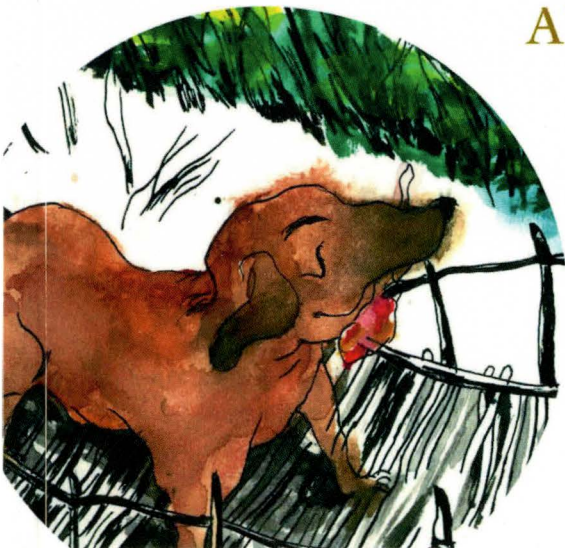




*A
Long Long
Time Ago
in Southeast
Asia*

TALES FROM BURMA,
CAMBODIA, LAOS,
AND VIETNAM



*A
Long Long
Time Ago
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Asia*

TALES FROM
BURMA, CAMBODIA,
LAOS, AND VIETNAM

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Overview of Project

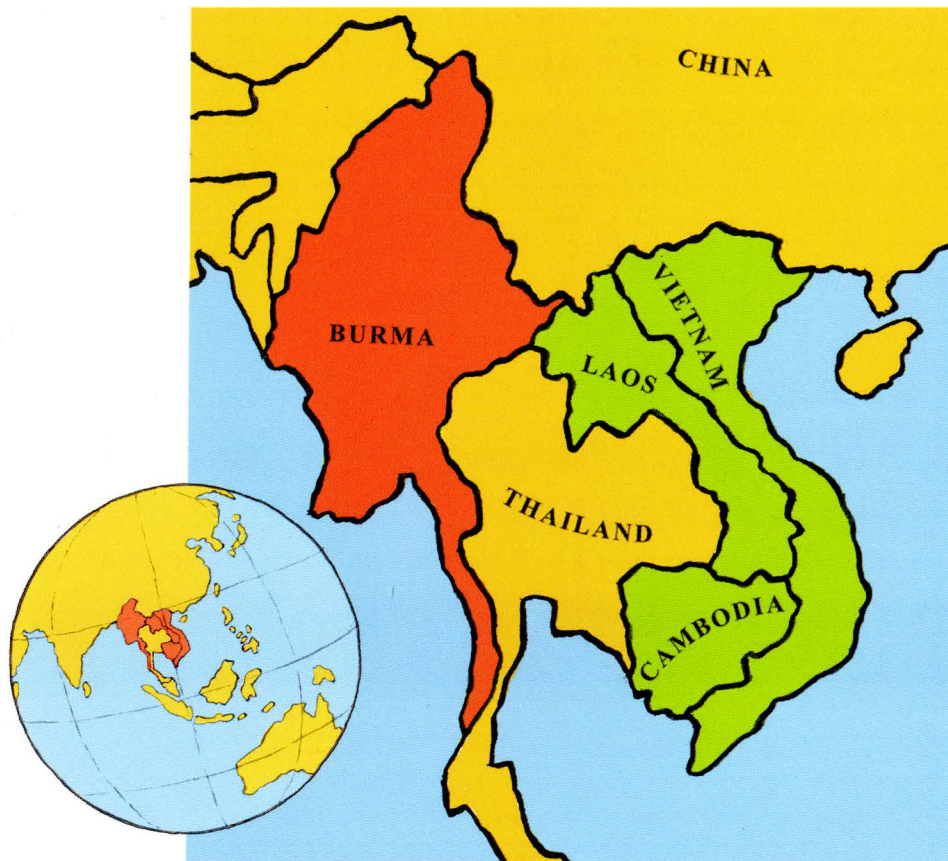
We are Minjeong Kim, Allyssa McCabe, and Phitsamay Uy, professors at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, who have long had independent interests in collecting folktales from diverse cultures. We all teach at the University of Massachusetts in Lowell, Massachusetts, which is home to numerous immigrant and refugee communities, including many individuals from Cambodia, Viet Nam, Burma, and Laos. We noted the lack of reading materials representative of those cultures and decided to rectify that. We received a Creative Economy Grant from the University of Massachusetts President's office to collaborate with the Southeast Asian community-based organizations in Lowell (Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association, Saydanar, Thong Phamduy & the Vietnamese Language School, Wat Buddhahavana) to collect folktales from those four community groups. Professional illustrators and art students from the university illustrated the folktales. This book is the result of our collective efforts. We would like to express deep appreciation to all the community members, organization staff, students, and the President's Office for their support of this project.

Lowell, Massachusetts

Lowell, Massachusetts is a mid-sized city with a population of a little over 100,000. The Merrimack River joins the Concord River in the city, and there are many waterfalls, rapids, dams, and canals throughout which made it desirable for the location of industries dependent on water power as an energy source. Lowell was founded in the 1820s and named for Francis Cabot Lowell, a key figure in the Industrial Revolution who secretly studied textile technology in Great Britain and brought that technology to what became Lowell. In fact, Lowell is known as the cradle of the American Industrial Revolution. In only thirty years, Lowell became the biggest industrial center of the United States, with a particular focus on textile manufacturing.

Due to its many industries, immigrants to America were attracted by the possibility of work, which has resulted in a very rich cultural mix in Lowell. The city has seen many waves of immigrants, successively: Irish people in the 1840s and 1850s were followed by French Canadians in the 1860s and 1870s, and then by Greek, Polish, Portuguese, and Jewish people. In more recent times, immigrants from Southeast Asia have settled in Lowell, including people from Burma (now known as Myanmar), Cambodia, Laos, and Viet Nam—the countries whose tales fill this book. The city is host to many immigrants from South America, including Brazil, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic. Increasingly the city has attracted immigrants from various parts of Africa.

Lowell's history as a city of immigrants and refugees has resulted in a number of community-based organizations that promote celebrations of cultural arts and traditions from various countries of origin. There are museum exhibits, statues, and other memorials dedicated to the various immigrants to Lowell throughout the city. Organizations that provide direct social services to the Southeast Asian communities include Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association, Lao Family Mutual Association, and SayDaNar Community Development Center. Faith-based institutions also play a strong role in Lowell's Southeast Asian communities. For example, there are four different Buddhist temples in Lowell (one Vietnamese: Chùa Trường Vân Lowell, two Cambodian: Lowell Wat Khmer and The Glory Buddhist Temple, and one Lao: Watlao Mixayarama of New England). Saint Patrick Catholic Church provides worship every weekend in five languages: Spanish, Vietnamese, Burmese, Cambodian, and English. Lowell is home to the second largest population of Cambodian Americans in the U.S. and is nationally known for its Southeast Asian Water Festival. The Angkor Dance Troupe is renowned for performing traditional Cambodian arts. Every year, Lowell celebrates the Vietnamese Lunar New Year or Tet on January/early February and Cambodian, Lao, and Thai New Year on April 13 – 15th.



Burma

Burma, currently known as Myanmar, is predominantly a Buddhist country, rich in natural resources. It is considered one of the most resource rich countries in Asia. Burma is the largest country in Southeast Asia with a total land area of 676,577 square kilometers. The population is estimated to be 53 million. There are 135 national groups living in the country. Geographically, it is located between the two most populous nations in the world--China and India. Other neighboring countries are Thailand on the southeast, Laos on the east, and Bangladesh on the west.

The White Elephant

ဆင်ဖြူတော်

A folktale from Burma
မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာပုံပြင်

A long, long time ago, there was a lonely man in a village in Burma. He had no parents, no family, no relatives. He was so poor he had nothing to eat. He had to find a job. So he went to work for the king as a servant. He had to work very hard as a servant. He had to do everything the king asked him to do. He never refused. He never had a chance to refuse. Whatever the king asked, he had to do.

၁။ ဟိုးရှေးရှေးတုံးက မြန်မာနိုင်ငံက ရွာလေးတရွာမှာ ဆင်းရဲသားလေး တယောက်ရှိသတဲ့။ သူ့မှာမိဘ၊ဆွေမျိုး၊
မောင်နှစ်မတွေလဲမရှိရှာဘူးကွယ်။ သူကဆင်းရဲလွန်းလို့
စားစရာ၊သောက်စရာတွေလဲ မရှိဘူးလေ။ တနေ့တော့ ဘုရင်ဆီမှာ
အစေခံကျွန်အဖြစ် အလုပ်လုပ်ဖို့ အလုပ်ရှာထွက်ခဲ့တယ်။
ဘုရင်ရဲ့ အစေခံကျွန်တယောက်အနေနဲ့ အလုပ်ကို
ပင်ပင်ပန်းပန်းလုပ်ရသတဲ့။ ဘုရင်ခိုင်းသမျှအလုပ်တွေကို
အကုန်လုပ်ရတာပေါ့။ သူ့မှာ ငြင်းဆန်ပိုင်ခွင့်လဲမရှိဘူးလေ။



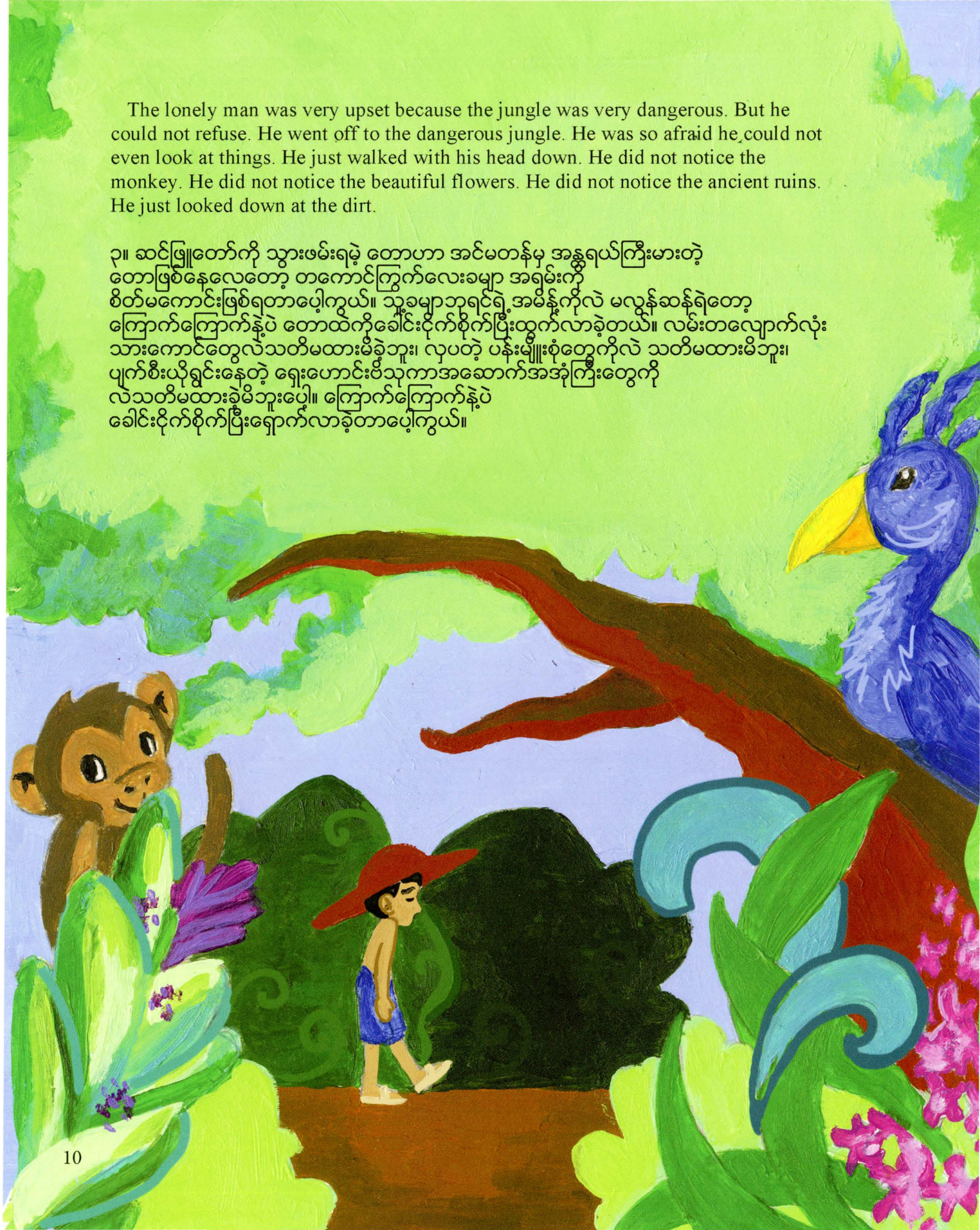


One day, the king heard that somewhere in the jungle a white elephant had appeared. “A white elephant is very rare and special in our country,” the king said. The king said to the lonely man, “You must capture this white elephant! I have given you work. I have given you food. So you have to repay me. When you come back, you have to come back with the white elephant. If you don’t bring me the white elephant, you will die.”

၂။ တနေ့တော့ တောထဲတနေရာမှာ ဆင်ဖြူတော်တကောင်
 ရောက်နေတဲ့အကြောင်းကို ဘုရင်ကြီးက ကြားလိုက်မိတယ်။ ဘုရင်ကြီးက
 ဆင်ဖြူတော်ဆိုတာ အရမ်းကို ရှားပါးပြီ တန်ဖိုးရှိတဲ့ သတ္တဝါပဲ။ ဒါနဲ့ ဘုရင်ကြီးက
 ဆင်းရဲသားလေးကို ပြောတယ် ...
 မင်းကိုငါအလုပ်ပေးတယ်၊ စားစရာတွေလဲပေးတယ်၊ ဒီတော့ ကျေးဇူး
 တုံ့ပြန်တဲ့အနေနဲ့ မင်းငါ့ကို အဲ့ဒီဆင်ဖြူတော်ကို သွားဖမ်းပေးရမယ်။ မင်းပြန်လာလို့
 ဆင်ဖြူတော် မပါလာဘူးဆိုရင် သေဒဏ်ဘဲလို့ ဆင်းရဲသားလေးကို
 ဘုရင်ကြီးကပြောလိုက်သတဲ့။

The lonely man was very upset because the jungle was very dangerous. But he could not refuse. He went off to the dangerous jungle. He was so afraid he could not even look at things. He just walked with his head down. He did not notice the monkey. He did not notice the beautiful flowers. He did not notice the ancient ruins. He just looked down at the dirt.

၃။ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကို သွားဖမ်းရမဲ့ တောဟာ အင်မတန်မှ အန္တရာယ်ကြီးမားတဲ့ တောဖြစ်နေလေတော့ တကောင်ကြွက်လေးခမျာ အရမ်းကို စိတ်မကောင်းဖြစ်ရတာပေါ့ကွယ်။ သူ့ခမျာဘုရင်ရဲ့ အမိန့်ကိုလဲ မလွန်ဆန်ရဲတော့ ကြောက်ကြောက်နဲ့ပဲ တောထဲကိုခေါင်းငိုက်စိုက်ပြီးထွက်လာခဲ့တယ်။ လမ်းတလျှောက်လုံး သားကောင်တွေလဲသတိမထားမိခဲ့ဘူး၊ လှပတဲ့ ပန်းမျိုးစုံတွေကိုလဲ သတိမထားမိဘူး၊ ပျက်စီးယိုရွှင်းနေတဲ့ ရှေးဟောင်းဗီသုကာအဆောက်အအုံကြီးတွေကို လဲသတိမထားမိခဲ့ဘူးပေါ့။ ကြောက်ကြောက်နဲ့ပဲ ခေါင်းငိုက်စိုက်ပြီးရှောက်လာခဲ့တာပေါ့ကွယ်။





Boom! He bumped into something big and round and hard. Was it a tree?
All of a sudden, it was raining.
He looked up.

၄။ ဒုန်း အလွန်ကြီးမားပြီး လုံးဝန်း မာကျောတဲ့ အရာတခုနဲ့
ဝင်ဆောက်မိပါလေရော။ သစ်ပင်ကြီးများလား?...
ရုတ်တရက်... မိုးလဲ သဲကြီးမဲကြီး ရွာချသလိုခံစားလိုက်ရ တယ်။
ခေါင်းမော့ကြည့်လိုက်တဲ့အခါမှာတော့.....



He saw the white elephant. The white elephant was pouring water on the lonely man.

၅။ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးကို တွေ့ လိုက်ရတယ်။ တကယ်တော့
မိုးရွာနေတာမဟုတ်ပဲ၊ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးက သူ့ရဲ့ ပါးစပ်ထဲကနေ
ရေတွေကို မှတ်ထုတ်ပြီး တကောင်ကြွက်လေး ကိုယ်ပေါ်မှာ
ဖြန်းလိုက်ခြင်းဖြစ်တယ်။

The white elephant had a special power. He understood people's feelings. He understood how the lonely guy felt. The white elephant understood that the lonely man was in trouble.

The lonely man was crying and weeping and he told the white elephant, "I'm so afraid of you, but I have no choice. The king ordered me to capture you, and I am also afraid of the king. He said that if I do not bring you to him, he will kill me. If I do not go back, I cannot survive in this jungle. I don't want to capture you. I don't know how to capture you. Can you help me?"

