



# FLOWERS FOR THE KING



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# DOK MAI CHAN

The millions of cremation flowers or dok mai chan made by Thai people across the nation for the Oct 26 royal cremation speak volumes about the love, gratitude and reverence for the late King Bhumibol.

Each paper flower which takes about 10-15 minutes for skilled volunteers to make and several more for those without the skills is a labour of love for mourners as the country bids its final farewell.

Originally dok mai chan were made of mai chan (kalamet tree) which gives off a distinct aroma.

Paired with candles and incense sticks the cremation flowers are placed at a crematorium and burned along with the body of the deceased. The scent is believed to help transport the soul to heaven.

During the reign of King Rama V, mai chan

shavings were used and arranged into bouquets. When kalamet trees became rare, they were replaced by mok trees.

To the untrained eye, cremation flowers may look the same.

But there are as many as 36 types of flowers that are imitated in the making of cremation flowers, according to the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA). They include daffodils, roses, kaew, leelawadee, rasamichan, kornpratheap and daoruang.

Somwang Jiasinchaoen, deputy director of the BMA-run career training school (Klong Toey), said City Hall has offered sandalwood flower-making training since March.

All 10 career training schools under the BMA, 50 district offices and other vocational training

centres have been brought in to teach the public how to create the flowers.

The BMA itself plans to produce three million cremation flowers for the Oct 26 royal cremation ceremony.

All the cremation flowers including those contributed by the private sector were to be gathered at the BMA's Social Development Department by the end of September for distribution.

The BMA has designated more than 60 locations including temples across the capital for mourners to place dok mai chan and bid farewell to the late king on Oct 26.

In the provinces, the Department of Local Administration has joined hands with parties concerned in making dok mai chan for the royal cremation ceremony. ❖



The government has organised scores of venues in Bangkok and its vicinity so millions of mourners can lay funeral flowers and pay their final respects to the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

## 9 REPLICAS OF THE ROYAL CREMATORIUM

- [1] The Royal Plaza
- [2] The former headquarters of the Government Lottery Office
- [3] Nagraphirom Park
- [4] The King Rama I monument at the base of Memorial Bridge
- [5] Lan Khon Muang (the grounds of City Hall)
- [6] Thupateme Stadium in Don Muang
- [7] Buddha Monthon
- [8] Bitec Bang Na
- [9] King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang

## 42 ARRANGED VENUES

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| [1] Santichai Prakan Park                         | [16] In front of Fashion Island shopping mall, Ram Intra Road | [31] Government Complex, Chaeng Watthana Road                  |
| [2] Bangkok Naval Base                            | [17] In front of Wat Dusitaram school                         | [32] Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters                      |
| [3] Siriraj Piyamaharajkarun Hospital             | [18] In front of the City Library                             | [33] Office of the Permanent Secretary for Defence, Nonthaburi |
| [4] The foot of Rama VIII Bridge (Thon Buri side) | [19] Democracy Monument                                       | [34] Wat Arun Ratchawaram (the Temple of Dawn)                 |
| [5] In front of CentralWorld shopping complex     | [20] In front of Deves Insurance office                       | [35] Wat Ratchabophit  |
| [6] Royal Thai Army Headquarters                  | [21] In front of Wat Parinayok                                | [36] Wat Burana Sirimatayaram                                  |
| [7] In front of Suphachalasai National Stadium    | [22] The Agricultural Land Reform Office                      | [37] Wat Indra Viharn  |
| [8] Wat Debsirindrawas                            | [23] Jor Por Ror intersection                                 | [38] Wat Mahannapharam   |
| [9] Wat Bowonniwet Vihara                         | [24] Makkhawan junction                                       | [39] Wat Benchamabophit  |
| [10] Hua Mark Indoor Stadium                      | [25] Misakawan intersection                                   | [40] Wat Rajadhivas  |
| [11] Thai-Japan Bangkok Youth Centre              | [26] Rajaprajanugroh Foundation                               | [41] Wat Devarajkunchorn                                       |
| [12] Chalerm Phrakiat Bang Mod Stadium            | [27] Manangasila Residence                                    | [42] Wat Traimit Witthayaram                                   |
| [13] Suanluang Rama IX                            | [28] Hua Lam Phong railway station                            |  |
| [14] King Rama VI Monument near Lumpini Park      | [29] In front of Central Rama II                              |  |
| [15] Kasikornbank Headquarters, Rat Burana        | [30] Chatuchak Park   |  |



Dararat

Also known as daffodil, dararat is known to be the late king’s favorite flower and the late monarch gave this flower to Her Majesty the Queen when they both stayed in Switzerland. Dararat signifies unconditional love, honour, courage and hope. In Thai, *dara* means stars and *rat* means of jewels.



Rasamichan

The name literally means moonlight and the flower is a reference to the late king’s devotion and kindness to the Thai people. For over 70 years he was the nation’s guiding light.



The meaning of  
each type of flower

Out of 36, seven have been selected  
for the occasion

Chabathip

Chabathip has been created especially for the occasion to signify passing and divinity. The flower is conceived as a symbol of farewell to the late king who will be always remembered.



