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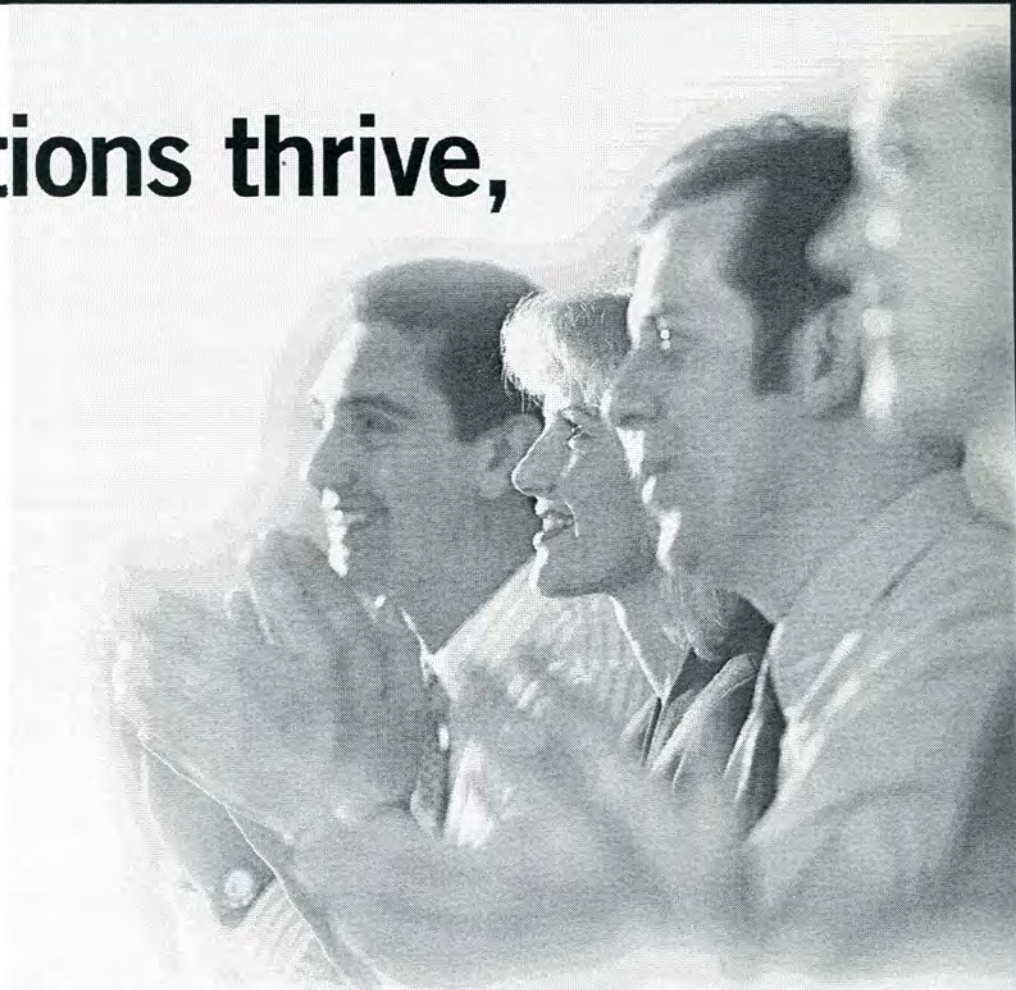
*Welcome to the
Ninth Annual Lowell
Southeast Asian
Water Festival!*

August 19-20, 2005

Major Funding Provided by the Theodore Edson Parker Foundation and the Wang Foundation

The 9th Annual Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival is made possible with the generous support from the Theodore Edson Parker Foundation and the Wang Foundation in collaboration with the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA), Lao Family Mutual Association (LFMA), Light of Cambodian Children, Inc. (LCC), Thai Association of Boston, Wat Buddha Bhavana, Trairantanaram Temple, Lowell National Historical Park, the City of Lowell, Jericho Road Project, Middlesex community Lowell, Lowell Telecommunication Corporation (LTC), Southeast Asian Bilingual Advocates Inc (Sabai), Keep Lowell Beautiful, Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center, Spindle City Corps Recycling, Lowell Police Department, Bob Pare Photography local businesses, community organizations, and numerous volunteers.

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- Lao Family Mutual Association (LFMA)
- Light of Cambodian Children, Inc. (LCC)
- Wat Buddhabhavana of MA
- Thai Association of Boston
- EVENT COORDINATOR
Tooch T. Van

Friday, August 12, 2005

Dear community members and friends:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival, Inc., I would like to extend a personal invitation for you to join us at the ninth annual Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival. As you may know, the festival celebrates an important aspect of Lowell's cultural diversity - the Southeast Asian community is Lowell's third largest ethnic population. The event showcases Southeast Asian boat races, traditional and contemporary performances and dances, international foods, handcrafted arts, and an art exhibits. Southeast Asians believe "Water is Life". To celebrate this belief, Cambodian, Thai, Lao people come together in Lowell to celebrate the connection of water to all aspects of life—food, agriculture, spirituality and economic prosperity.