၆။ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးမှာ ထူးခြားတဲ့တန်ခိုးတွေရှိတယ်။
လူတွေရဲ့ခံစားချက်ကိုလည်းနားလည်နိုင်တယ်။
တကောင်ကြွက်လေးခမျာ
ဘယ်လိုခံစားနေရသလဲဆိုတာ သူ့ကကြိုသိနေတယ်တဲ့။
တကောင်ကြွက်လေး ဒုက္ခရောက်နေပြီဆိုတာလဲ
သူကသိနေတယ်။ တကောင်ကြွက်လေးက
ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးကို ရိုက်ကြီးတင်ငင်နဲ့ပြောပြရှာတယ်။
အသင်ဆင်မင်းကိုကျွန်တော်မျိုး
အလွန်အမင်းကြောက်ပါတယ်၊ ဒါပေမဲ့ ကျွန်တော့်မှာ
ရွေးချယ်စရာလမ်းလဲမရှိဘူးဖြစ်နေတယ်။
ဘုရင်မင်းမြတ်က အသင့်ကို
ဖမ်းဆီးခေါ်ဆောင်လာပေးဖို့ မိန့်တော်မူလိုက်တယ်။
ဘုရင်ကိုလဲကြောက်ရပါတယ်။ အသင်ကို
ခေါ်မလာပေးဘူးဆိုရင်လဲ
ကျွန်တော်မျိုးအသတ်ခံရပါလိမ့်မယ်။
ဒီတောထဲမှာလဲကျွန်တော်မျိုး ဘယ်လိုမှ
အသက်ဆက်မရှင်နိုင်ဘူး။
အသင်ဆင်မင်းကိုလဲမဖမ်းချင်ဘူး၊ ဖမ်းလဲမဖမ်းရဲပါဘူး၊
အကျွန်ုပ်ကို ကယ်မတော်မူပါလို့ပြော ရှာတယ် ။



The white elephant said, "I came to you. Do not be afraid of me. I came here just to save you. Just follow me."

So the white elephant took the lonely man into the deep jungle. The white elephant took him to a very, very, very big Bo tree. They sat under the very, very, very big Bo tree in the shade. The lonely man leaned on the Bo tree.

၇။ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးက... မကြောက်ပါနဲ့... သင့်ကိုကယ်တင်ဖို့ ငါ ရောက်လာခြင်းဖြစ်တယ်။ လာတဲ့နောက်ကိုလှိုက်ခဲ့...

ဒါနဲ့ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးက တကောင်ကြွက်ကို တောနက်ကြီးထဲကို ခေါ်ဆောင်သွားလေသတဲ့... သူ့ကို ဧရာမ ညောင်ပင်ကြီးဆီကို ခေါ်ဆောင်သွားပါတယ်။ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးက ဘုရင်ဆီကိုပြန်သွားဖို့ ပြောတယ်။ တနေ့ကျရင် သူ့ငဲ့ကိုတွေ့မြင်ရပါလိမ့်မယ်။ ဒါပေမဲ့ ငါလုပ်ခိုင်းတာကို သူ့အရင်လုပ်ရမယ်။





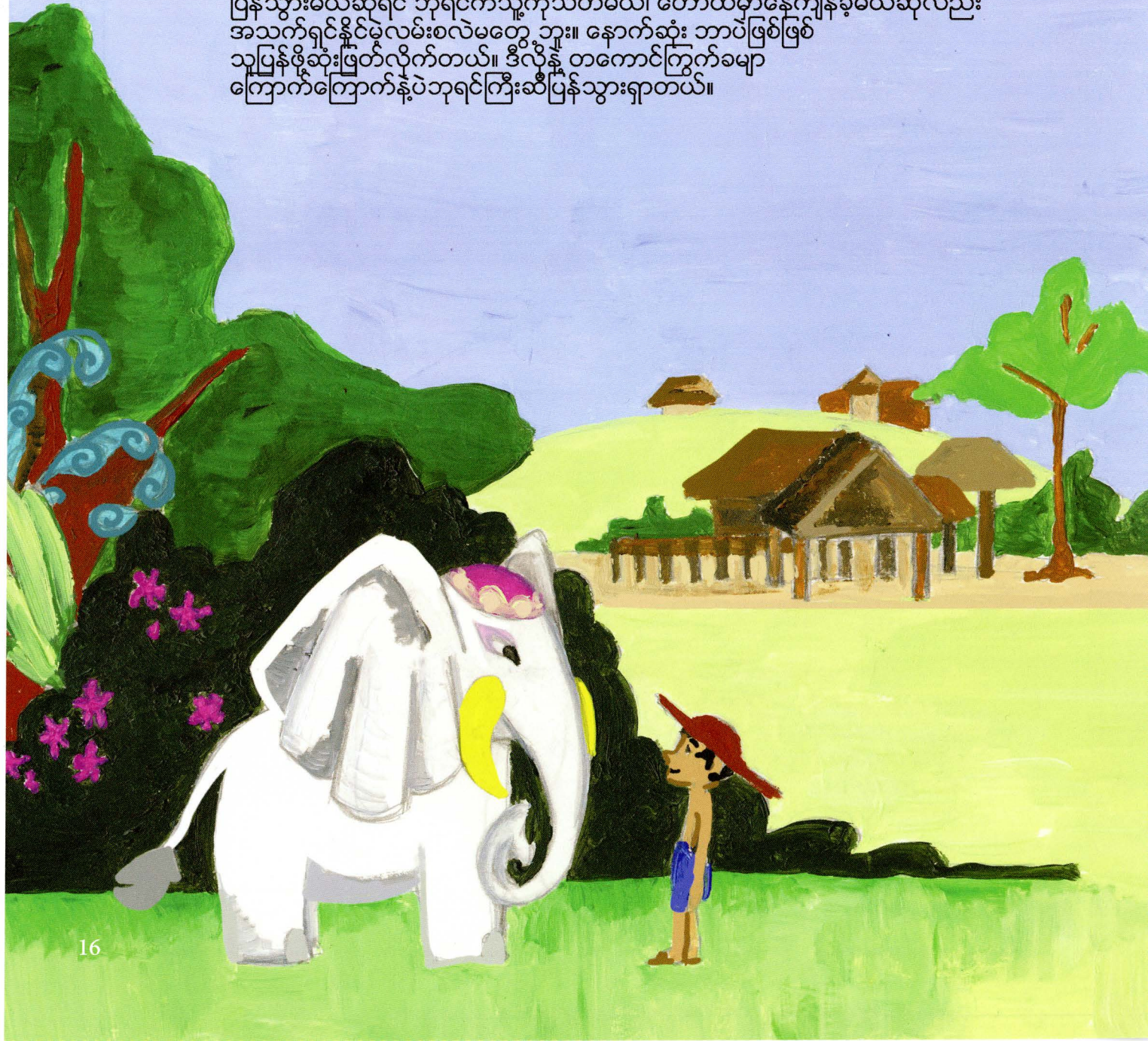
The lonely man saw all kinds of animals there. They played with each other. They loved each other. They had fun with each other. For a moment, the lonely man forgot all his troubles. The lonely man was tired. He fell asleep.

၈။ ညောင်ပင်ကြီးရဲ့ အရိပ်အာဝါသအောက်မှာနားခိုရင်း၊ တကောင်ကြွက်ခမျာ
မောပန်းလွန်းလို့ ညောင်ပင်ကြီးကိုမှီလိုက်သတဲ့။ တကောင်ကြွက်လေးခမျာ
အရမ်းပင်ပန်းလွန်းလို့ ချက်ချင်းအိပ်ပျော်သွားပါလေရော...
အိပ်မက်ထဲမှာ တကောင်ကြွက်လေးက တိရိစ္ဆာန်မျိုးစုံ ပျော်ပါးမြူးတူးစွာ
ဆော့ကစားနေကြတာကို ငေးကြည့်ရင်း သူ့ခစားနေရတဲ့ စိတ်ညစ်မှုတွေလဲ
မေ့ပျောက်သွားခဲ့တယ်။

In his dream, the white elephant appeared and told him, “Just go back to the king. Tell your king that he will meet me. But he has to do something for me first.”

The lonely man went back to the king even though he was afraid the king would kill him because the white elephant was nowhere to be seen.

၉။ သူအိပ်ရာကနေ နိုးလာတော့ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးကို မတွေ့ ရှုတော့ဘူးတဲ့။
ဒါနဲ့သူလဲ အရမ်းကြောက်သွားတာပေါ့ကွယ်။ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးမပါလာပဲ
ပြန်သွားမယ်ဆိုရင် ဘုရင်ကသူ့ကိုသတ်မယ်၊ တောထဲမှာနေကျန်ခဲ့မယ်ဆိုလည်း
အသက်ရှင်နိုင်မလမ်းစလဲမတွေ့ ဘူး။ နောက်ဆုံး ဘာပဲဖြစ်ဖြစ်
သူပြန်ဖို့ဆုံးဖြတ်လိုက်တယ်။ ဒီလိုနဲ့ တကောင်ကြွက်ခမျာ
ကြောက်ကြောက်နဲ့ပဲဘုရင်ကြီးဆီပြန်သွားရှာတယ်။



The king was angry and got all his swords and all his knives. The lonely man apologized to the king and begged him, "Please listen to me before you kill me. I met the white elephant."

When the king heard that the lonely man had met with the white elephant, his anger cooled a little bit.

The lonely man continued, "The white elephant wants you to take all your money and all of your treasure and give it away to the poor people. If you finally have nothing, you will get what you want. You will get the white elephant. I will go and get him for you.

"Are you sure?" the king said.

"Yes, I am sure. This is what the white elephant wanted me to tell you."

၁၀။ တကောင်ကြွက် ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီး ကိုခေါ်မလာမှန်း ဘုရင်ကြီးလဲသိရော အလွန်အမင်းဒေါသပုန်ထပါလေရော။ သူ့ရဲသံလျက်ဓားကိုဆွဲထုတ်ပြီး တကောင်ကြွက်ကို သတ်မလို့လုပ်တုန်း တကောင်ကြွက်ခမျာ တုန်တုန်ရင်ရင်နဲ့တောင်းပန်စကားပြောသတဲ့... အရှင်မင်းကြီး ကျွန်တော်မျိုးကိုမသတ်ခင် ကျွန်တော်မျိုးရဲ့စကားကို ဆုံးအောင်နားထောင်ပေးပါ။ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးကို ကျွန်တော်မျိုးတွေ ခဲ့ရပါတယ်။ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးကိုတွေ့ ခဲ့တယ်ဆိုတဲ့ စကားကို ကြားလိုက်ရချိန်မှာ ဘုရင်ကြီးရဲ့ ဒေါသတွေဟာ တဖြေးဖြေး လျော့ကျသွားသတဲ့။ အသင်မင်းကြီး ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကို တွေ့ချင်တယ်ဆိုရင် ဘုရင်ကြီး ပိုင်ဆိုင်တဲ့ စည်းစိမ်ဥစ္စာ၊ ရွှေငွေတွေ အားလုံးကို ဆင်းရဲသားတွေကို ပေးလှူလိုက်ပါ။ အဲ့ဒီအချိန်ကျရင်ဘုရင်ကြီး လိုချင်တာတွေ ရလာပါလိမ့်မယ်။ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကိုလဲရလာပါလိမ့်မယ်။ ကျွန်တော်မျိုးကိုယ်တိုင်ခေါ်ဆောင်လာခဲ့ပါမယ်လို့ဆင်ဖြူတော်မှာလိုက်တဲ့အတိုင်းပြေ ဟလိုက်တယ်။

ဘုရင်ကြီးက သေချာတယ်နော်...
သေချာပါတယ် အရှင်မင်းကြီး... အဲ့ဒါ ဆင်ဖြူတော်က
ဘုရင်ကြီးကိုပြောခိုင်းလိုက်တဲ့စကားပါပဲ။





The king desperately wanted the white elephant. So he gave away all his possessions to the poor. The king told the lonely man, "I did everything that you told me to do. Now it is your turn." And he said, "Okay. Yes."

၁၁။ ဘုရင်ကြီးက ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးကို သဲကြီးမဲကြီး လိုချင်နေလေတော့ သူ့ရဲ့ ပိုင်ဆိုင်တဲ့ ရွှေ၊ ငွေ ရတနာတွေအားလုံးကို ဆင်းရဲသားတွေကို ပေးလှူလိုက်သတဲ့။ ဘုရင်ကြီးကတကောင်ကြွက်လေးကို ဒီလိုပြောသတဲ့... မင်းလုပ်ခိုင်းတဲ့အရာအားလုံး ငါလုပ်ပြီးသွားပြီ။ အခု မင်းအလှည့်ရောက်ပြီ။ မှန်လှပါအရှင်မင်းကြီး... တကောင်ကြွက်က ပြန်ပြောသတဲ့

The lonely man went back to the jungle. The white elephant was waiting for him. The elephant took the lonely guy on his shoulder.

GOOOOONNNNNGGGGG!

The king welcomed the white elephant and introduced him to all the people. There was loud music to celebrate. People from all around heard the news that the white elephant lived in the king's village. Everyone wanted to come and see the white elephant. A white elephant is very rare and very special,

All of a sudden, the white elephant told everyone, "My name is not the White Elephant. My name is not the White King. My name is the Prince of Peace."

၁။ တကောင်ကြွက်က ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးကို သွားခေါ်ဖို့ တောနက်ထဲကို ပြန်သွားလေသတဲ့။ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးက သူ့ကို လမ်းတဝက်မှာပဲအဆင်သင့်စောင့်နေရှာတယ်။ ဒီလိုနဲ့ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးကတကောင်ကြွက်လေးကို ကျောပေါ်တင်ပြီး ဘုရင်ကြီးရဲ့နန်းတော်ဆီကို ခေါ်ဆောင်လာခဲ့တယ်။ ဘုရင်ကြီးက ဆိုင်းတွေ၊ ဘုံတွေနဲ့ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးကို သောင်းသောင်းဖြူဖြူ ကြိုဆိုပေးရှာတယ်။ ဘုရင်ကြီးရဲ့တိုင်းပြည်မှာ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးရောက်လာတဲ့အကြောင်းကို တိုင်းနိုင်ငံအသီးသီးက ကြားတော့ အားလုံးကဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးကို တွေ့ချင်ကြသတဲ့။ ဒါဟာ ကြုံတောင့်ကြုံခွဲတဲ့ အခွင့်အရေးလို့ခံယူကြသတဲ့။ ရုတ်တရက်ဆိုသလိုပဲ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးကစကားပြောလာပါတယ်။ ငါ့နာမည်က ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးမဟုတ်ဘူး၊ ဆင်မင်းလဲမဟုတ်ဘူး။ ငါ့နာမည်က ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးအရှင်ဖြစ်တယ်။





Lots of people came to see the Prince of Peace. Whenever they came, they brought presents. They brought gold and money and many other treasures. The king became richer than before.

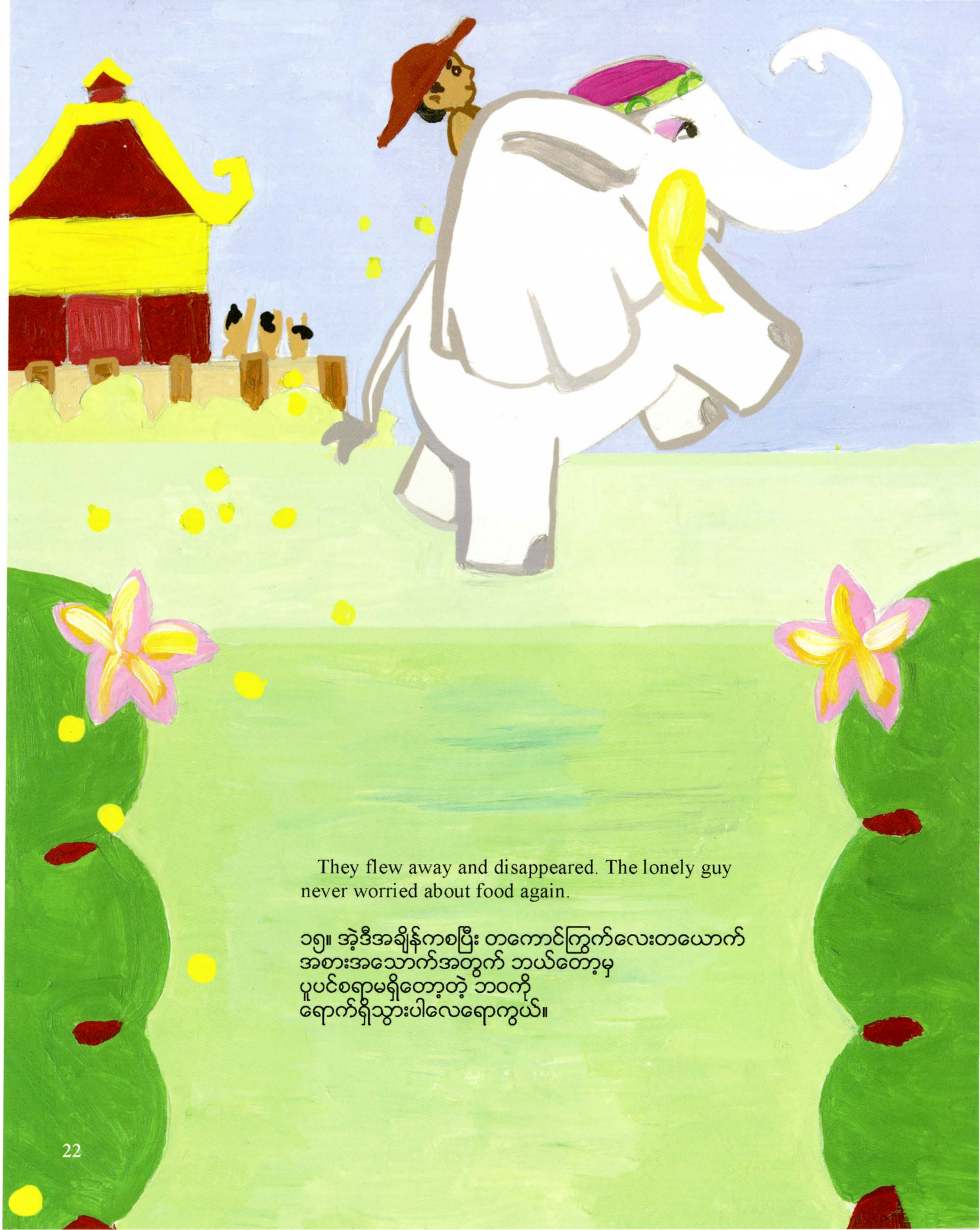
၁၃။ ဒီလိုနဲ့ တိုင်းနိုင်ငံအသီးသီးကလူတွေဟာ
ရွှေ၊ငွေ၊လက်ဆောင်တွေယူလာပြီးတော့ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးကို
လာရောက်ကြည့်ရှုကြတယ်တဲ့။ ဒီလိုနဲ့ပဲ ဘုရင်ကြီးက
တဖြေးဖြေးစည်းစိမ်ဥစ္စာတိုးပွားလာပြီး
အရင်တုန်းကထက်အများကြီးချမ်းသာသွားပါတယ်။

One day, the Prince of Peace--the white elephant--called the lonely guy. He told the lonely guy, "I have been living in the palace for many, many years now. I'm getting old now. I have to go back to my place. Back home, everything is ready for me. You have peace and many riches, so I don't need to stay here anymore. I have to go back."

