

Nak-an (樂安)

Monk of Chosŏn & Humanitarian. Also known as Nangbaek & Manhaeng Sujwa. He left Pŏmŏsa in Tongnae early and began acts of kindness by giving all his possessions to the poor and sick. Also, he planted small pine trees along the side of Tongnae's Kich'al Highway and dug a well to alleviate the discomfort of travelers. He built a hut in Tongnae's To-ŏ quarter where he gave away straw sandals to passing travelers. He also grew a field of cucumbers at the foot of the mountains on the east side of the arched bridge found nowadays on the road to the Tongnae hot springs, and shared the crop with passers-by. Consistent with his selfless acts in life, in the end he even offered up his body by wandering in the thick forest near Pŏmŏsa for three days until he met a hungry tiger to whom he gave his body. Sick at the numerous and excessive oppression of Buddhist temples by the authorities, before he died he inscribed the following in front of the room where he was staying: "The one who opens the door is also the one who closes it." (開門者是閉門人) Afterward it is said he was reincarnated into the Cho clan and after rising to the rank of Sunsang, he returned to Pŏmŏsa and opened the door he had closed in his former life while eliminating the oppression of Pŏmŏsa by the authorities and the common people. These legendary facts are to be found on a stele now at Pŏmŏsa, (巡相國趙公 屢革祛寺弊 永世不忘壇 *Sunsangukjogong Ŏmhyŏkgŏsap'ye Yŏngsebulmangdan*).