATION OF THE CHINESE CULTURE.

TO ATTEMPT TO UNDERSTAND RELIGION IN CHINA AS SEVERAL SYSTEMS OF DOCTRINES IS TO READ WESTERN EXPERIENCE INTO A QUITE DIFFERENT SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

RELIGION IN CHINA IS SO WOVEN INTO THE BROAD FABRIC OF FAMILY AND SOCIAL LIFE THAT THERE WAS NOT EVEN A WORD FOR IT UNTIL MODERN TIMES (WHEN ONE WAS COINED (FOR IT) TO MATCH THE WESTERN TERM.

SEVENTH MONTH

15th DAY OF SEVENTH MONTH.

DURING ENTIRE MONTH, THE GATES OF PURGATORY STAND 'OPEN' AND THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAVE NO ANCESTRAL SACRIFICES - THE BEREAVED SPIRITS - ARE FREE TO WANDER ABOUT IN THE INVISIBLE DIMENSION THAT IMPINGES UPON THE MORTAL WORLD.

DURING THIS MONTH, MANY SPECIAL MEASURES ARE TAKEN BY THE LIVING TO PLACATE THESE GHOSTS AND AVERT HARM.

KAUILA - HAWAIIAN MYSTICAL SEA TURTLE PROTECTIVE SPIRIT

BORN AT LUNALUU BLACK SAND BEACH,
ISLAND OF HAWAII - OFFSPRING OF TWO KINDS
OF SUPERNATURAL SEA TURTLES.

AT WILL, SHE WAS ABLE TO ASSUME
HUMAN FORM AND PLAY WITH CHILDREN,
AND WATCH OVER THEM ALONG THE SHORELINE
SO THEY WOULDN'T BE HURT. THE PEOPLE
LOVED KAUILA FOR THIS AND BECAUSE HER
UNDERWATER SPRING GAVE THEM DRINKING WATER.

"
FROM: "ECOLOGY AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF
SEA TURTLES" - 14TH PROCEEDINGS - ANNUAL SEA TURTLE
SYMPOSIUM

THE PENGHU FOLK FAVORITE IS TO
MAKE RED TURTLE CAKE FOR
INCREASING GOOD LUCK AND LONGER
LIFE.

THERE ARE MANY KINDS OF TURTLES SUCH
AS FLOUR TURTLES, THIN NOODLE TURTLE,
PEANUT CANDY TURTLE, CAKE TURTLE,
RICE PACKAGE TURTLE, 'COIN TURTLE',
AND GOLD TURTLE.

Amy

I THINK ONLY PEOPLE IN PENG HU
WILL BELIEVE BOTH MA-TSU AND
SEA TURTLES BECAUSE TURTLES HAVE
APPEARED IN PENG-HU SINCE LONG AGO.
IN SOME CHINESE LEGENDS, PEOPLE
BELIEVE TURTLE CAN PROTECT PEOPLE,
ESPECIALLY IN THE OCEAN. SOME STORIES
SAID TURTLE CAN TAKE PEOPLE ON
THEIR BACK AND SWIM THEM TO A
SAFE PLACE. SAME WITH MA-TSU.
THEY BOTH CAN SAVE PEOPLE IN
THE OCEAN AND PROTECT THEIR LIFE.

Amy

MY PRESENTATION WILL INCLUDE
TEMPLE VIEWS ^{SCENES} OF A
- 6,000 kg sea turtles of Rice Floue
- A 7 1/2 lb pure gold sea turtle - MECHANIZED
- 180kg RICE CAKE TURTLE - AND -
DESCRIPTIONS OF THE TAIWAN SEAGODDESS
MA-TSU AND HER CLOSE
ASSOCIATION WITH SEA TURTLES
IN THE PENGHU ISLANDS.

AS SEEN AND UNDERSTOOD THROUGH
~~THE~~ EYES AND MIND AS A VISITOR
FROM THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.