The lonely guy told the king that the white elephant wanted to go home. Once again, the king celebrated the white elephant. Once again, there was loud music. There was a parade to say goodbye. There was a big feast. While the music was playing, the white elephant took the lonely guy on his shoulders.

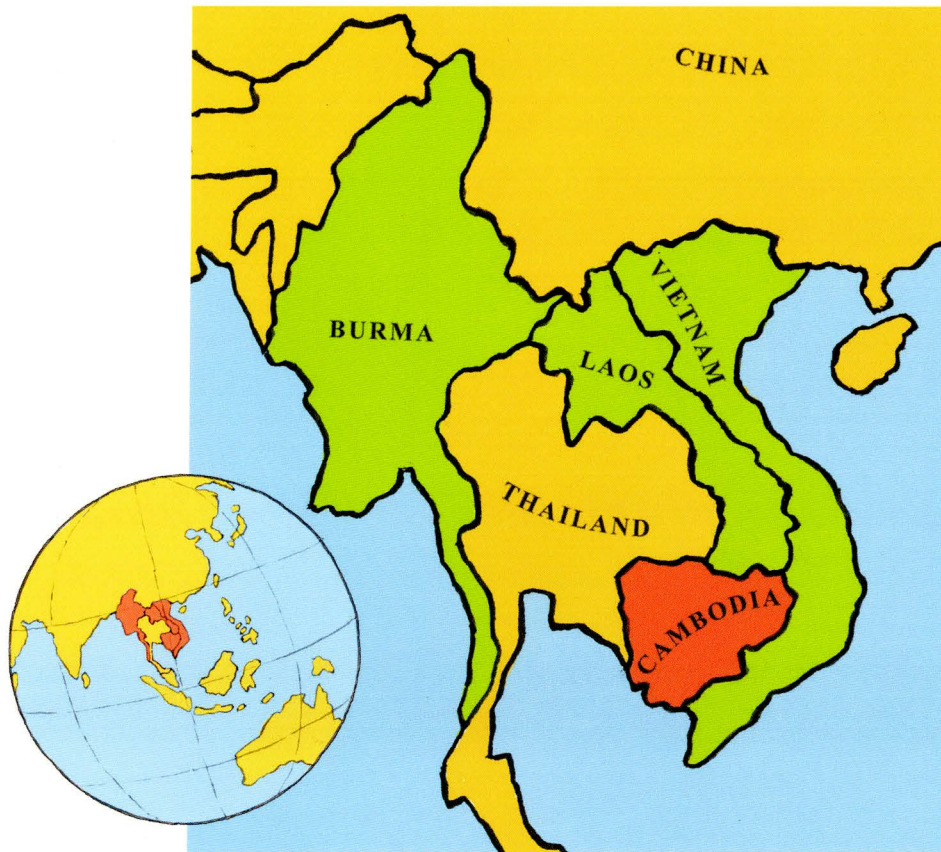
၁၄။ တနေ့တော့ ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးအရှင်သခင်ကတကောင်ကြွက်လေးကို ပြောပြတယ်...
ငါလဲအခု အသက်ကြီးလာပြီ၊ ဒီနန်းတော်မှာရောက်လာတာလဲ ကြာပြီလေ၊ အခုတော့
ငါ့ရဲ့နေရာကို ငါပြန်သွားတော့မယ်။ ဒီတိုင်းပြည်မှာ ငြိမ်းချမ်းခြင်းတို့၊ ချမ်းသာခြင်းတို့နဲ့
သာယာဝပြောနေပြီဆိုတော့ ငါဒီမှာရှိနေဖို့မလိုအပ်တော့ဘူး။ ငါပြန်သွားတော့မယ်
ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးပြန်သွားတော့မယ်ဆိုတဲ့အကြောင်းကို တကောင်ကြွက်က
ဘုရင်ကြီးကို ပြောပြတယ်။
ဒါနဲ့ဘုရင်ကြီးက ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးကိုနုတ်ဆက်ဖို့ နောက်တကြိမ် စည်ကားသိုက်မြိုက်စွာ
ဆိုင်းတွေ၊ ဘုံတွေ၊ စားဖွယ်၊ သောက်ဖွယ် စုံစုံလင်လင်နဲ့ ပွဲကျင်းပပေးပြန်တယ်။
ဂီတသံထွက်ပေါ်လာတဲ့အချိန်မှာပဲ ဆင်ဖြူတော်ကြီးက တကောင်ကြွက်လေးကို
ကျောပေါ်တင်ပြီး ကောင်းကင်ပေါ်ကို ပျံတက်သွားသတဲ့။





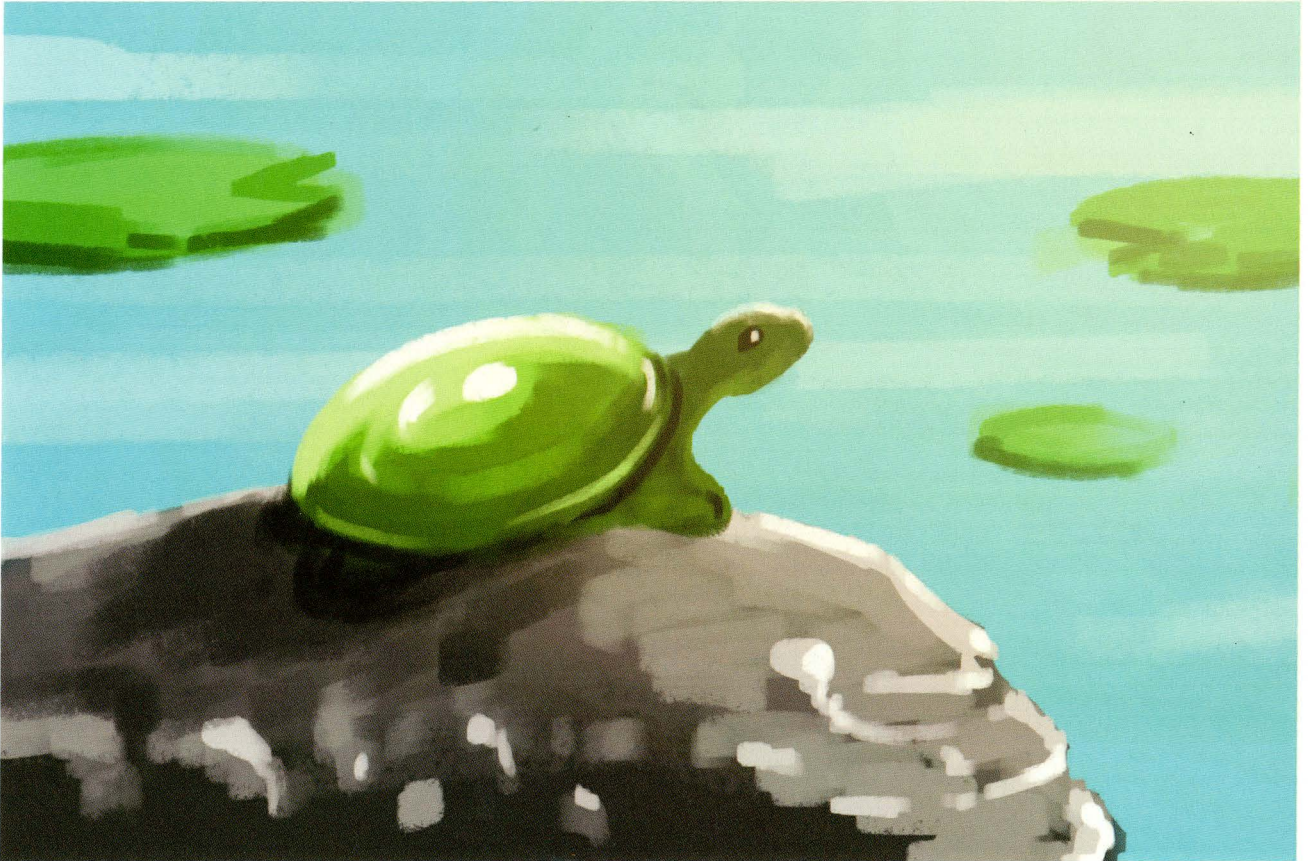
They flew away and disappeared. The lonely guy never worried about food again.

၁၅။ အဲ့ဒီအချိန်ကစပြီး တကောင်ကြွက်လေးတယောက်
အစားအသောက်အတွက် ဘယ်တော့မှ
ပူပင်စရာမရှိတော့တဲ့ ဘဝကို
ရောက်ရှိသွားပါလေရောကွယ်။



Cambodia

Cambodia is a country in Mainland Southeast Asia. It is tucked between Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. It is about the size of the State of Oklahoma. Its capital city is Phnom Penh with a population of about 1.5 million. In 2017, Cambodia's total population was about 16 million. Cambodia is famous for its many magnificent ancient monuments including Angkor Wat. On its tricolored national flag, Angkor Wat is proudly displayed with three of the five elegant lotus-shaped towers symbolizing Mount Meru or the sacred cosmological mountain on Earth. Most Cambodians speak Khmer, an old language of the Khmer Empire that lasted from the 9th to 15th century. Cambodians celebrate many festivals throughout the year; the Khmer New Year is in the middle of April. Most Cambodians observe Buddhism and enshrine it as the national religion in the country's constitution. In the past 64 years after gaining independence from France in 1953, Cambodia has gone through many regime changes that killed millions of its own citizens and properties. Currently Cambodia is at peace with a king as its head of state and a prime minister as the country's leader.

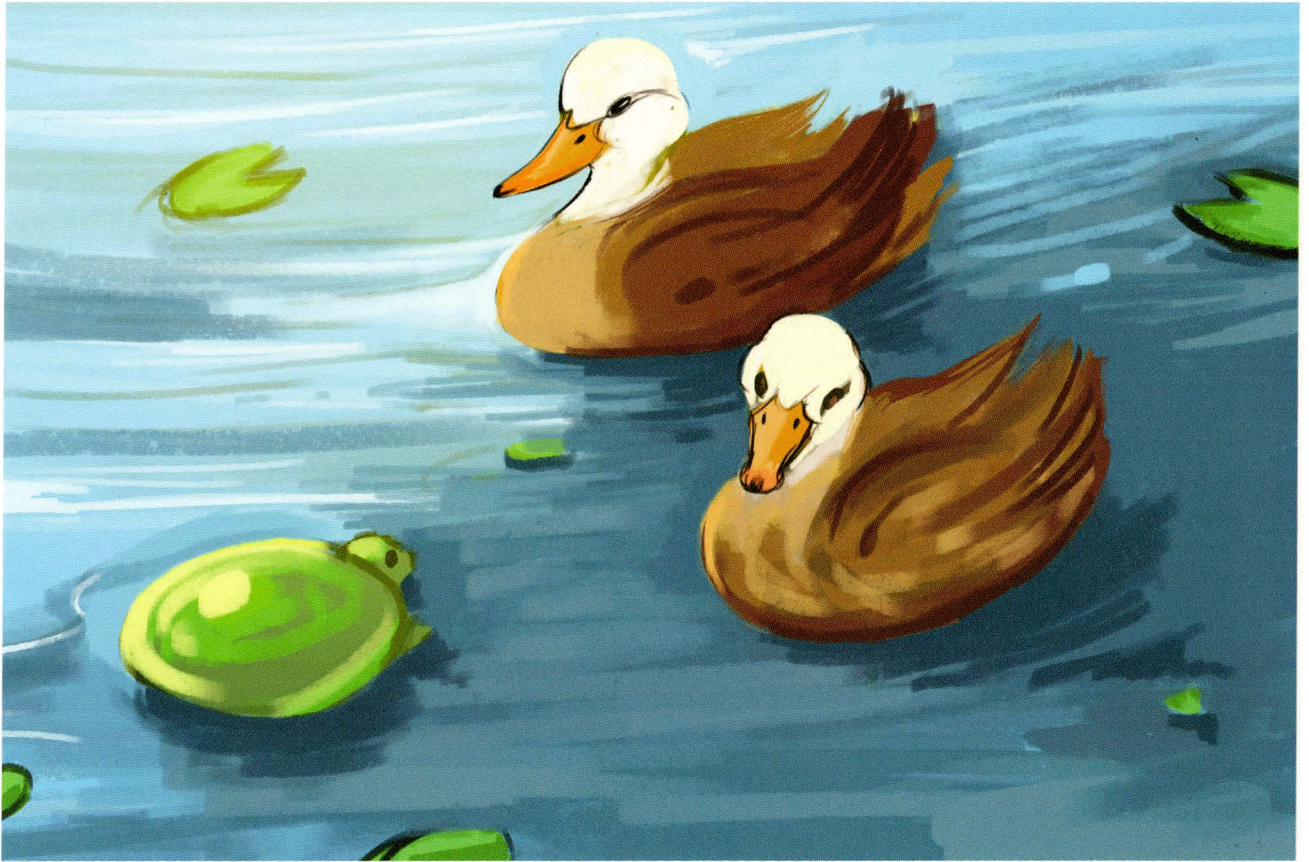


Don't Open Your Mouth, a Cambodian folktale

**បងឯងកុំបើកមាត់ឲ្យសោះ
(រឿងនិទានខ្មែរ)**

Long ago, the shell of the turtle was smooth, so smooth, smooth as glass. It did not have cracks like a map. The turtle lived in a pond.

យូរលង់ណាស់មកហើយ ស្លុកអណ្តើករាបរលោងស្មើល្អដូចកញ្ចក់ ។ ស្លុកអណ្តើកគ្មាន
បំណែកប្រេះស្រាំច្រើនកន្លែងដូចផែនទីអញ្ចឹងទេ ។ អណ្តើករស់នៅជាសុខសាន្តក្នុងបឹង
មួយ ។



One day a couple of ducks came to play and feed themselves in the pond. The turtle asked these ducks, “Why do you come here?”

The ducks replied, “We come here to collect supplies for the party on the top of the palm tree.”

ថ្ងៃមួយ មានទាមួយគូហើរមកហែលលេងក្នុងបឹងនោះ និងចាប់ត្រីជាចំណីយ៉ាងរីករាយ ។

អណ្តើកសួរទាទាំងពីរថា ៖ “អ្នកទាំងពីរមកទីនេះធ្វើអី?”

ទាទាំងពីរតបថា ៖ “ពួកយើងមកទីនេះរកម្ហូបទៅជប់លៀងនៅចុងភ្នំត ។”



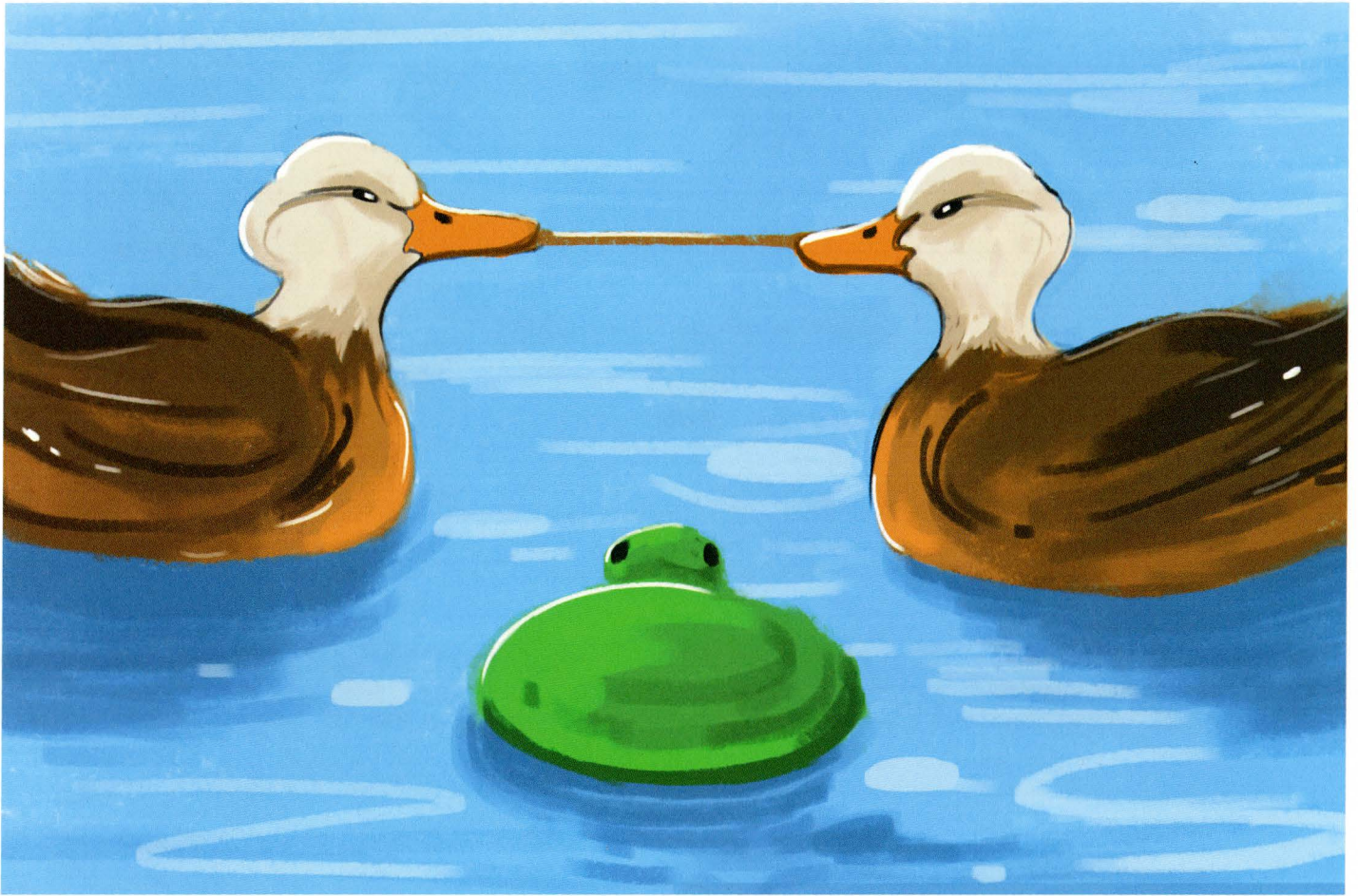
Then the turtle asked them, “Could I be invited to the party?”
“Yes,” said the ducks. “But how can you fly up to the top of the tree? You don’t have any wings. You don’t know how to fly.”

