

The Founding of Seitenkyu

“Seitenkyu” is a Chinese / Taiwanese Taoist temple which directly translated as the “Holy Celestial Palace”. Taoism, along with Buddhism and Confucianism, is one of the three great religions of China. Unlike Japanese Buddhist temple oriented mostly for the afterlife and worship of ancestors, the Taoist temple is for worshiping of gods, and prays are in hope of protection and improvement of the present life. Enshrined in Seitennkyuu are the “The Three Pure Origins of the Tao” (‘Genshitenson’, ‘Doutokutenson’, ‘Reihoutenson’) that house this palace and along with multitude of other Taoist deities.

The founder of Seitenkyu is Mr. Kou Koku-Ten a Taoist priest. He was stricken by an incurable illness in his early forties and found his salvation with Sanseidouso. After 7 years of hospitalization, he was cured and he decided to build a temple as a gesture of gratitude for his recovery from the illness. He also wanted to build a place of worship for all and give everyone access to Sanseidouso’s salvation and protection.

When searching for a site of construction, a revelation was granted to him to build this temple at this present site. The name and the form of the “Holy Celestial Palace” was also revealed to him.

Construction commenced on the spring of 1981 and a total of 15 years were

spent and on autumn of 1995 it was opened to all. Seitennkyuu is know to be one of the biggest Chinese/Taiwanese Taoist temple in Japan. Its lavish decorations reflect the way Chinese view the celestial world. All curving and decorations are designs and conceived by Taiwanese artisans. Materials such as 5m high dragon pillars and 4m high camphor wood carvings on portals are all from Taiwan.

About Taoism

Taoism is a polytheistic folk religion of China that dates back to the beginning of Chinese history. It comprises of two facets, 'religion' which in modern days primarily practiced in Taiwan and 'philosophy' known as the 'Tao' or 'the way' influenced ideologies of the East and the West.

Taoist religion is based on the folklores of the so called 'sin and sen' which means 'deities and supernatural hermits'. Deeds of gods are awesome and unquestioned but the deeds of the 'sen' are believed achievable if the proper disciplines are practiced. Ancient colleges of sciences sprung from these practices such as the search of longevity led to Chinese herbal medicine, Chinese cuisine and the invention of gunpowder. Other such as divination and the notion of the 'yin and yang' lead to Chinese astrology, 'fengshui' and 'qigong'. As these practices pervaded the Chinese culture, ethics and philosophy emerged from them

known as the 'Tao' or 'the way'.

The philosophical facet of Taoism, became institutionalized in the turbulent times of the warring Spring and Autumn Period (770–475BC) of the Chinese history. Chinese philosophy blossomed as the 'Hundred Schools of Thought' was established and influential intellectual movements such as Taoism (Lao Tzu teachings), Confucianism, Legalism and Mohism were founded. All are reciprocals and derivatives of the `Tao`. As an example Lao Tus sees the 'Tao' as "Wu wei," "Effortless, not needing a deed" to achieve while Confucius demanded that to achieve the 'Tao' is by practice and institutionalization of morals.

Taoist beliefs and practices embodies the Chinese culture heritage. Chinese ideology, meditation, disciplines, martial arts and cuisine are just some Legacy of Taoism intertwined throughout eastern and western history.