



9. Type of God: Local Earth God

Chinese names/ titles:

Tudi or Tu Di (both Mandarin or Cantonese)
Tudigong (Lord of the Soil and the Ground)
Ong Dia Than Tai (Vietnamese)

Birthday/ Date of Celebration: 2nd day of the 2nd month of the lunar calendar

Legend:

In ancient times, in order to survive people had to rely on the Earth for food, and that to worship the Earth god, that would prevent drought and famine. A good harvest meant wealth and well-being, therefore the Earth god was also considered a god of wealth.

Each location had their own Earth God. He is usually portrayed as an elderly bureaucrat with a wooden staff in one hand and a gold ingot in the other. At our Tin Hau Temple, the Earth God is simply represented by a wooden tablet. The inscription on the top of the tablet says “the House of Assembled Treasure”, and in the middle, “the Lord of the Earth, the God of Wealth of this Temple”.