បន្ទាប់មកអណ្តើកសួរទាទាំងពីរថា ៖ “តើខ្ញុំអាចទៅចូលរួមជប់លៀងនោះបានទេ?”
ទាទាំងពីរឆ្លើយព្រមគ្នាថា ៖ “បាន” ។ “ប៉ុន្តែតើបងអាចឡើងទៅចុងភ្នំតយ៉ាងម៉េចបាន?
បងគ្មានស្លាបទេ ។ ហើយបងក៏មិនចេះហើរដែរ ។”



The three animals talked about how the turtle could go up to the top of the tree.

សត្វទាំងបីពិគ្រោះគ្នាអំពីរបៀបអណ្តើកឡើងចុងភ្នែក ។



One duck got an idea. He picked up a stick with his beak. Another duck used her beak to hold that stick at the other end. The ducks told the turtle to bite the stick in the middle so they could fly him up to the top of the tree. The ducks lay down the stick to warn the turtle, “You must not open your mouth and speak, okay?”

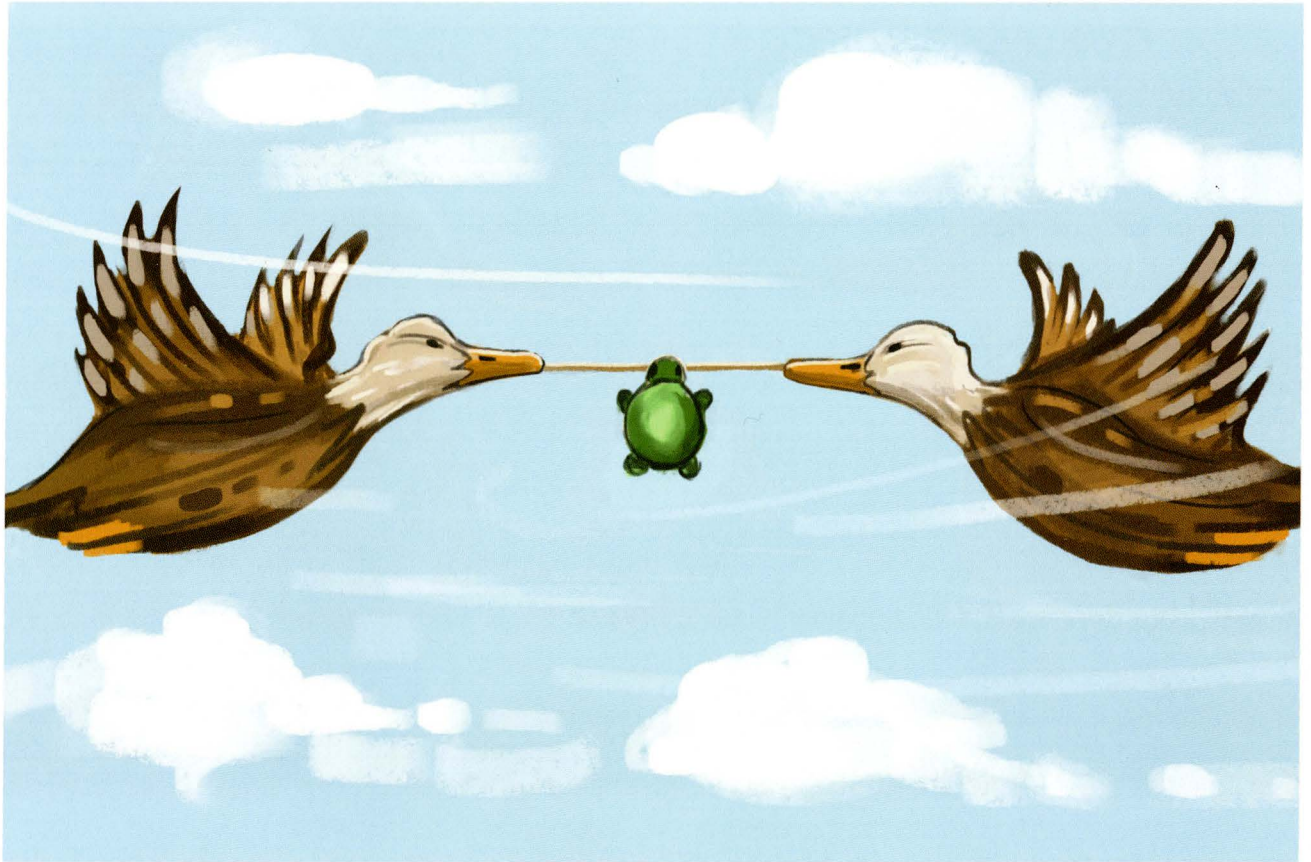
The turtle agreed, “Yes, I will not speak out.”

ទាមួយនឹកឃើញគំនិតល្អមួយ ។ វាក៏ប្រើចំពុះវាចឹកពាំមែកឈើមួយ ។ ទាមួយទៀតក៏ប្រើចំពុះវាចឹកពាំមែកឈើនោះនៅចុងម្ខាងទៀត ។

អណ្តើកអាចខាំមែកឈើនោះនៅចំកណ្តាល ។ ហើយទាទាំងពីរអាចហើរនាំអណ្តើកឡើងចុងភ្នែកបាន ។

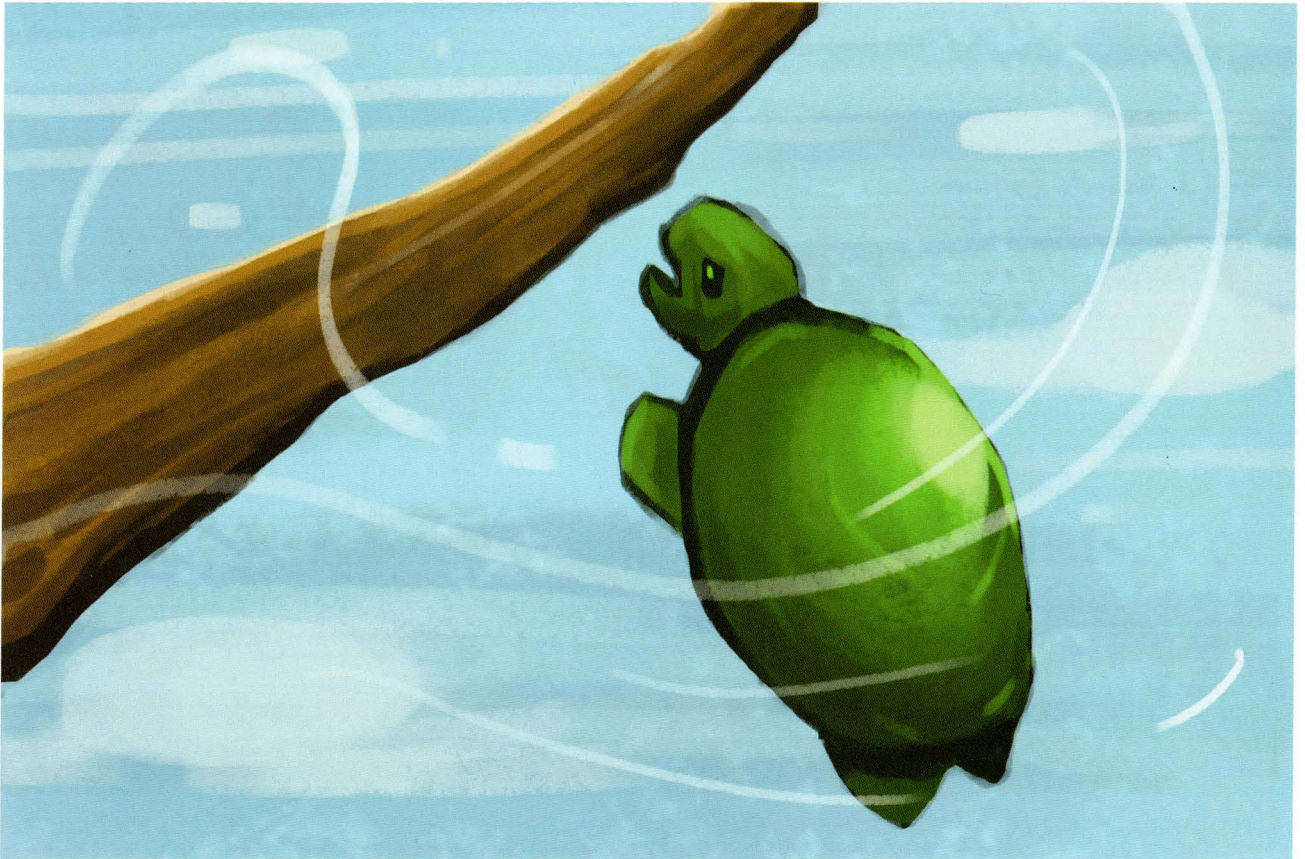
ទាទាំងពីរទម្លាក់មែកឈើនោះចុះដី និងព្រមានអណ្តើកជាមុនថា ៖ “បងមិនត្រូវបើកមាត់និយាយជាដាច់ខាត តើបងយល់ព្រមទេ?”

អណ្តើកយល់ព្រមហើយតបថា ៖ “យល់ហើយ ខ្ញុំនឹងមិនបើកមាត់និយាយទេ។”



Now the ducks grabbed the stick again. The turtle bit the stick in the middle. The ducks flew up and up almost to the top of the tree. Other ducks at the top of the tree were amazed to see this turtle coming up to the party.

ទាទាំងពីរចឹកពាំមែកឈើនោះម្តងទៀត ។ ចំណែកអណ្តើកក៏ខាំចំកណ្តាលមែកឈើនោះដែរ ។ ទាទាំងពីរបានហើរកាន់តែខ្ពស់ទៅៗរហូតជិតដល់កំពូលភ្នំភ្នំ ។ ពេលនោះទាដទៃទៀតដែលកំពុងទំលើចុងភ្នំភ្នំភ្នំក៏ឆ្កើលជាខ្លាំង ពេលបានឃើញអណ្តើកអាចឡើងមកចូលរួមជប់លៀងដែរ ។



All the ducks yelled, “Oh the turtle comes to us. Brother, do come too.” The turtle was so happy. He replied, “Yeah, I’m coming too.”

As soon as the turtle opened his mouth to say that he was coming too, he fell down, down, down.

All the way to the ground.

ទាទាំងអស់ស្រែកឡើងព្រមគ្នាថា ៖ “អូ បងអណ្តើកមកចូលរួមជាមួយពួកយើងដែរ ។ បងអណ្តើកឡើងមក ។”

អណ្តើកត្រេកអរខ្លាំងណាស់ ។ អណ្តើកតបទៅពួកគេវិញថា ៖ “មែនហើយ ខ្ញុំមកចូលរួមដែរ ។”

គ្រាន់តែអណ្តើកបើកមាត់និយាយថាវាក៏មកចូលរួមដែរ ស្រាប់តែវារបូតខ្លួនធ្លាក់ចុះក្រោមធ្លាក់ចុះ ធ្លាក់ចុះ ។ អណ្តើកធ្លាក់ដល់ដី ។



Then he hit a rock that shattered his shell.

អណ្តើកធ្លាក់ទៅបោកនឹងថ្មមួយធ្វើឲ្យបែកស្នូកជាច្រើនចំណែក ។



That is why today the turtle's shell looks like a jigsaw puzzle.

ហេតុនោះហើយទើបមកដល់សព្វថ្ងៃនេះ យើងឃើញស្ទុកអណ្តើកមានស្នាមប្រេះស្រាំ ក្រវែមក្រវាមច្រើនកន្លែង ។

The End ចប់

Moral of the story: Keep quiet even though you might be very happy or very mad. Keep quiet. You can succeed by talking, but you can also die by talking.

ដំបូន្មានគួរចងចាំ ៖ ត្រូវរក្សាការស្ងៀមស្ងាត់ជានិច្ចទោះបីអ្នកត្រេកអរ ឬខឹងសម្បា ខ្លាំងប៉ុណ្ណាក៏ដោយ ។ ត្រូវតែរក្សាការស្ងប់ស្ងាត់ ។ អ្នកអាចទទួលបានជោគជ័យ ដោយសារសម្តី ប៉ុន្តែអ្នកក៏អាចស្លាប់ដោយសារសម្តីដែរ ។

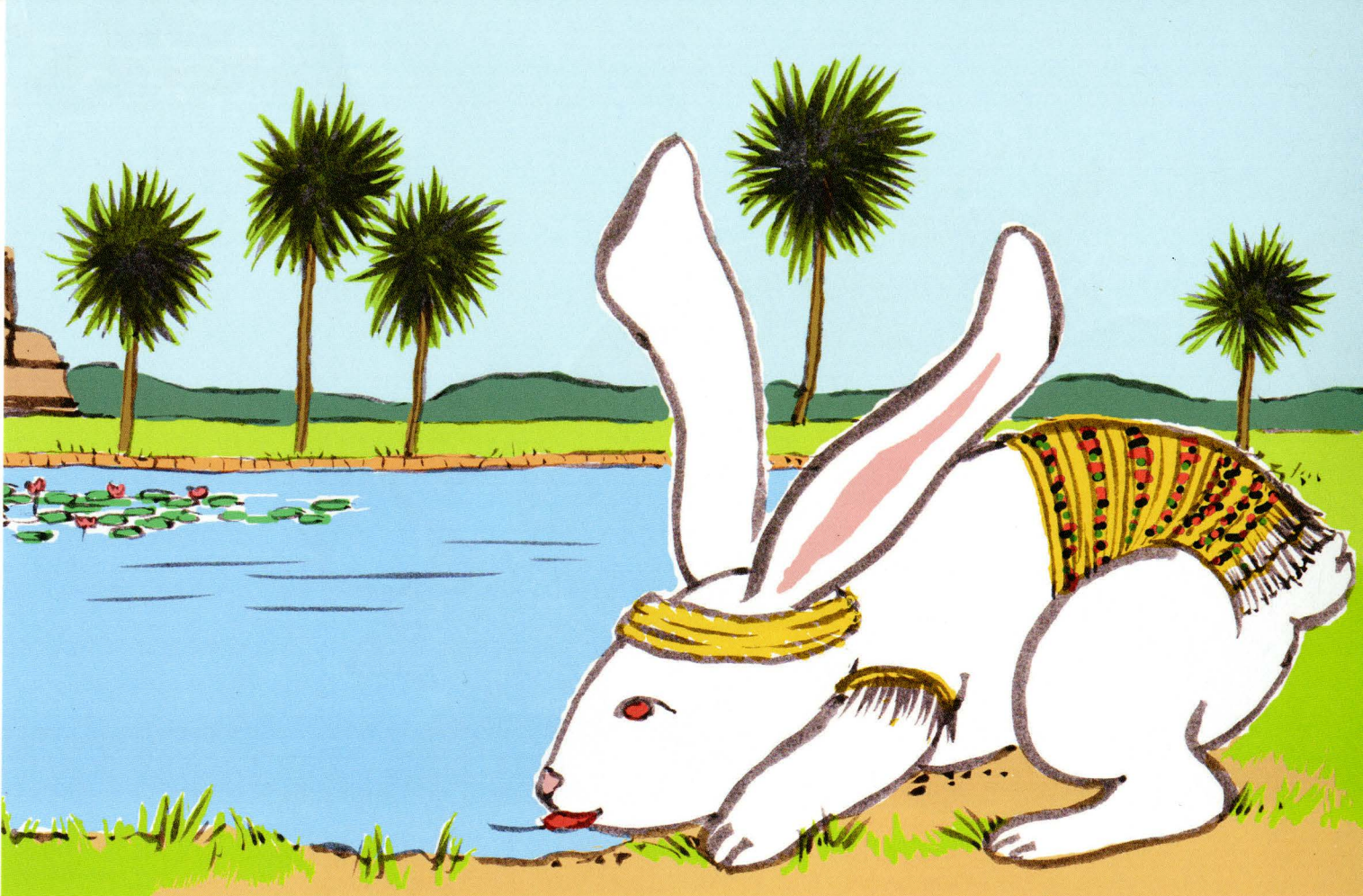


Why the Rabbit Doesn't Drink from the Pond
A folktale from Cambodia

មូលហេតុដែលទន្សាយមិនផឹកទឹកបឹង
(រឿងនិទានខ្មែរ)

Once there was a snail who lived in a pond. He lived in the pond with many, many other snails. The snail heard that there was a rabbit who lived close to the pond. He heard that the rabbit was very fast. One day that rabbit stooped down to drink the water from the snails' pond. The snail yelled at the rabbit, "You cannot come and drink the water from my pond!"

