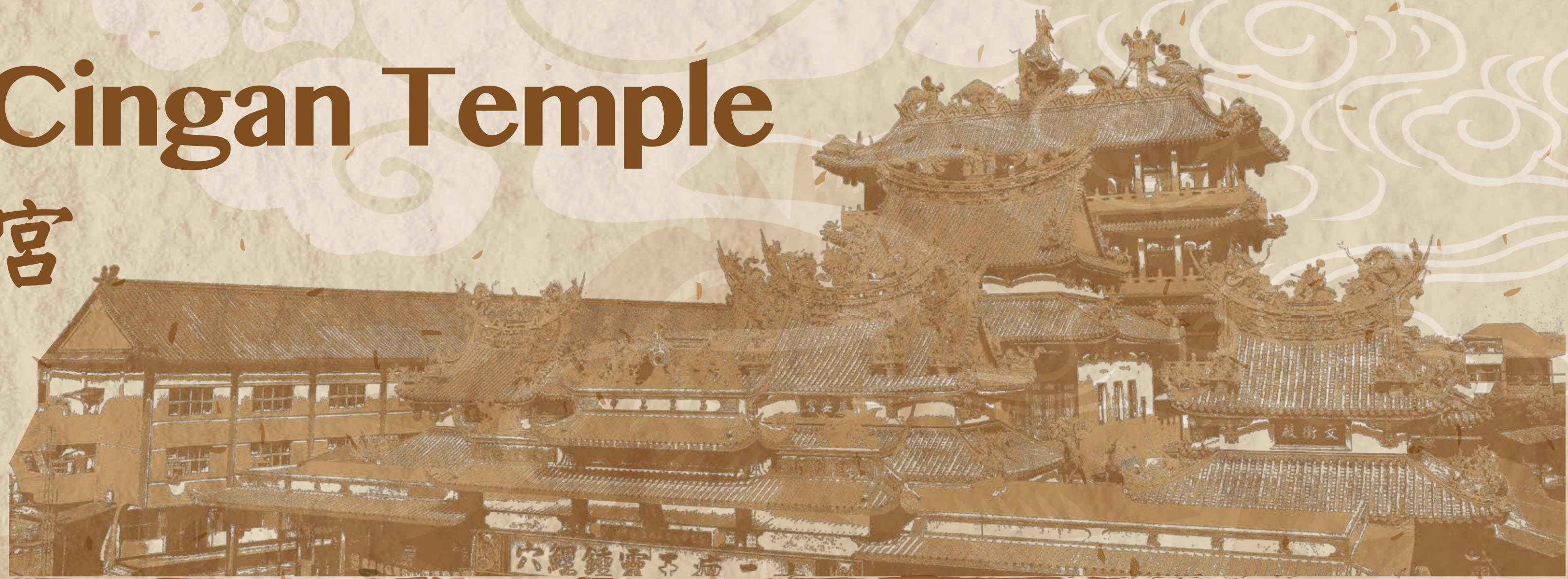


# Sigang Cingan Temple

## 西港慶安宮



## History of Sigang Cingan Temple | 歷史沿革

The founding of Sigang Cingan Temple is directly connected with Ming Dynasty general Koxinga's invasion of Taiwan to drive out the Dutch, who then occupied the island, in the 17th century.

In 1661, Koxinga landed his forces in Luerhmen Harbor in preparation for his invasion. He stationed one battalion of soldiers in Sigang. One soldier, a geomancer, or fengshui expert, noted that the land where Cingan Temple now situated formed a geographical phenomenon known as a sacred abode of carp fishes. This was a profoundly auspicious sign of divine presence, and the local villagers made a decision to build Sigang Cingan Temple on the site.

When Koxinga brought his fleet over from China, he carried with him for protection the consecrated statues of two deities—Cheng Huang (the city god), and Nezha (the Marshal of the Central Altar).

Like most temples in Taiwan, Sigang Cingan Temple has seen frequent renovations and expansions over the centuries, the most recent being a major makeover carried out in 1994. As the temple has grown, the number of deities it contains has likewise increased, until now the temple houses over a hundred deities.