Roses

Roses are a symbol of pure love. They symbolise loyalty and gratitude for the late king’s kindness and generosity.

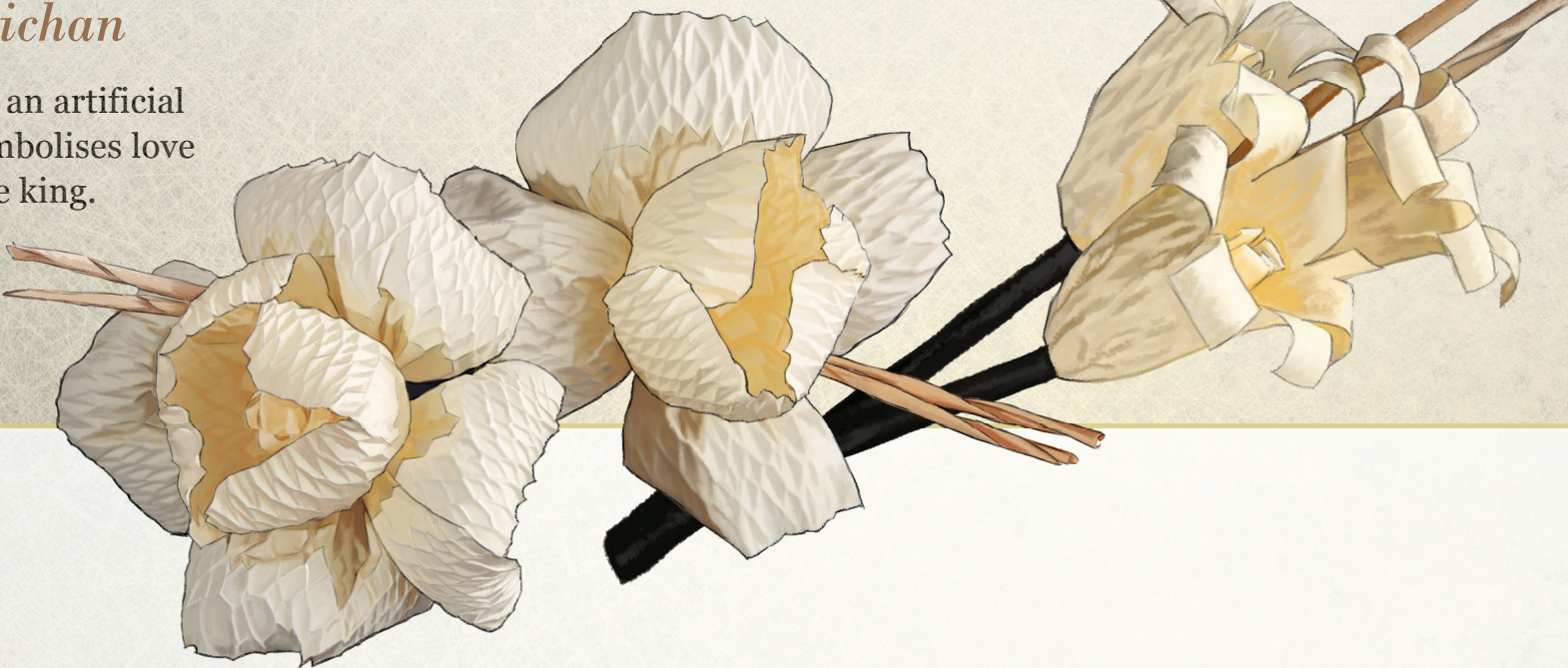
Lilies

Similar to white roses, lilies signify pure love. But the flower also signifies the deep respect, loyalty and gratitude the Thai people have for the late king.



Maleesrichan

Maleesrichan is an artificial flower which symbolises love for the late king.



Kaew

According to traditional belief, a kaew tree brings a good fortune to its grower as well as happiness and joy to the home. It symbolises love and respect for the late monarch.

In Bangkok, the BMA is responsible for designating the locations where mourners can place the cremation flowers. Elsewhere, the Interior Ministry has assigned provincial and district authorities to select the venues for the mourners to place the flowers to ensure everyone can take part in the ceremony.