កាលពីព្រេងនាយមានខ្យងមួយរស់នៅក្នុងបឹងមួយ ។ វារស់នៅក្នុងបឹងនោះជាមួយ
ខ្យងដទៃទៀតច្រើនក្បាល ។ ខ្យងនោះឮថាមានទន្សាយមួយនៅក្បែរបឹងនោះដែរ ។
វាឮថាទន្សាយរត់លឿនណាស់ ។ ថ្ងៃមួយទន្សាយនោះឱនផឹកទឹកនៅក្នុងបឹងរបស់
ខ្យង ។ ខ្យងនោះស្រែកយាត់ទន្សាយថា ៖ "នែបងទន្សាយ! បងមិនអាចមកផឹកទឹក
ក្នុងបឹងរបស់ខ្ញុំបានទេ!"



The rabbit replied, “Hey, I am not bothering you. I have drunk the water from this pond since I was born. You are a slow, slow, slow crawling animal. You cannot even crawl as far as I can hop.”

ទន្សាយនោះតបវិញភ្លាមថា ៖ “នែបងខ្យង! ខ្ញុំមិនបានរំខានបងខ្យងឯងទេ ។ ខ្ញុំបានផឹកទឹកបឹងនេះតាំងពីខ្ញុំកើតម៉្លេះ ។ បងឯងជាសត្វវារយឺត យឺត យឺតបំផុត ។ បងឯងមិនអាចវារទាន់ខ្ញុំលោតមួយជំហានផង ។”



The snail got so mad at the rabbit. "You insulted me. How dare you say that I could not crawl as far as you can hop. We will run a race. We will see who wins."

ខ្យងនោះខឹងនឹងទន្សាយយ៉ាងខ្លាំង ក៏ពោលថា ៖ "យើ! បងទន្សាយឯងហ៊ាន
មាក់ងាយខ្ញុំផង ។ បងឯងហ៊ានជឿលថាខ្ញុំមិនអាចវាទាន់បងឯងលោតមួយជំហាន
ផង មែនទេ? តោះ យើងភ្នាល់គ្នាភ្នាល់ប្រណាំង ។ យើងនឹងដឹងច្បាស់ថានរណាឈ្នះ
នរណាចាញ់ ។"



The rabbit agreed to race the snail. "What are the rules?" the rabbit said.
The snail said, "I agree not to live in this pond any longer if I lose this race."
The rabbit said, "I promise that I won't come and drink the water from this pond if I lose this race."

ទន្សាយបានយល់ព្រមរត់ប្រណាំងនឹងខ្យង ។ ទន្សាយសួរខ្យងថា ៖ "តើយើងសន្មត
គ្នាពីរឿងឈ្នះចាញ់យ៉ាងម៉េច?"

ខ្យងតបវិញភ្លាមថា ៖ "ខ្ញុំឈប់នៅក្នុងបឹងនេះទៀតបើខ្ញុំចាញ់ ។"

ទន្សាយក៏ឆ្លើយដែរថា ៖ "ខ្ញុំសន្សាយបំបាត់មកផឹកទឹកបឹងនេះទៀតបើខ្ញុំចាញ់ ។"



The next morning, the snail and the rabbit started the race. The rabbit began to hop all the way around the pond. The snail stayed in the water. After hopping for a while, the rabbit didn't see any snail running behind him. He yelled, "Hey, Snail, you slow, slow, slow crawling snail. Where are you?"

ព្រឹកស្អែកឡើង ខ្យង និងទន្សាយចាប់ផ្តើមរត់ប្រណាំងគ្នា ។ ទន្សាយចាប់លោតពីទូជុំវិញមាត់បឹង ។ ខ្យងហែលនៅក្នុងបឹង ។ ទន្សាយលោតអស់មួយស្របក់ ងាកមើលក្រោយ ហើយក៏មិនឃើញខ្យងរត់ដេញតាមពីក្រោយខ្លួន ។ ទន្សាយស្រែកហៅខ្យងថា ៖ "នែ! បងខ្យង បងឯងនេះជាសត្វវារយ័តគឺមេៗ ។ ចុះឥឡូវនេះបងឯងរត់ដល់ណាហើយ?"



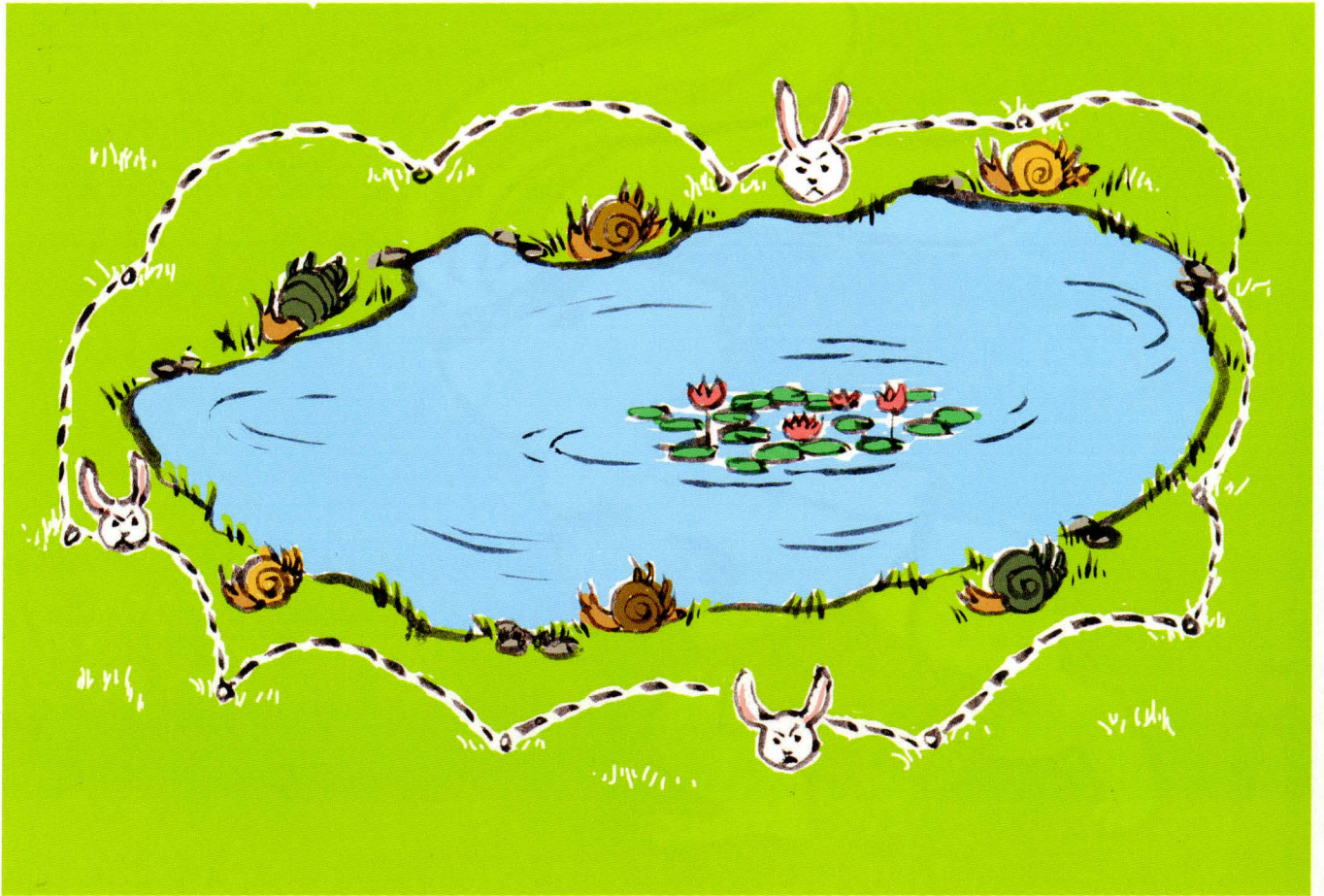
The rabbit may have been fast, but the snail knew snails were very cunning. The snail knew that he could never crawl as fast as the rabbit could hop. But he had an idea. He would trick the rabbit. He got all the snails together and told them to spread out all around the pond. He told all the snails, “When the rabbit yells at us and says where are you slow, slow, slow crawling snail, whoever is ahead of the rabbit should say, ‘Coo.’ That means, ‘I’m here.’”

ទន្សាយអាចជាសត្វរត់លឿន ប៉ុន្តែខ្យងដឹងថាពួកគេជាសត្វឆ្លាតខ្លាំងណាស់ ។ ខ្យងដឹងថាវាមិនអាចវាទាន់ទន្សាយលោតមួយដំហានទេ ។ ប៉ុន្តែវានឹកឃើញល្អិតកលមួយ ។ វានឹងលេងល្អិតបញ្ឆោតទន្សាយ ។ ខ្យងបានប្រមូលគ្នាទាំងអស់ឲ្យរៀបបណ្តាក់គ្នាជុំវិញមាត់បឹង ។ វាបានប្រាប់ខ្យងទាំងអស់ថា ៖ “ពេលទន្សាយស្រែកសួរចង់ដឹងថាយើងនៅទីណា ពេលនោះខ្យងដែលនៅខាងមុខទន្សាយត្រូវឆ្លើយថា គូក មានន័យថា ខ្ញុំនៅឯណោះ ។”



All the snails lined up around the edge of the pond. The rabbit looked around. He didn't see any snails. "Oh Snail, you slow, slow, slow crawling snail, where are you now?"

ខ្យងទាំងអស់រៀបបណ្តាក់គ្នាជុំវិញមាត់បឹងស្រេចបាច់ ។
ទន្សាយសម្លឹងរកមើលជុំវិញខ្លួន ។ វាមិនឃើញខ្យងណាមួយសោះ ។ ទន្សាយ
ស្រែកហៅខ្យងថា ៖ "នែ! បងខ្យងជាសត្វវាយឺតបំផុត ពេលនេះបងឯងនៅ
ឯណា ?



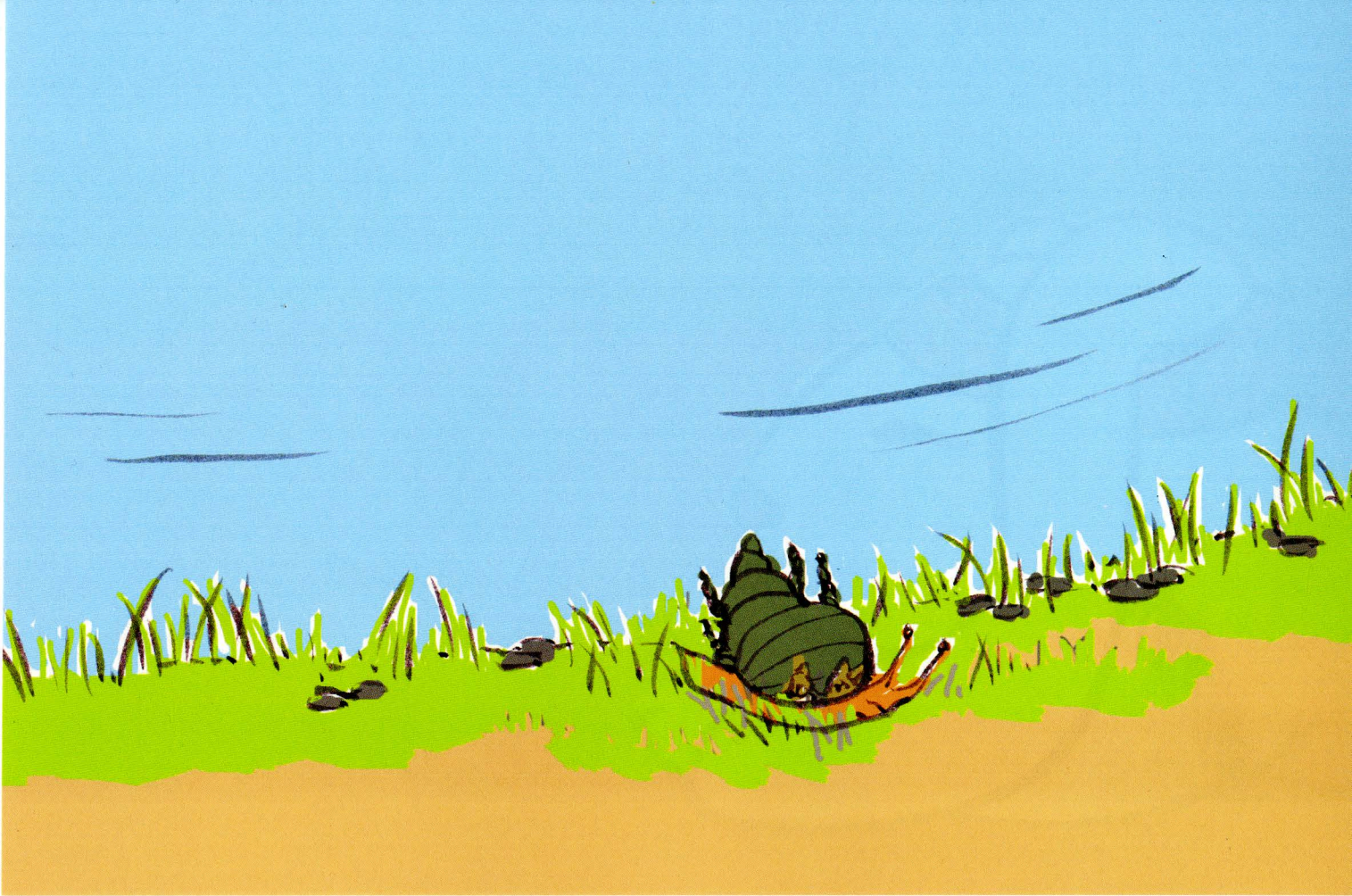
Right in front of the rabbit, a snail said, "Coo, I am here." The rabbit got mad when he heard this. He kept running very fast.

នៅខាងមុខទន្សាយ ខ្យងមួយឆ្លើយឡើងថា "គូក ខ្ញុំនៅឯណោះ ។" ពេលឮសម្លេង
នោះភ្លាម ទន្សាយខឹងយ៉ាងខ្លាំង ។ វាប្រឹងរត់កាន់តែលឿនឡើងថែមទៀត ។



He was almost to the finish line. The rabbit tried again, "Oh Snail, you slow, slow, slow crawling snail, where are you now?"

ទន្សាយរត់ជិតដល់ទីផ្តាច់ព្រាត់ ។ ទន្សាយព្យាយាមស្រែកហៅខ្យងម្តងទៀតថា ៖
"នែបងខ្យងជាសត្វវាយឺតគឺមៗ បងឯងនៅឯណាពេលនេះ?"



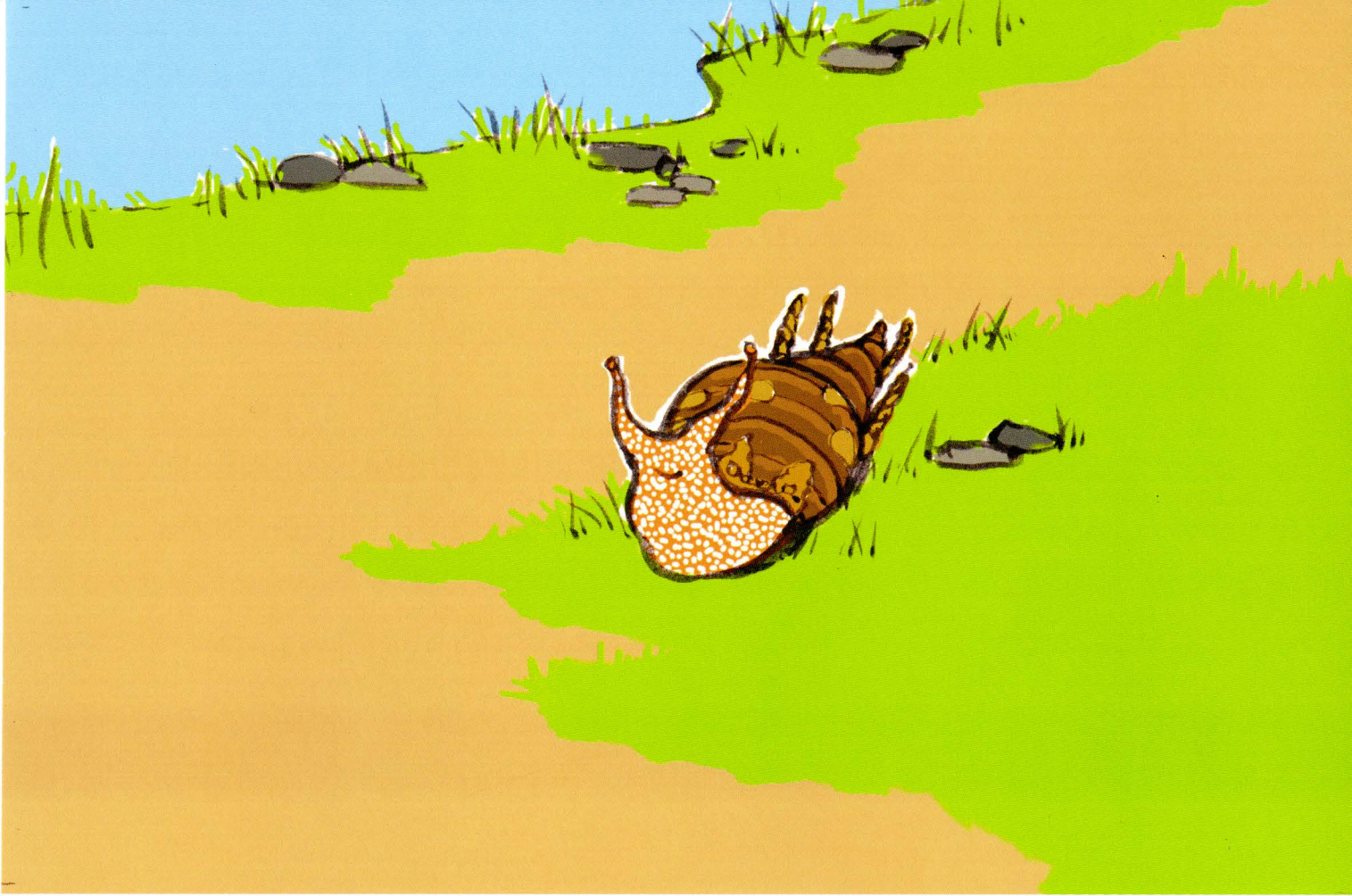
A little snail right in front of him said, "I am here, coo."