1661年，鄭成功攻下普羅民遮城後於西港駐軍，軍中有士兵熟悉風水，見慶安宮現址鍾靈毓秀且位於鯉魚穴之上，為吉祥之地，遂於當地集資建廟。鄭成功來臺時，隨船神像有二尊，分別為中壇元帥及城隍境主。

西港慶安宮如臺灣許多廟宇，歷經六次擴建整修，最近的一次整修於1994年。隨著規模變大，西港慶安宮供奉的神祇也跟著增加，現在有超過百位神祇。

## Introduction of Main Deities | 主要神祇簡介

### Mazu 媽祖

Mazu is the goddess of the sea, and as such, has become one of the most important members of Taiwan's pantheon of gods. Mazu springs from an actual historical figure, Lin Moniang, a devout young woman who lived on Meizhou Island in Fujian Province sometime in the 10th century. The quiet young girl showed signs of a religious propensity early on. At the age of sixteen, while weaving, she entered a trance state during which she was able to save her fisherman father from drowning in a typhoon. As the goddess Mazu, she is a powerful protection deity, particularly for fishermen and travelers at sea.

During Sigang Cingan Temple's establishment in 1712, worshippers installed an effigy of Mazu that had been consecrated at Luerhmen Tianhou Temple. Since then, Mazu has become the primary god worshipped at the temple.

海神媽祖為道教信仰最重要的神祇之一。經考據確認媽祖確有其人，生於十世紀，因出生時未啼哭，取名林默娘。林默娘自幼即展現異能且十分虔誠。十六歲那年，林默娘的父親出海時遇到颱風，正在織布的林默娘神靈出竅，救起了落水的父親。除保佑漁民外，媽祖同時也庇佑渡海來臺的開臺先民，從此變成為臺灣間民信仰最具代表性的神祇之一。

西港慶安宮在1712年正式建廟，廟方從鹿耳門天后宮分香，此後媽祖成為西港慶安宮的鎮殿主神。

### Cheng Huang, the City God 城隍境主

Worship of Cheng Huang, the city god, goes all the way back to the Zhou Dynasty. The city god is tasked with protecting cities or other geographic areas and is also responsible for judging departed souls. The city god effigy at Sigang Cingan temple is the one brought over by Koxinga. He is flanked by two celestial judges. The white faced judge records the life and deeds of every living person. The black faced judge passes judgement on the dead based on their record in life.

City god temples were official government temples and could be established at the city, county, or provincial level. Because of their official status, the doors of city god temples are studded rather than being painted with door gods.

城隍顧名思義為守護城市的神明，其信仰可追溯至周朝。西港慶安宮內的城隍神像為鄭成功來臺時的隨船神像之一，兩側為謝、范二將軍。白面的謝將軍紀錄人在世的一舉一動，而黑將軍則根據此陽世紀錄審判亡魂。過去城隍廟分為都、府、州、縣等四級，原為官廟，因此廟門的設計明顯與其他廟宇有所區別。

### Nezha 中壇元帥

Nezha is known as the Third Prince or the Marshall of the Celestial Army. He is a popular deity in Taoist folk religion. According to legend, Nezha was born during the Shang Dynasty, 3000-4000 years ago. When his mother gave birth to a large ball of flesh after a three-year pregnancy, his horrified father struck it with his sword. The ball of flesh split open to reveal a vivacious young boy already able to walk and talk. The education of this superhuman child was taken over by a Taoist immortal, and after many adventures, he was raised by the Jade Emperor to the position of Marshall of the Celestial Army, where he plays the role of demon-slayer with the power to protect his followers from evil.

中壇元帥即哪吒（三太子）。據傳哪吒生於商朝，其母懷胎三年誕下一顆肉球，哪吒的父親以為是妖怪，便提劍往肉球一劈，不料出現了一道五彩絢光，跳出了一個已經會走會跑的孩子。哪吒後來成為玉皇大帝的將領，專門鎮壓妖魔、庇佑其信徒。