62 TEMPLES

[1] Wat Makutkasat	[17] Wat Duangkhae	[33] Wat Thep Leela	[49] Wat Dit Hongsaram
[2] Wat Tri Tossathep	[18] Wat Pathumwanaram	[34] Wat Sakae Ngam	[50] Wat Rat Burana
[3] Wat Sangveswitsayaram	[19] Wat Weru Rachin	[35] Wat Phra Si Mahathat, Bang Khen	[51] Wat Lannaboon
[4] Wat Buranasiri Matayaram	[20] Wat Prayurawongsawas	[36] Wat Ratcha Singkhon	[52] Wat Bungthonglang
[5] Wat Rachabophit	[21] Wat Phitchaya Yatikaram	[37] Wat Bunyapradit	[53] Wat That Thong
[6] Wat Sukantharam	[22] Wat Phraya Suren	[38] Wat Matchantikaram	[54] Wat Yang
[7] Wat Chansamosorn	[23] Wat Rat Satthadham	[39] Wat Bang Na Nai	[55] Wat Lad Buakhaw
[8] Wat Kaew Chulamane	[24] Wat Samien Nari	[40] Wat Bang Bon	[56] Wat Yannawa
[9] Wat Noi Noppakhun	[25] Wat Racha Orasaram	[41] Wat Hua Lam Phong	[57] Wat Yoodee Bumrungham
[10] Wat Sra Ket	[26] Wat Don Muang	[42] Wat Nuan Chan	[58] Wat Udom Rangsee
[11] Wat Sunthorn Thammathan	[27] Wat Phrom Wong Saram	[43] Wat Thung Setthi	[59] Wat Nong Chok
[12] Wat Somanas Rajavaravihara	[28] Wat Ratchada Thitthan Worawihan	[44] Wat Paitun	[60] Wat Laksi
[13] Wat Chaichana Songkhram	[29] Wat Puranawas	[45] Wat Vachiratham Satit Worawihan	[61] Wat Phraram 9 Kanchanapisek
[14] Wat Chakkrawat Rachawat	[30] Wat Thung Kru	[46] Wat Paknam Phasi Charoen	[62] Wat Sakhonsoon Prachasan
[15] Wat Awutwikasitaram	[31] Wat Chao Am	[47] Wat Bamphe Nua	
[16] Wat Panurangsi	[32] Wat Sangkrajai Worawiharn	[48] Wat Pariwas Ratchasongkhram	



# RAJAROT PUEN YAI

## (Royal gun carriage)

**T**he Rajarot Puen Yai will perform an important function during the royal funeral ceremony of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

It will be used to carry the royal golden urn which will be moved from the Phra Maha Phichai Rajarot (Great Victory Chariot) before circling the phra merumas in a counter-clockwise direction three times. The royal golden urn will then be transferred to the phra merumas.

The royal gun carriage is used in the royal cremation of a king or a high-ranking royal who held a military position.

As a tribute to the late King, the government committee overseeing the construction of the phra merumas and the renovation of royal chariots has assigned the army's Ordnance Department to construct a new royal gun carriage for the royal funeral ceremony.

After some research, the department found the use of Rajarot Puen Yai was introduced in the reign of King Vajiravudh, Rama VI.

It was first used in the royal funeral rite for Prince Chakrabongse Bhuvanath, the Prince of Phits-anulok, in 1920, and then in the 1924 funeral rite for Prince Asdang Dejavadh, the Prince of Nakhon Ratchasima. The two princes were the younger brothers of King Rama VI.

In compliance with the wishes of King Rama VI, King Prajadhipok, Rama VII, ordered the Rajarot Puen Yai be used to carry the royal urn for King Rama VI who passed away on Nov 26, 1925.

The last time the Rajarot Puen Yai was used was in the royal cremation of King Ananda Mahidol, Rama VIII, in 1950.



Lt Gen Arwuth Aimwong, director-general of the ordnance department, said the newly-designed royal gun carriage for the late King's royal funeral ceremony has been modelled on the one used for King Rama VIII.

During construction, a prototype was made from which the final version of the royal gun carriage has evolved, Lt Gen Arwuth said, adding a spare royal gun carriage has also been built.

The royal gun carriage for the late King consists of two parts and each part has two wheels. The two parts are joined together.

The front part carries an ammunition chest while the rear part is surmounted by an ornately decorated carved wood platform upon which the royal golden urn will be placed.

The four-wheeled gun carriage also has a small extra wheel in the middle to help support the weight and help the gun carriage move more stably.

Lt Gen Arwuth said a cannon (Type 51 Mountain Gun) which was put on display in front of the department's ordnance industry centre in Ayutthaya bore some resemblance to the rear part

of the royal gun carriage used for King Rama VIII. The cannon was dismantled and repaired for use in the construction of the rear part of the royal gun carriage for the late King's royal funeral ceremony.

For construction of the front part of the royal gun carriage, three artillery limbers from the army's artillery centre in Lop Buri served as models, Lt Gen Arwuth said.

Engineering experts from King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok and Suranaree University of Technology were also invited to give advice on the structural integrity of the royal gun carriage.

After construction was complete and the royal gun carriage underwent necessary tests, the Rajarot Puen Yai was handed over to the Fine Arts Department for further artistic decorations on May 1.

Wijit Chaiwichit, who works as an arts specialist at the Fine Arts Department's Office of Traditional Arts, said the adornments added to the royal gun carriage were made of teakwood carved in intricate patterns in the Thai traditional style, gilded and decorated with mirrors. ❖



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♦ EDITOR: Panita Suwannapal ♦ STORY: Varaporn Pookpun, Padanu Chanpradab, Kongsap Chartnasieo, Pussadee Siriwatcharametta ♦ COVER ILLUSTRATION: Arthit Kannikar ♦ PHOTOS: Patipat Janthong, Seksan Rojanamethakul

♦ PROJECT COORDINATOR: Soonruth Bunyamanee ♦ DESIGN: Chantiya Potayaron

*The greatness and grace of  
His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej  
will remain in the hearts and minds of Thais eternally.*

The management and staff of Rembrandt Hotel Bangkok