ខ្យងតូចមួយនៅខាងមុខទស្សាយឆ្លើយឡើងថា ៖ "គូក ខ្ញុំនៅឯណោះ ។"



The rabbit knew he lost the race. He lay down right next to the finish line. He knew that the snail was right there at the finish line before him. The snail won the race.

ទន្សាយដឹងថាវាចាញ់ការរត់ប្រណាំងនោះ ។ វារត់ហត់អស់កម្លាំងហើយក៏ដួលនៅ
ក្បែរទីផ្តាច់ព្រាត់ ។ វាដឹងថាខ្យងមួយកំពុងឈរនៅត្រង់ទីផ្តាច់ព្រាត់នៅខាងមុខវា ។
ខ្យងបានឈ្នះការប្រកួតរត់ប្រណាំងនោះ ។



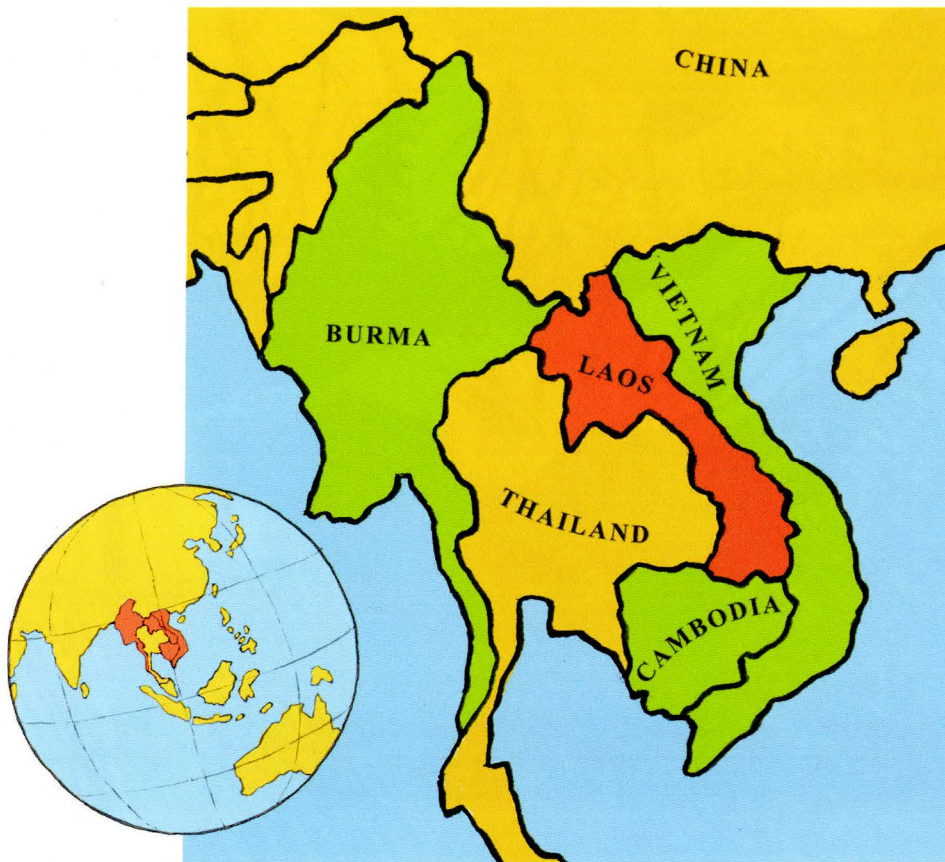
And ever since they won the race, the snails stayed in the pond. But the rabbit no longer visits the pond or drinks the water from it. The rabbit drinks dew instead.

ចាប់តាំងពីពេលប្រកួតឈ្នះទន្សាយមក ខ្យងទាំងអស់រស់នៅក្នុងបឹងរហូត ។ ប៉ុន្តែ ទន្សាយឈប់មកក្បែរបឹង ឬផឹកទឹកបឹងទៀត ។ ទន្សាយផឹកទឹកសន្សើមវិញម្តង ។

The End ចប់

*The moral of the story is, "Don't judge other people the way the rabbit judged the snail."
Another moral of the story is: "A bunch of sticks cannot be broken."
(Cambodian proverb from the internet.)*

ដំបូន្មានគួរចងចាំទី ១ ៖ "កុំវាយតម្លៃមនុស្សដទៃតាមរបៀបទន្សាយវាយតម្លៃខ្យង ។"
ដំបូន្មានគួរចងចាំទី ២ ៖ "ចង្កឹះមួយបាច់កាច់មិនបាក់ ។" (សុភាសិតខ្មែរ)



Laos

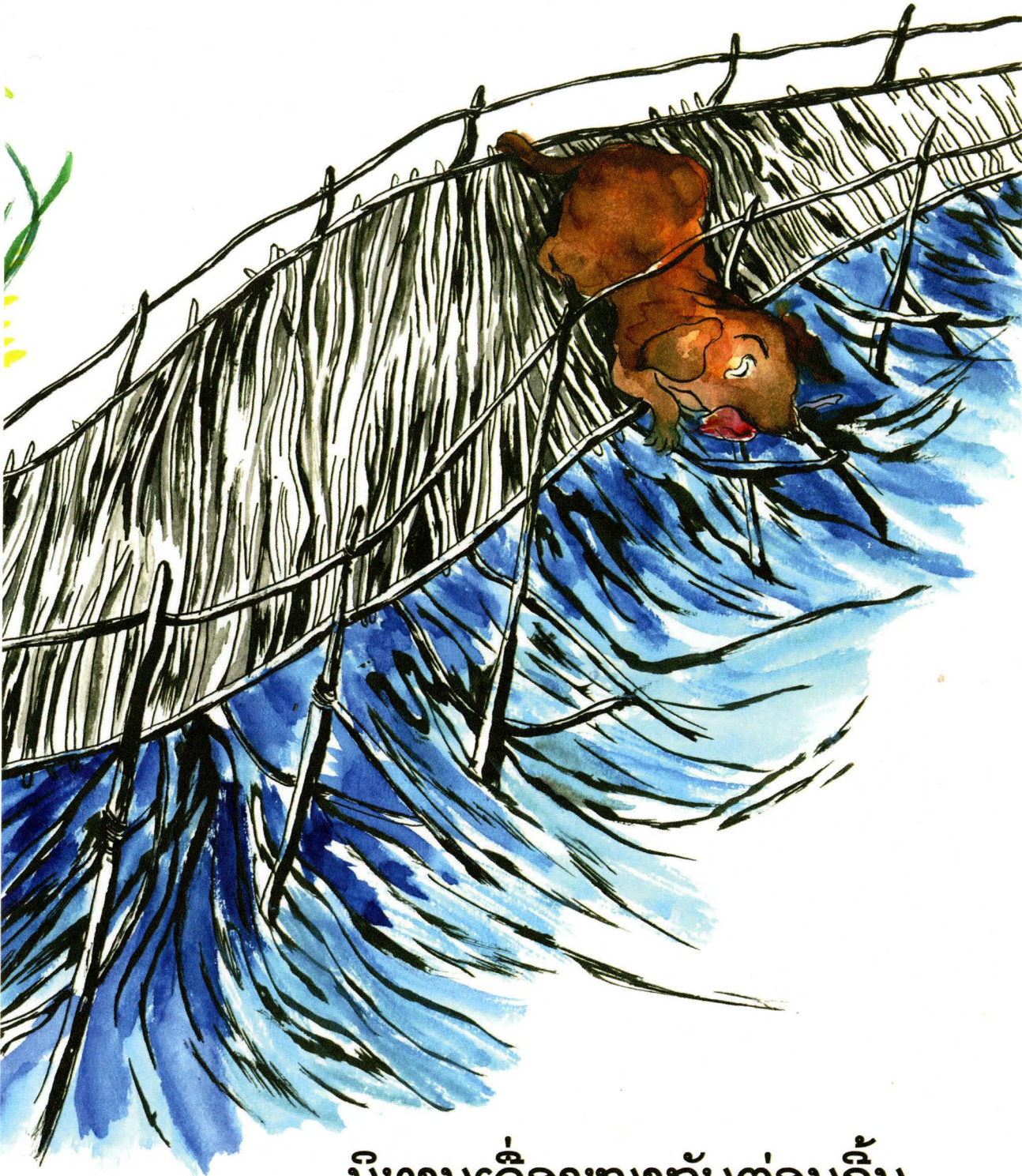
Laos is the only landlocked country in Southeast Asia. It is bordered by Burma and China to the northwest, Vietnam to the east, Cambodia to the southwest and Thailand to the west and southwest. Rugged mountains, plains, and plateaus make up the 236,800 square kilometers. The Mekong River flows along the western boundary with Thailand. Laos, also known as the Lao People's Democratic Republic, is one of the poorest communist states in Asia with a population of 6.5 million people. It is one of Southeast Asia's most ethnically diverse countries. One United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report states that there are 237 ethnic groups; however, only 49 ethnic groups are officially recognized by the Laos government. The major languages spoken are Lao and French and the major religion is Theravada Buddhism. Eighty percent of the Lao people are farmers.



The Greedy Dog and the Meat

A Folktale from Laos

Once there was a dog who traveled from his home. He found a small piece of meat in the road. The dog was excited, "I'm going to take this meat! I am going to find a safe place to eat the meat." The dog walked on with the meat in his mouth. He came upon a bridge. He came to the middle of the bridge. The sun was shining brightly. He looked in the water under the bridge.



ນິທານເລື່ອງໝາກັບຕ່ອນຊີ້ນ

ມີມື້ນຶ່ງ ມີໝາໂຕນຶ່ງໄດ້ໄປຢ່າງຫລິ້ນແລະໄດ້ພົບຕ່ອນຊີ້ນຕ່ອນນຶ່ງຢູ່ແຄມຫົນທາງ ມັນກໍ່ດີໃຈຫລາຍ ແລ້ວມັນກໍ່ຄິດວ່າຈະໄປຊອກຫາບ່ອນຊ້ອນວິກິນ ເພາະຢ້ານໝາໂຕອື່ນຈະມາຍາດກິນນໍາມັນ ມັນກໍ່ໄດ້ຢ່າງໄປຢ່າງມາ ມັນກໍ່ໄປພົບຂົວແຫ່ງນຶ່ງແລ້ວມັນກໍ່ຄິດວ່າມັນຈະຂ້າມຂົວໄປກິນຢູ່ເບື້ອງນັ້ນຄົງຈະບໍ່ມີໝາໂຕອື່ນໆມາຍາດກິນນໍາ, ມັນກໍ່ເລີຍຢ່າງຂ້າມຂົວໄປ ແລ້ວພໍ່ໄປຮອດກາງຂົວມັນກໍ່ຍຸດຢູ່ທີ່ນັ້ນແລ້ວມັນກໍ່ມີແສງແດດດຊ່ອງລົງມາຜ່ານໄປກ້ອງຂົວ.



He saw another dog reflected in the water, and the dog had a very big piece of meat in his mouth. He thought to himself, "I am going to get that big meat. I am going to take it from that other dog." It never occurred to him that it was his reflection.

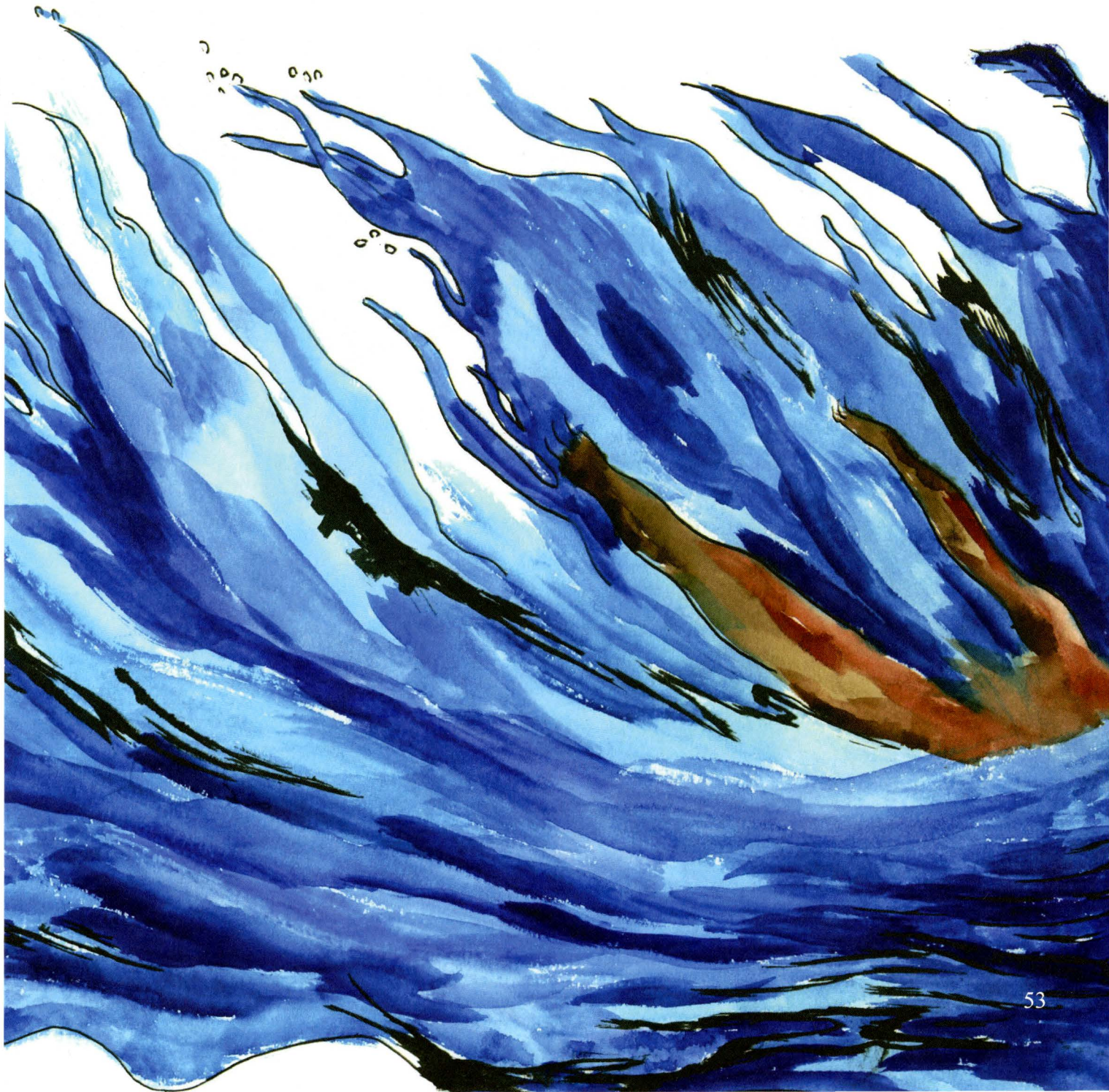


ມັນກໍ່ເຫັນເງົາໜາໂຕນຶ່ງ ຄາບຊິ້ນຕ່ອນໃຫ່ຍຢູ່ໃນນ້ຳ ມັນບໍ່ໄດ້ຄິດເລືອກວ່າແມ່ນເງົາຂອງໂຕ
ເອງ.

He dropped his own little piece of meat
and jumped into the water to get the big
piece of meat.



ມັນກໍເລີຍຄາຍຕ່ອນຊີ້ນທີ່ມັນມີຢູ່ລົງໄປໃນນ້ຳແລ້ວກໍກະໂດດລົງໄປເພື່ອຈະໄປເອົາຕ່ອນ
ຊີ້ນໃຫຍ່ຢູ່ໃນນ້ຳນັ້ນ.

