

Meet the Five Royal Lords 五府千歲

Nankunshen Daitian Temple is dedicated to the worship of five royal lords (called “Wangye”): lord Lee, lord Chih, lord Wu, lord Jhu, and lord Fan. They are endearingly named, “the five kings” or “king Kunshen.”

南鯤鯓代天府主祀李王、池王、吳王、朱王和范王等五府千歲(王爺)，俗稱「五王」或「鯤鯓王」。



Lord Lee (great king) - “the great king as a wise selector of auspicious days” (Birthday: 26th day of 4th lunar month)

李府千歲(大王)－「大王好日子」(聖誕日：農曆4月26日)

Lord Lee was an academicien gifted in many ways, well-versed in the art of choosing auspicious days, with many supernatural powers. He transformed himself into an elderly fisherman when construction was set to begin for Nankunshen Daitian Temple. He turned joss paper for the gods into silver, bought timber in Fujhou, construction aggregates in Cuanjhou, tiles in Jhangjhou, and ship all the cargo to its destination on a rented boat. The feat made quite a stir in town.

大王李府千歲滿腹才學，擅於擇日，法力無邊。南鯤鯓代天府建廟之時，李府千歲即化身老漁翁，將金紙變為白銀，福州買杉，泉州購石，漳州訂瓦，並租船運回，轟動遠近。

Lord Chih (second king)- “plain sailing for lord Chih” (Birthday: 18th day of 6th lunar month)

池府千歲(二王)－「池王好流水」(聖誕日：農曆6月18日)

Lord Chih ranks second. He is the royal lord most widely worshipped in temples dedicated solely to the worship of royal Lord (Wangye). Lord Chih is the patron saint of fishermen, making him the deity worshipped by a large population of fishery workers. They pray to him for a safe journey and bountiful catch. Lord Chih’s protections are credited for the large fisherman population in Nankunshen.

池府千歲排行第二，為臺灣單祀王爺之廟宇中奉祀最廣的一尊王爺。池王爺是沿海漁民的守護神，因此，只要是從事捕魚、養殖漁民多數都信奉池王爺，祈求出海平安，漁獲滿載。而南鯤鯓早期居民多為漁民，自然頗受池王爺之蔭佑。

Lord Wu (third king) - “the third king as the wise geomancer” (Birthday: 15th day of 9th lunar month)

吳府千歲(三王)－「三王好地理」(聖誕日：農曆9月15日)

Young and staunch, Lord Wu is the third royal lord (Wangye), also known as “the beardless royal lord.” He specializes in blessing the talismans, spotting properties of great development potentials, and reading Fengshuei. The most talked-about anecdote about lord Wu, was when the fifth king and the child spirit (Wanshan Ye) got into a spat over land. The fifth king took on the child spirit (Wanshan Ye) over the relocation of a temple. The altercation scarred the statue of the third king in the forehead. That battle scar came to signify lord Wu’s valiance and fighting skills.

三王爺吳府千歲，年輕剛烈，又稱「無鬚王爺」，專長安符、相地、看風水。最讓信眾津津樂道的莫過於五王與萬善爺爭廟地的故事，當年五王為遷建廟宇，大戰囡仔公(萬善爺)，此次廟地之爭致使三王爺神像額頭留下傷痕，成為吳府千歲勇猛善戰的象徵。

Lord Jhu (fourth king)- “lord Jhu as the great diviner” (Birthday: 15th day of 8th lunar month)

朱府千歲(四王)－「朱王好籤詩」(聖誕日：農曆8月15日)

Lord Jhu ranks fourth and is noted for his cleverness, foresight and resourcefulness who could trump and outsmart his rivals. Rumors had it that lord Jhu was gifted in “giving oracles.” All the questions and issues – regardless of their magnitude – can be answered and resolved through oracle consultation with lord Jhu. The oracle outcomes are said to be extremely efficacious.

排行第四的朱府千歲，神機妙算，有運籌帷幄、決勝於千里之外之智。民間相傳朱王爺專職「出籤」，意即凡有疑難，事無大小，來到南鯤鯓代天府求籤，一定要呼請朱王爺出籤，如此一來，所得籤詩百靈百驗。

Lord Fan (fifth king)- “the great healer” (Birthday: 27th day of 4th lunar month)

范府千歲(五王)－「范王好醫理」(聖誕日：農曆4月27日)

Lord Fan was the youngest among the five lords. Each and every royal lord had a job to do: “the great king as a wise selector of auspicious days; plain sailing for lord Chih; the third king as the wise geomancer; lord Jhu as the great diviner, and lord Fan as the great healer.” We learn from the axiom that lord Fan was a great doctor, with a kind heart and medical skills who could effect a miraculous cure and bring the dying back to life. Numerous people have benefited from his extraordinary healing gifts.

Lord Fan’s birthday falls on the 27th day of the 4th lunar month. Lord Lee’s birthday falls on a day before lord Fan’s birthday, and consequently, the Wangye worship hosted this time of the year would attract throngs of believers and pilgrims from all over Taiwan; the temple is also awash with parades, celebrations and youth diviners. It is rightfully the carnival of traditional folk religions, the scale of which makes it the largest worship ritual in southern Taiwan.

范府千歲於五府千歲之中排行老么。民間傳說五府千歲各司其職：「大王好日子；池王好流水；三王好地理；朱王好籤詩；范王好醫理」，足見范王爺以行醫濟世聞名。范王爺仁心仁術，妙手成春，至今受范王之患者，不知凡幾。

農曆4月27日為范王爺聖誕之日，由於前一日4月26日為大王李府千歲聖誕，因此每年此時舉行的王爺祭，全臺各地的信徒與進香團同赴盛會，藝陣、乩童也大批湧進，宛若傳統宗教民俗的嘉年華會，氣勢盛大，號稱南臺灣最大的祭典。