

Xiyuan Temple 西園宮

Taiwan is highly diversified in terms of religious faith, with believers of Buddhism, Daoism, Christianity, Mormonism, the Unification Church, Islam, Hinduism, as well as native sects such as Yiguandao, among others. The island not only respects traditional faiths but also opens itself to religious thought from other countries. Xiyuan Gong was constructed 139 years ago. One of the rules of this temple is that you have to knock on the bell when you enter the temple. There is also a blessing bag exhibition hall, where you can buy a blessing bag to make a wish.

Dialogue

A: Why do so many people like to go to the temples? What do they do there?

B: People go to the temples to pray for safety and peace for their families and friends.

A: What are they doing? They are tossing something on the ground.

B: Oh, they are “tossing divination blocks.”

A: So what are they for?

B: Well, to perform this ritual, one first makes a wish and then tosses the divination blocks. If both blocks land face down, your wish has very little chance of being granted, and if both blocks land face up, the gods don't have an answer for you. However, if the blocks land with one facing up and the other facing down, your wish will be granted. For good karma, one typically tosses the divination blocks three times.

A: Oh, I get it. Let's pray and toss divination blocks together.

Word bank:

1. temple 廟

3. pray for 祈求

5. incense 香

2. gods 神明

4. toss divination blocks 擲筊

6. fortune slip 籤詩

