

# Meet Wanshan Ye

萬善爺 (囡仔公)

“The Child Spirit Hits the Jackpot” 「囡仔公發大財」

Birthday : 24<sup>th</sup> day of 8<sup>th</sup> lunar month (聖誕日: 農曆8月24日)



## History of Wanshan Ye (the child spirit) | 歷史沿革

A shepherd boy lived in Mount North Kang Lang during the reign of emperor Kangxi. Orphaned at a young age, he was bright and quick-witted. He worked for his uncle to make a living and tended the cattle in the lush mountainside. One day, he sought refuge from the rain in the woodlands, and noticed an opening sized about ten square feet. The opening was completely bare, with no grass, no leaves. Not a drop of rainwater was found in the opening despite the rain. Right then, he had an epiphany about the greatness of the universe and the richness within. Since then, he visited the opening daily to sit and meditate. One day, he was sitting with his legs crossed in meditation, and suddenly breathed his last and died. His uncle buried him haphazardly on site. The shepherd boy received the best from the location, and he became immortal thanks to the protection of spiritual influence. Locals call the shepherd boy, “Wanshan Ye” (the child spirit).

The most talked-about anecdote by worshippers has to be the spat between fifth king and Wanshan Ye over a plot of land destined for temple construction. Rumors had it that lord Fan (fifth royal lord) favored the territory of “Wanshan Ye” as the new site for his temple. The fifth royal lord and Wanshan Ye argued viciously over the ownership of the land. Wanshan Ye asserted that “I owned this piece of land in my previous life. A copper needle is buried here to corroborate my story.” The fifth royal lord refuted by saying that “we spotted the land long ago when we crossed the oceans to come to Taiwan. We buried a copper coin here and it’s our proof.” Both parties met with Fu De Jheng Shen (Land God) to visit the land for verification. When they arrived, they found the copper needle embedded in the hole of the coin, so the ownership could not be determined. The spat continued and escalated into a full-on armed battle. Wanshan Ye gathered troops from the netherworld as his fighters, while the fifth royal lord asked the third king, lord Wu, to be his commander. The battle was intense; both won some and lost some. At long last, Guanyin Buddha housed at Chih Shan Ya (today’s Chih Shan Longhu Temple in Tainan) stepped forward to ask Mazu and Baosheng Emperor to mediate, and the warring parties reached a truce. They reached the following terms: (1) the fifth king built a small temple for the child spirit; (2) when the large temple received worshippers who came to pay their respects, the small temple would certainly partake in the blessings; (3) they would enjoy blessings and fortune together to promote Nankunshen’s spiritual presence.

The altercation scarred the statue of the third royal lord (lord Wu) in the forehead. The scar was left there by Wanshan Ye, and it came to signify lord Wu’s valiance and fighting skills. Temple superintendents had retained workmen to fix it without success.

Legend also has it that Wanshan Ye (the child spirit) of Nankunshen Daitian Temple is Taiwan’s very own god of wealth. Pilgrims can inquire about taking out a “wealth loan” from the temple /returning the loan to Wanshan Ye at the service counter. Wanshan Ye could turn a handful of money into an impressive fortune, and bless the pilgrims with great business prospects.

康熙年間，北寮榔山有一位牧童，天性聰異，幼年父母雙亡，依靠其舅父生活，每日在翠綠山峰放牛，一日躲雨時突然發現叢林內，竟有一丈方圓的空地，寸草不生，在大雨中滴水全無，頓感宇宙之廣闊，包羅萬象，從此之後，每日必來此地靜坐，有一日竟然盤坐此地無疾而暴斃，其舅父遂就地草草掩埋，這位牧童得到地理精華，死後因靈氣照蔭而成仙，當地人稱其為「萬善爺」(囡仔公)。

最讓信眾津津樂道的莫過於五王與萬善爺爭廟地的故事，相傳當年五王為遷建廟宇，正好相中「萬善爺」的地盤，雙方對此地屬誰劇烈爭執。萬善爺主張：「這塊地是我生前所有，埋有銅針為證」。五王反駁說：「我們早在渡海來臺時，就已經看中此地，並埋有銅錢為記」。雙方會同福德正神(土地公)現場履勘，卻是銅針插在銅錢孔上，無法公斷。雙方爭論不下，轉為武鬥。萬善爺召集陰兵陰將，五王則以三王爺吳府千歲為首，與之打得你死我活，互有勝敗。最後赤山巖(今臺南赤山龍湖巖)觀音佛祖出面，請媽祖與保生大帝出面調解，才告平息。雙方達成以下協議：(1)五王為囡仔公建小廟，(2)大廟來進香，小廟必有敬，(3)有福同享，光大南鯤鯓香火。

而現今三王吳府千歲的神像額頭有一道傷痕，就是當年那場大戰被萬善爺所傷，所留下來的英勇記號，廟方曾經多次請工匠來修補，都無法成功。

據傳南鯤鯓代天府的萬善爺(囡仔公)為臺灣本土財神爺，信眾倘有需要，可向廟方發財金受理櫃檯諮詢借/還萬善爺發財金事宜，可庇佑小錢變大錢、事業亨通旺旺來。

Our Culture, Our Temple

