

# Taboos and Protocols

## 廟宇禁忌及傳統參拜慣例

### STEP OVER THE DOORSILL, NOT DIRECTLY ON IT 【勿踩門檻】

This taboo is rooted in the belief that the doors are guarded by the door gods. The act of stepping on the doorsill, which is part of the door, is likely to offend the gods.

有關此一禁忌的說法是因為「門有門神」，門檻是門的一部分，踩踏門檻是不禮貌的行為，會有冒犯神明的疑慮，因此在進入廟宇時，要屈膝跨過門檻，以表示對神明的尊敬。

### WHEN ENTERING AND EXITING, ALWAYS USE THE DOOR ON YOUR RIGHT 【龍門進，虎門出】

The two doorways flanking the center gate are the visitors' entrance and exit. These two doorways are known as the green dragon gate and white tiger gate. Enter and exit the temple through the door which is to your right. Here are the rules of thumb:

Green dragon gate: The principal deity of the temple is placed facing the front entrance. From the god's perspective, the dragon gate is the leftward of the three doorways; to visitors, it is the right gate as you face the front of the temple. This is the entrance.

White tiger gate: From the perspective of the deity, the tiger gate is the rightward of the three doorways; to a visitor facing the temple from the outside, it is the left-hand gate. This is the exit.

This particular protocol is rooted in the belief that entering and exiting through the doorway on your right brings good fortune and wards off evil.

進入廟宇時要由兩旁的龍虎門進出，龍虎門的判別方式如下：當信眾面對廟門時，龍門即右前方入口；反之，虎門為左前方出口。通常進出廟宇時要龍門進虎門出，原因是因為「入龍口出虎口，好運來壞運去」，也有吉祥如意、消災解厄等含意。

### DO NOT TRAVEL THROUGH THE CENTER ENTRYWAY 【勿走中門】

The entry into every temple consists of three doorways. The central doorway is strictly for the deities and off-limits to mortals. If a worshipper happens to travel through the center gate just as the god is leaving the temple for errands, the worshipper would be in the way of the deity, which could lead to visits from evil spirits. For this reason, the center gate was reserved for emperors, ranking officials, and local administrative chiefs in ancient times. Nowadays, it is opened exclusively for the president, the premier, and the mayor.

一般廟宇中央會有個中門，中門是神明出入的道路，不可以任意進出，如果從中門進去剛好遇到神明出去辦事的話會擋到神明，擋到神明的話就會沖煞，因此在古代只有皇帝、位階高的官員、地方首長等人，現代只有總統、行政院長、市長等才能進出，一般民眾不能走。

### DRESS CODE 【服裝儀容之禁忌】

Worshippers are advised to dress properly when visiting the temple. Outlandish clothing and heavy makeup are considered disrespectful to the deities. Loud noises are prohibited. Do not finger-point at the deities. Instead, place the palms together while praying, to show respect and reverence.

進出廟宇時服裝儀容應要整齊端莊，不應該著奇裝異服、化濃妝，也不應該在廟宇中大肆喧嘩，高談闊論，勿用手指神明，面對神明雙手合十參拜，以表示對神明的尊重與崇敬。