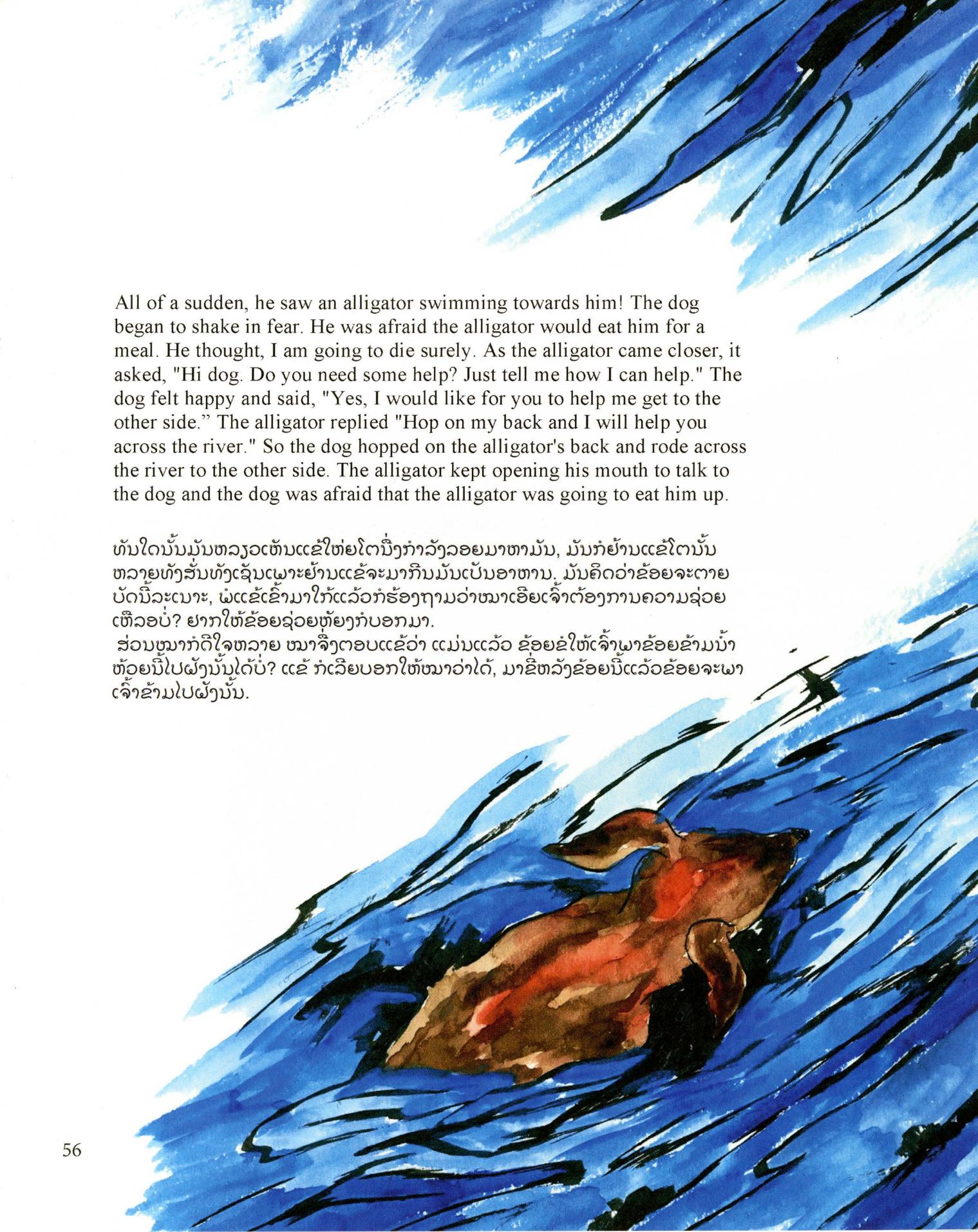


Oh dear! The dog looked for the meat but there was no piece of meat in the water. He did not think about the fact that he could not swim. Not only did he lose his little piece of meat, he also could not swim. He did not know what to do. His greed had pushed him to want more. He began to feel sorry for himself. He did not know how he was going to cross the river.



ຜ່ວງໄປຮອດນ້ຳມັນກໍຊອກຫາຕ່ອນຊີ້ນໃຫຍ່ນັ້ນບໍ່ພົບ. ແລະກໍບໍ່ຄິດເລີຍວ່າຕົນເອງບໍ່ຊ່າງ
ລອຍນ້ຳ, ຕ່ອນຊີ້ນກໍເລັງ, ລອຍນ້ຳກໍບໍ່ເປັນ ບັດນີ້ຈະເຮັດແນວໃດເນາະ. ເພາະຄວາມໄລບູ
ມາກຢາກໄດ້ຊີ້ນຕ່ອນໃຫຍ່ນັ້ນ. ແລ້ວມັນກໍຍ້ານຫລາຍ ບໍ່ຮູ້ຈະເຮັດແນວໃດຈຶ່ງຈະລອຍຂຶ້ນ
ຜັງໄດ້.

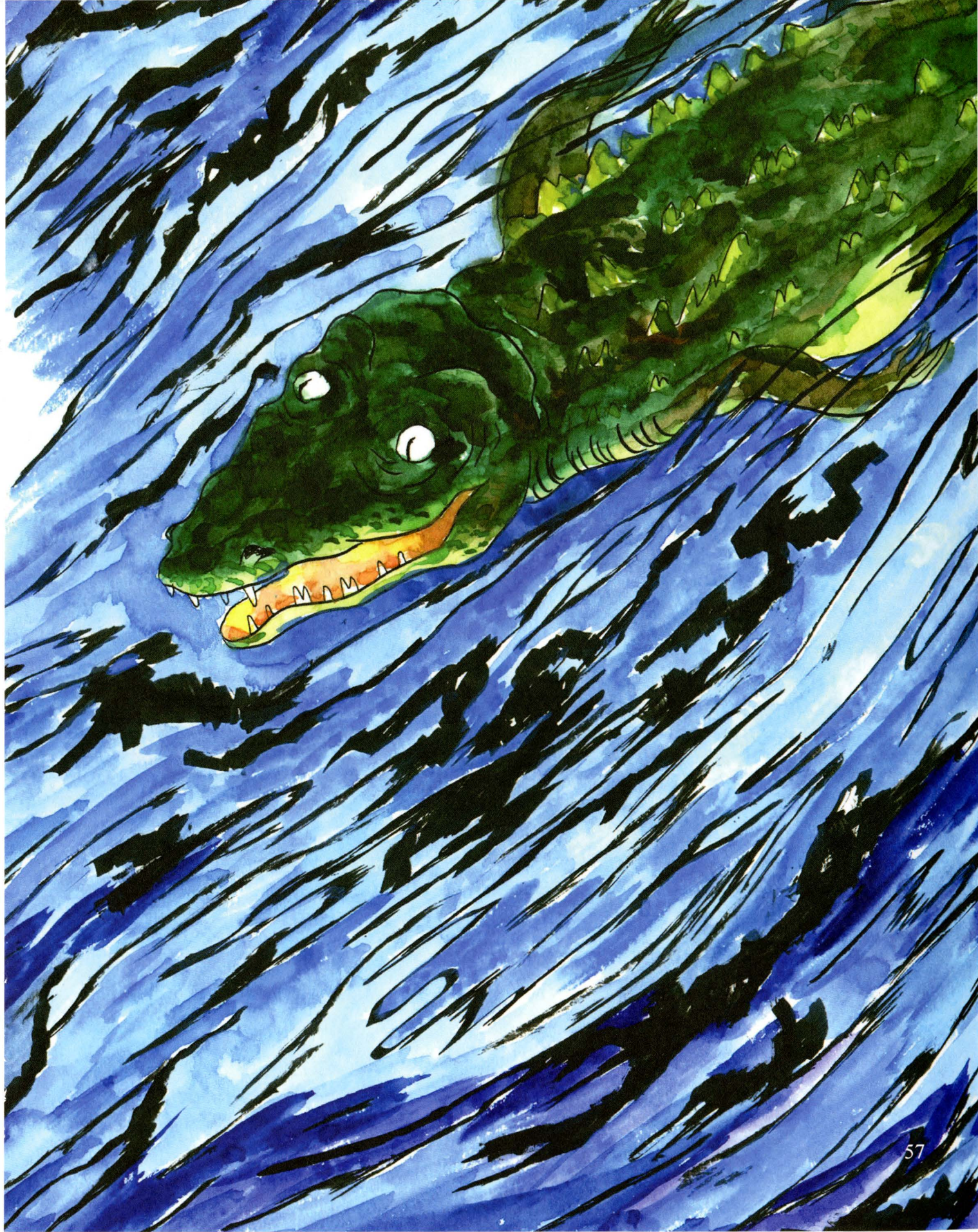




All of a sudden, he saw an alligator swimming towards him! The dog began to shake in fear. He was afraid the alligator would eat him for a meal. He thought, I am going to die surely. As the alligator came closer, it asked, "Hi dog. Do you need some help? Just tell me how I can help." The dog felt happy and said, "Yes, I would like for you to help me get to the other side." The alligator replied "Hop on my back and I will help you across the river." So the dog hopped on the alligator's back and rode across the river to the other side. The alligator kept opening his mouth to talk to the dog and the dog was afraid that the alligator was going to eat him up.

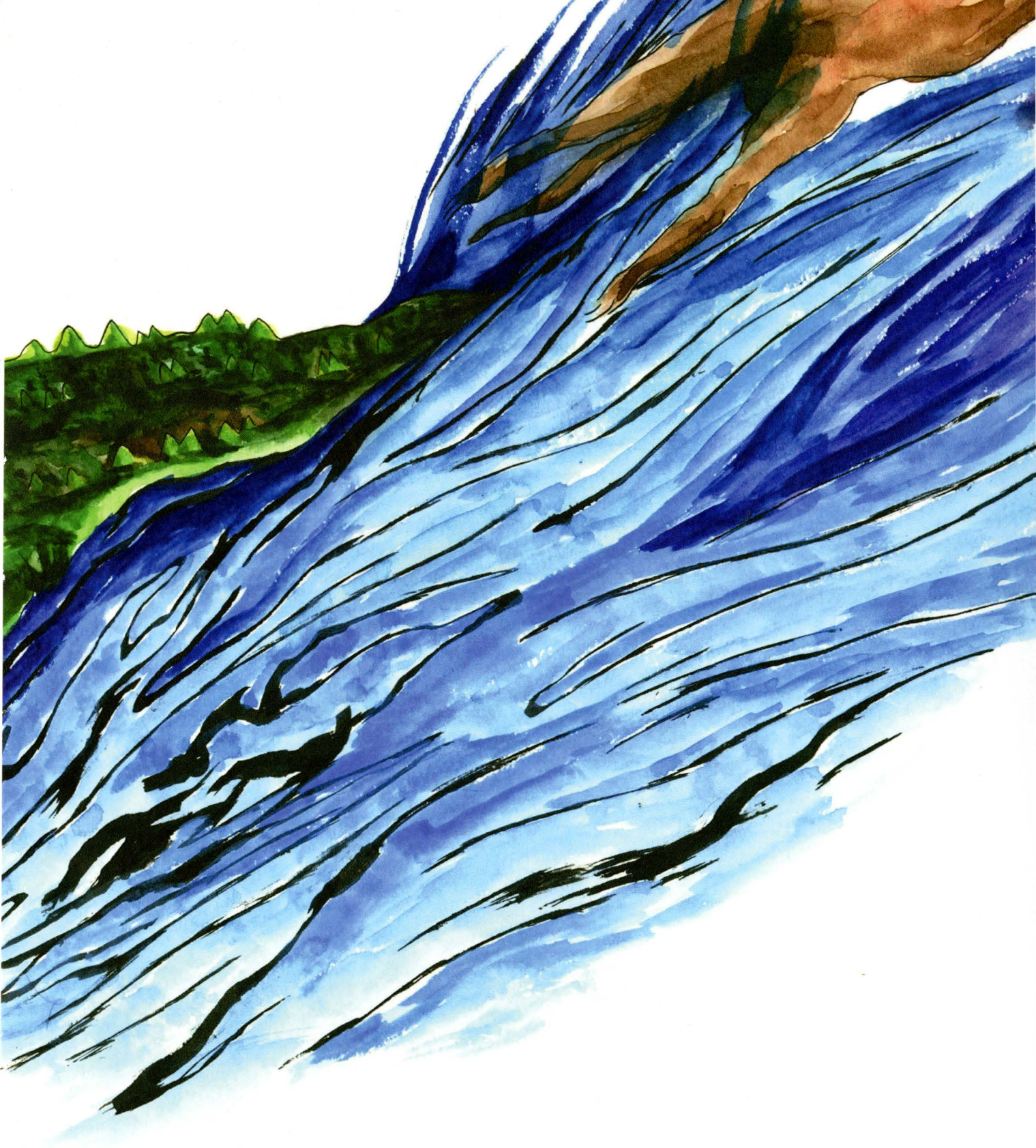
ທັນໃດນັ້ນມັນຫວຽວເຫັນແຂ້ໃຫຍ່ໂຕນຶ່ງກຳລັງລອຍມາຫາມັນ, ມັນກໍຢ້ານແຂ້ໂຕນັ້ນ ຫວາຍທັງສັນທັງເຊັນເພາະຢ້ານແຂ້ຈະມາກິນມັນເປັນອາຫານ, ມັນຄິດວ່າຂ້ອຍຈະຕາຍ ບັດນີ້ລະເນາະ, ພໍແຂ້ເຂົ້າມາໃກ້ແລ້ວກໍຮ້ອງຖາມວ່າໝາເອີຍເຈົ້າຕ້ອງການຄວາມຊ່ວຍ ເຫຼືອບໍ່? ຍາກໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍຊ່ວຍຫຼືຍງກໍບອກມາ.

ສ່ວນໝາກໍດີໃຈຫວາຍ ໝາຈຶ່ງຕອບແຂ້ວ່າ ແມ່ນແລ້ວ ຂ້ອຍຂໍໃຫ້ເຈົ້າພາຂ້ອຍຂ້າມນ້ຳ ຫ້ວຍນີ້ໄປຝັງນັ້ນໄດ້ບໍ່? ແຂ້ ກໍເລີຍບອກໃຫ້ໝາວ່າໄດ້, ມາຂີຫລັງຂ້ອຍນີ້ແລ້ວຂ້ອຍຈະພາ ເຈົ້າຂ້າມໄປຝັງນັ້ນ.





As he approached the riverbank, the dog jumped off the alligator's back quickly. He was so afraid that he pooped on the alligator's head as he was getting off.



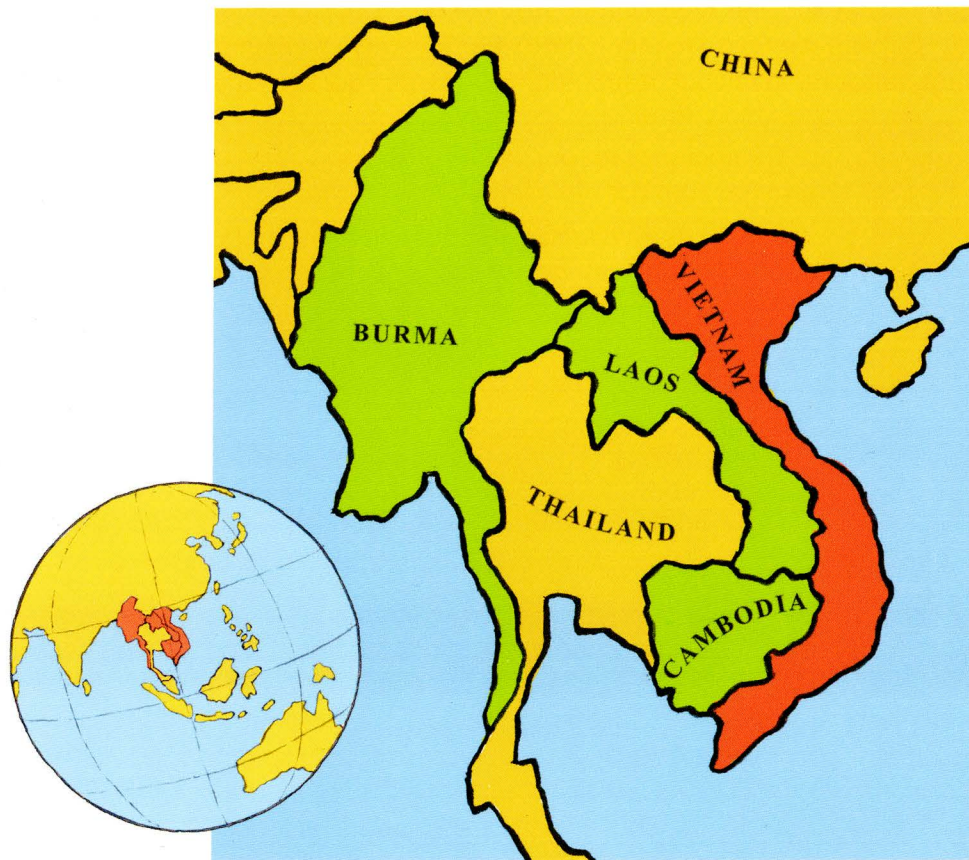
ພໍ່ໝາຂຶ້ນຂີ້ຫລັງແຂ້ແລ້ວກໍພາໝາໄປເຖິງຝັງແລ້ວ ໝາກໍກະໂດດອອກຈາກຫລັງແຂ້ທັນ
ທີ ເພາະມັນຍ້ານແຂ້ຈະກິນມັນຫລາຍກໍເລີຍຂີ້ເຮັງຫົດຫົວແຂ້.



Moral of the Story: Those who want too much will end up getting nothing. Don't poop on those who help you. Show respect and be thankful.

ນິທານເລື່ອງນີ້ເປັນຄະຕິເຕືອນໃຈຄົນທັງຫຼາຍວ່າ
ໂລບມາກ ລູບຫຼາຍ ຢາກໄດ້ຫຼາຍ ເລີຍບໍ່ໄດ້ຈັກນ່ອຍ
ເຂົາຊ່ວຍເຈົ້າ ເຈົ້າບໍ່ຄວນຂີ່ໃສ່ຫົວເຂົາ ມັນບໍ່ຖືກຕ້ອງ





Vietnam

Vietnam is a country in Southeast Asia. Vietnam is well known for its beaches, rivers, Buddhist pagodas and bustling cities. Vietnam has a long-lasting history documented over four thousand years. With a total land area of 331,690 square kilometers, it is bordered by China to the north, the South China Sea to the east and south, the Gulf of Thailand to the southwest, and Cambodia and Laos to the west. The population is estimated to be about 92 million, including 54 ethnic groups living in the country.

The Golden Starfruit Tree

Cây Khế Vàng



Once upon a time, there was a very rich man who lived in a village. When he died, he left his two sons a huge fortune. The two brothers were entirely different from each other. The older brother was greedy, while the younger one was very kind. The older brother claimed the whole fortune and left his younger brother only a starfruit tree.

Thuở xưa, có một người rất giàu sống trong làng. Ông ta qua đời, để lại gia sản giàu có lại cho hai người con. Hai anh em rất khác biệt. Người anh thì sống rất tham lam nhưng người em thì lại hiền lành chất phác. Người anh chiếm trọn gia tài và chỉ chia cho người em một cây khế.

Both brothers got married. The older brother with his inheritance had nothing to worry about. Meanwhile, the younger brother who only had the starfruit tree was very worried. Thus, he took good care of his tree, hoping that it would give him a lot of fruit so that he could make a living by selling it. The tree grew bigger and bigger. It had a lot of fruit.



Cả hai anh em đều có vợ. Người anh với gia sản lớn không cần phải lo lắng gì, nhưng người em thì rất lo vì chỉ có một cây khế. Vì vậy, người em chăm sóc cây khế hết lòng để mong thu hoạch được nhiều khế, bán kiếm tiền sinh sống. Cây khế càng ngày càng lớn và có rất nhiều trái.



