

澎湖乞龜文化

Begging Turtle Culture in Penghu

澎湖在地藝術家顏佳榮作品

「乞龜」是澎湖知名的儀式糕點。早年澎湖人大多靠海為生，而「乞龜」以「龜/歸」同音，意表人民向神明乞求出海工作能平安歸來。廟宇於元宵節期間提供平安龜，供民眾向神明擲筊乞得後帶回，為表對神明的感謝，隔年民眾多會製作更重、更大的乞龜來還願。

以前物質貧乏時，乞龜只是印上龜紋的糕點，之後民生富裕，信眾才開始將「龜」的型態實體化，甚至巨大化。現在的乞龜口味多元，為了防止信眾還願的乞龜過度巨大，造成廟方管理上的壓力並避免浪費食物，有的廟宇也提供以黃金以黃金龜或價金返還的方式還願，讓這溫暖人心的習俗能用更健康環保的方式繼續延續。

A Works of Local Artist Yan Jia Rong

“Begging Turtle” is a well-known ritual glutinous rice cake in Penghu. In the early years, most residents of Penghu depended on the sea for their livelihood. And “Begging Turtle” has the same pronunciation as “Turtle/Return” in Taiwanese. It’s a metaphor that people supplicate and pray to the gods or deities to return safely for their fishing offshore to work. Temples enshrine auspicious and safe turtle-like glutinous rice cakes during Lantern Festival for the citizens throwing the Oracle to beg the gods or deities, let them take the glutinous rice cakes back home. To express their gratitude to the gods, people will make heavier and bigger Begging Turtle glutinous rice cakes the following year to fulfill their wishes than they got last time.

In the past, when the material world was short, Begging Turtle was just a glutinous rice cake with turtle patterns. After the people's livelihood became prosperous, pious followers began to materialize the form of “Turtle” and even made it huge. The Begging Turtle now has a variety of tastes, preventing the Begging Turtle that believers wish fulfilled their wishes from being too large, causing pressure on temple management and avoiding wasting food; some of the temples also provide to fulfill their wishes with gold in the form of a goldmade turtle or cash; let this heart-warming custom continue in a healthier and more environmentally friendly way.