When the starfruit was ripe, a raven flew by and stopped in the tree to eat a lot of fruit. The younger brother was very sad to see this happen every day, but he did not know what to do.

Khi những trái khế trên cây chín mọng, một con quạ bay đến đậu trên cây và ăn rất nhiều khế. Người em rất buồn khi thấy quạ ăn khế của mình mỗi ngày, anh không biết làm gì.

One day, he decided to stand beneath the tree and talk to the raven: “Raven, please don’t eat my fruit. This fruit tree is my only fortune”. “Don’t worry” the raven replied. “I’ll pay you back with gold. Make a 2-yard long bag. Tomorrow morning, I’ll come back and take you to get the gold.”

Một hôm, người em quyết định đứng dưới gốc cây và nói với quạ: “Quạ ơi, đừng ăn khế của ta nữa. Đó là tất cả những gì ta có”. Quạ trả lời: “Đừng lo. Quạ sẽ trả lại bằng vàng. Anh bạn hãy may một cái túi dài ba gang tay. Chờ sáng ngày mai, quạ sẽ trở lại và chở anh bạn đến chỗ lấy vàng.”





Next morning, the raven came back. He let the younger brother sit on his back and flew over the sea to an island filled with gold. The younger brother gathered all the gold he could fit into the bag that he had made. Then he flew back home on the raven's back with a lot of gold. He was very happy. He had become very rich.

Sáng hôm sau, con quạ quay trở lại. Quạ để người em lên lưng rồi bay qua biển đến một hòn đảo có rất nhiều vàng. Người em lấy vàng bỏ đầy vào túi mà anh ta đã làm rồi lên lưng quạ bay trở về nhà. Anh ta rất vui mừng. Từ đó, người em trở nên giàu có.



The younger brother invited the older one to come over. The older brother said, “No, I don’t want to go to your shabby house”. The younger brother kept inviting his older brother to visit him. “I have something for you, Brother.”

Người em mời anh tới nhà. Người anh nói, “Không, tao không đến cái nhà tồi tàn của mày đâu”. Người em nài nỉ mời người anh, “Em có quà cho anh”.



Finally, the older brother gave in. He visited his brother and found to his surprise that his brother had all sort of riches – a very big house, lots of beautiful furniture, lots of money.

Cuối cùng người anh chiều theo em. Người anh đến và rất ngạc nhiên khi thấy sự giàu có của người em – ngôi nhà to rộng, nhiều đồ đạc đẹp đẽ trong nhà, có rất nhiều tiền.

“How did you get all these riches, Brother?” the older one asked. The younger brother told him about the starfruit tree, and the raven and the trip to the island filled with gold. The older brother offered to trade all his fortune for the starfruit tree. The kind brother gladly accepted the offer.

The raven came as usual and ate a lot of starfruit. The older brother spoke to the raven the same words as his younger brother did. He received the same answer from the raven. But he was so greedy that he made a much larger bag instead of a 2-yard long bag.

The next day, the raven came to take him to the island of gold. After he filled the bag with gold, he put the gold into all of his pockets, too. Then, he climbed onto the raven’s back to go home.

But the load was so heavy that when they flew over the sea, the raven tilted his tired wings. “Let go! Let go of the gold!” the raven screamed. But the older brother didn’t want to let go of the gold. Finally, the raven had to drop him into the sea.

“Em làm cách nào mà trở nên giàu có thế này?”, người anh hỏi. Người em kể lại câu chuyện cây khế và con quạ cùng chuyến đi đến đảo có đầy vàng. Người anh tham lam đề nghị đổi hết tài sản của anh ta để lấy cây khế của người em. Người em tốt bụng chấp nhận lời đề nghị.

Quạ bay đến như thường lệ và ăn rất nhiều khế. Người anh nói với quạ những lời người em đã nói và cũng nhận được cùng một câu trả lời từ quạ. Nhưng người anh rất tham lam. Anh ta làm chiếc túi to gấp đôi chiếc túi dài ba gang để đựng vàng.

Ngày hôm sau, quạ đến đón người anh và chở anh ta bay đến đảo để lấy vàng. Người anh lấy vàng đầy bao. Anh ta lại lấy vàng vỏ vào các túi quần áo. Sau đó, anh ta leo lên lưng quạ để trở về nhà.

Nhưng khi bay qua biển, anh ta và tất cả số vàng trở thành quá nặng cho quạ. “Vứt đi! Vứt vàng đi!”, quạ la to. Nhưng người anh tham lam không chịu bỏ vàng xuống biển. Con quạ đành phải bỏ anh ta xuống biển.





Back at home, the younger brother waited for the older one for a very long time.
“Why is it taking so long for my brother to come back?”

The next day, the younger brother met the raven and asked where his brother was. The raven told him that the older brother wouldn't let go of the gold and fell into the sea because it was too heavy.

Tại nhà, người em chờ rất lâu, “Tại sao anh đi lâu rồi vẫn chưa về?” Ngày hôm sau, người em gặp con quạ và hỏi người anh đâu. Con quạ nói rằng người anh đã không chịu vứt bỏ bớt vàng nên đã rơi xuống vì vàng quá nặng.



Moral of the story: When you grab all things, you lose everything.

Bài học luân lý: Khi bạn muốn lấy tất cả mọi thứ, bạn sẽ mất hết.

A Big Pot of Gold, a Vietnamese folktale
Cái Chum Vàng, Chuyện Cổ Tích Việt Nam

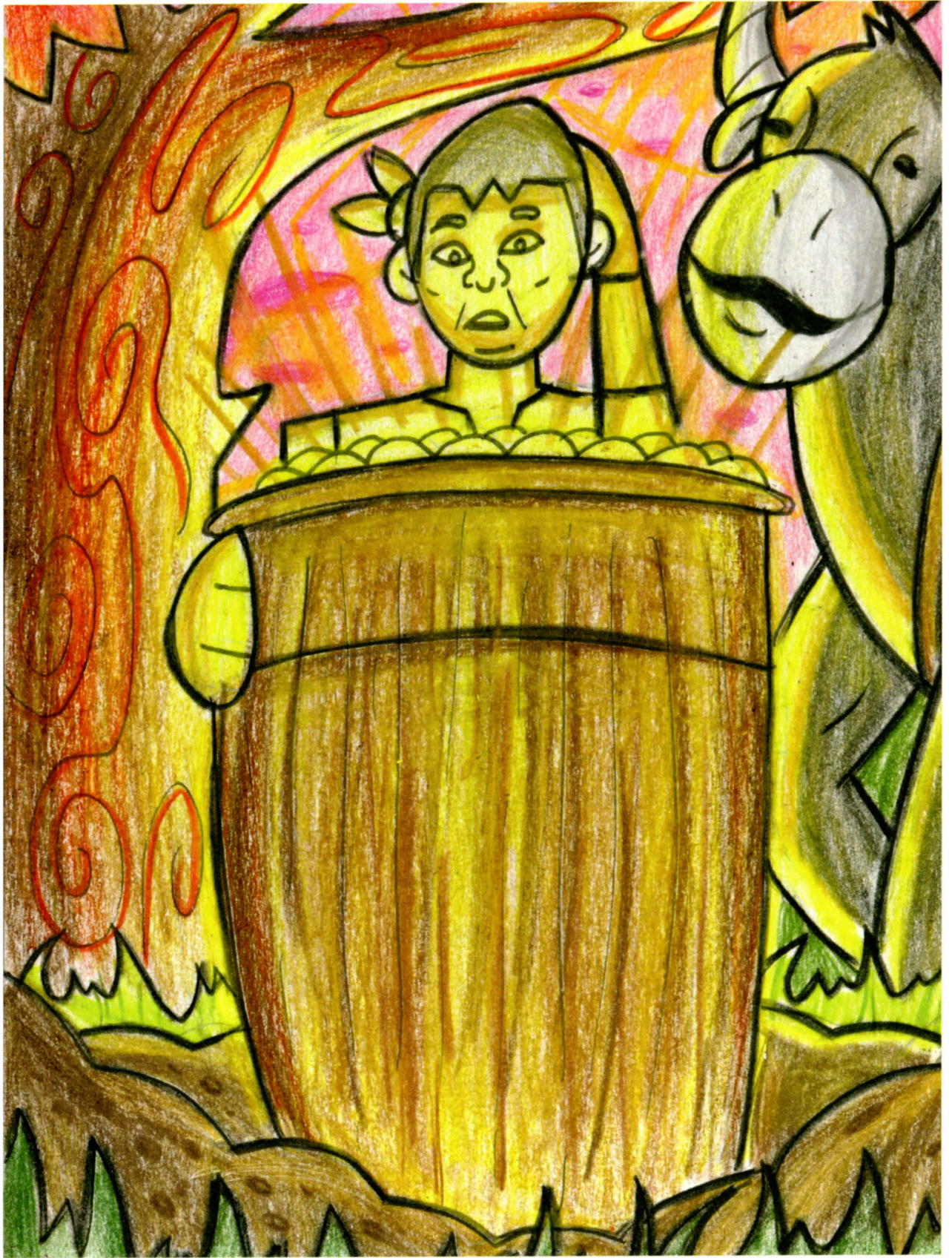
Long ago, a man and his wife lived in the countryside.
They were very poor but they had good hearts.

Ngày xưa, có hai vợ chồng sống ở miền quê. Họ rất
nghèo nhưng có một tâm lòng tốt.



Everyday, the man went to the field, where they grew a paddy of rice. One day, when he was plowing the soil, he found a big pot of gold. He put it back in the soil.

Mỗi ngày, người chồng đi ra đồng, nơi họ trồng lúa. Một ngày nọ, khi anh ta đang đi cày, anh ta tìm được một chum vàng lớn. Anh ta lại chôn cái chum vàng xuống đất.



When he came home, he told his wife that he found a big pot of gold in the paddy.

“Where is it?” the wife asked. “If somebody finds it, they will take it.”

In a calm voice, the man replied, “If it belongs to us, it will be there. If somebody else finds it and takes it, it belongs to them. If it is a gift from God, it will find its way to us.”

Khi về đến nhà, anh ta kể cho người vợ nghe anh ta đã tìm được một cái chum vàng lớn ở ngoài đồng.

“Nó đâu rồi?” người vợ hỏi. “Nếu có ai tìm thấy, họ sẽ lấy mất.”

Với giọng trầm tĩnh, người chồng trả lời, “Nếu nó là của ta, nó sẽ còn đó. Nếu người khác tìm được và lấy đi, thì nó là của người ấy. Nếu nó là của Trời cho, nó sẽ tự tìm đường về với mình.”



Hiding nearby, a thief overheard this conversation. The thief went to the field, found the pot, and took it home.

But when the thief opened the lid, he found... a big pot of snakes! He put the lid back on it and took it away as fast as he could.

Một kẻ trộm đang nấp gần đó nghe được câu chuyện. Kẻ trộm đi ra đồng tìm được cái chum rồi đem về nhà của hắn.

Nhưng khi kẻ trộm mở nắp ra, hắn thấy... một chum toàn là rắn! Hắn đập nắp lại và mang chum đi thật nhanh.



Next day, the man couldn't find the pot of gold in his paddy. He told his wife, "Somebody must have taken it. I couldn't find it. But if someone else has taken that gold, it is okay too," he said very calmly.

Ngày hôm sau, người chồng không thấy chum vàng ngoài đồng. Anh ta nói với vợ, "Có người đã lấy nó rồi. Tôi không thấy nữa. Nhưng nếu ai đã lấy số vàng đó, thì cũng được," anh ta nói với một giọng rất bình tĩnh.



The thief heard this conversation too. He thought, “That man must be a blind person. Or a crazy man. That pot only had snakes, no gold in it. I will bring this pot of snakes to his home so the snakes will bite him.”

The thief put the pot in front of the yard that belonged to the man and his wife.

Kẻ trộm cũng nghe được. Hắn nghĩ, “Thằng này phải là thằng mù. Hoặc là thằng khùng. Cái chum đó toàn là rắn chứ không có vàng. Tao sẽ mang cái chum rắn đến nhà cho nó cắn mày.”

Kẻ trộm bèn đặt cái chum trước sân nhà của hai vợ chồng kia.



Next day, the man found the pot. He opened the lid and...he found gold inside! He was very happy.

The man told his wife what he found. "I told you. If it was a gift from God, it would find its way home to us."

Ngày kế đó, người chồng thấy cái chum. Anh ta mở nắp ra và thấy vàng ở bên trong! Anh ta rất vui mừng.

Người chồng kể cho vợ nghe. "Tôi đã bảo. Nếu nó là của Trời cho, nó tự bò về nhà mình mà."



The man and his wife became rich, and they helped other poor people.

Moral of the story: If you are a good person,
you will have good outcomes.

Hai vợ chồng trở nên giàu có, và họ giúp đỡ những người
nghèo khác.

Luân lý của câu chuyện: Nếu bạn là người tốt,
những điều tốt đẹp sẽ đến với bạn.



Biographies

Researchers

MinJeong Kim, Ph.D., is associate professor in the College of Education at the University of Massachusetts Lowell (UML). Her research focuses on equity issues in literacy and language education of minority children. She recently conducted research on language and literacy socialization of Southeast Asian American children in classrooms as a research fellow at the Institute for Asian American Studies at UMass Boston. She has published extensively on language and literacy learning of children with diverse backgrounds including Asian American children and children with disabilities.

Allyssa McCabe, Ph.D., is professor of psychology at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. She got her Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Virginia in 1980 and has published over a hundred scholarly pieces. She has written scholarly books and articles on children's narrative development and a trade book for parents called *Language Games to Play with your Child*. Among other projects, she has conducted interventions with both parents and teachers to improve children's ability to narrate.

Phitsamay Sychitkokhong Uy, Ed.D. is associate professor in the College of Education and co-director of the Center for Asian American Studies at University of Massachusetts Lowell. Dr. Uy has also worked as a diversity trainer for the Anti-Defamation League, professional development facilitator for school districts, and research and evaluation consultant for colleges and universities. Her research focuses on Southeast Asian American educational experiences and family and community engagement. Dr. Uy also serves a board member of SEARAC, Institute for Asian American Studies at UMass Boston, and the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund (NSRCF).

Illustrators

Alicia Eafrazi ("The White Elephant") was born in Berlin, New Hampshire where she attended high school and received her associates degree in fine arts from White Mountains Community College. She is currently living in Portland Maine, studying illustration and creative writing at Maine College of Art. Her work has a focus in fantasy and wildlife, and she plans to direct her studies towards children's book illustrations in the future.

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Chrisna Khuon (“Why the Rabbit Doesn’t Drink from the Pond”) is a recent graduate from the University of Massachusetts Lowell with a BA in peace and conflict studies and a minor in English. She is currently a project coordinator at the Center for Asian American Studies at UMass Lowell. She was about 6 when she first realized her parents had survived war and genocide. Her mother, Chanthy Khuon, is Cambodian and has spent the last 18 years sharing her stories with Chrisna. These stories have had tremendous influence in how she sees the world and what she looks for in this world as well.

Kyle McHugh (“A Big Pot of Gold”) was born in Cambridge, MA and currently lives in Billerica, MA. Kyle is currently a senior at University of Massachusetts Lowell majoring in Fine Arts. His favorite medium is colored pencil because he believes that with colored pencils he can achieve colors that he wouldn’t be able to attain through digital imagery. Kyle’s hobbies besides drawing include long walks and gaming.

C.S. Night (“The Golden Starfruit Tree”) grew up in the small town of Derry, New Hampshire. Ever since she was young, she wanted to write and illustrate for herself, as well as for other people. She always had a passion for drawing, enjoying the experimentation of traditional multi-media: ink, paint, pastels, as well as colored pencils. She went to the University of Southern Maine to strengthen her skills as an artist and writer, utilizing those talents to bring characters to life by the use of vivid colors.

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Janet Paik (“The Greedy Dog and the Meat”) is a rising junior at the School of Visual Arts as a illustration major. Her parents immigrated from South Korea and she was born in Massachusetts in a very small town. Her interests include dabbling in animation, sculpture, and painting. She aspires to create her own animated short films. Writing poetry and taking direct inspiration from the power of spoken word has helped her form the feeling and content of her work. Since arriving in New York her desire has expanded to become more involved in supporting feminism, and partaking in activism. She sees herself working in the animation industry and as a freelance illustrator living in New York.

Instagram: [art_lumpling](https://www.instagram.com/art_lumpling)

Thomas Souphannarath (“Don’t Open Your Mouth”) graduated at UML Fall 2017 as a Fine Art major. In his spare time, he enjoys playing computer games, watching animated shows, and practicing digital art. Some artists he looks up to are Ross Tran and Anthony Jones. It was a pleasure for him to work on the illustrations for the story, “Don’t Open Your Mouth.” The illustrations are all done digitally on Photoshop. As a man of few words him-

self, he connected to the moral of the story on a personal level. These paintings are innocent and light-hearted. He hopes to find a job in the video game industry as a concept artist, storyboard artist, or animator.

Ellen Wetmore is a 2017 Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellow in Film/Video and of the 2017 A.R.T. Artist Grant from the Berkshire Taconic Trust. “Art is the mitigation of an atrocious world.” Born in Madison Wisconsin in 1972, and raised in Saginaw, Michigan, Wetmore lives in Groton, Massachusetts and is an Associate Professor of Art at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Anne Sibley O’Brien (“Why the Rabbit Doesn’t Drink from the Pond”) is a writer and illustrator who has published 36 books for young readers featuring diverse children and cultures, including a picture book about a Cambodian American family, *A Path of Stars*, which won the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature, Honor Book. She also illustrated *Jouannah: A Hmong Cinderella*, by Jewell Reinhard Coburn and Tzexa Cherta Lee. Annie was raised bilingual and bicultural in South Korea as the daughter of medical missionaries, and now lives on an island in Maine.
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