The festival typically draws 50,000 to 60,000 visitors to Lowell's Merrimack River each year. This year's event will partake on Saturday, August 20, from 9:00 am-5:00 pm. Prior to the main event, we will have the Floating Candles Ceremony on Friday evening, August 19, from 5:00 pm -9:30 pm, in downtown Lowell at the Middlesex Community College Plaza, Lower Locks. This ceremony, which includes floating candles, incense, and flowers, is dedicated to each of our personal hopes and aspirations for a prosperous, dignified, and healthy life. A number of activities are planned between 5:00 pm and 9:30 pm with the Floating Candles Ceremony hoped to begin around 7:30 pm. Festival admission for both days is free.

The Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival, Inc. would like to acknowledge the generous support we have received from the Theodore Edson Parker Foundation and the Wang Foundation, as well as many other funders and sponsors. In addition to our incorporators, we would also like to thank the following organizations and entities in their commitment and dedication towards the success of this festival: Trairantanaram Temple, Lowell National Historical Park, the City of Lowell, Jericho Road Project, Middlesex community Lowell, Lowell Telecommunication Corporation (LTC), Southeast Asian Bilingual Advocates Inc (Sabai), Keep Lowell Beautiful, Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center, Spindle City Corps Recycling, Lowell Police Department, Bob Pare Photography, local businesses, community organizations, and numerous volunteers.

Once again, I hope you will join us to explore and experience the cultural enrichment the Southeast Asian Water Festival provides.

Sincerely,
Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival Inc.



FRIENDS OF THE WATER FESTIVAL

- Community Insurance Group, Inc.
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- Homeplace Realty
- Carabao Energy Drinks
- Louis Haskell, Attorney at Law

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City of Lowell
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

By his honor
Armand P. Mercier

Mayor

A Proclamation

Whereas *For centuries, the Southeast Asian Water Festival has been celebrated in recognition of the importance of water in all aspects of life such as food, agriculture, spiritual and economic prosperity; and*

Whereas *This year, the ninth annual Southeast Asian Water Festival is taking place here in Lowell along the banks of the Merrimack River, the very same river that furnished the mills with the power that made Lowell the manufacturing capital of America and the leader of the Industrial Revolution; and*

Whereas *Asians and non-Asians alike can come to the river today and take part in this traditional festival by enjoying music, dance, boat racing, foods and many other events which commemorate those which have been taking place in Southeast Asia for many centuries.*

Now, Therefore, I, **ARMAND P. MERCIER**, Mayor of the City of Lowell, Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim Saturday, August 20, 2005 as: "SOUTHEAST ASIAN WATER FESTIVAL DAY" in the City of Lowell, and urge all citizens to join in the celebration.

Given this 20th day of August 20 05

Armand P. Mercier

Armand P. Mercier

Mayor, City of Lowell



Koun Khmer TV Show (KKS) is a live show every Monday from 8:00pm to 9:00pm from LTC Channel 8, Lowell, Massachusetts.

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Lowell, MA 01853

The goal of KKS is to preserve Khmer traditional culture and art, and to provide local and international News to the community.

We are a proud supporter of the Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival!

Water Festivals in Southeast Asia

Written by Sarann Nuon and Sophy Theam

For many centuries in Southeast Asia, the Water Festival is an annual event celebrating the connection of water in all aspects of life – food, agriculture, spirituality and economic prosperity.

Although held at different parts of the year in different countries, water has always represented life and goodness to the peoples of Southeast Asia.

For instance, in Cambodia, the Water Festival begins on the first full moon at the end of October or November, at the time when the Mekong River reverses direction after filling up the Tonle Sap, the country's "Great Lake". When this phenomenon occurs, the downstream flow leaves behind an abundance of fish, marking a time for celebration and festivities. This includes the influx of over a million people from the countryside into the capital of Phnom Penh to witness the three-day boat racing event in which over 400 teams rowing 50-70 feet long boats compete.

In Thailand, the Water Festival is celebrated within the "Songkran" or the traditional Thai New Year. Just as in the countries of Cambodia and Laos, the New Year is celebrated from April 12th through the 15th. However, in Thailand, the celebration of Water is also incorporated into the festivities as it is believed water will wash away bad luck and bring in good luck for the incoming year. Therefore there are a lot of water



throwing aimed at everyone. And unlike Cambodia, the capital city pretty much empties of people as residents travel to their hometowns in the countryside to be with their relatives and close friends. Major celebrations take place in cities such as Chiang Mai and Sukhothai where traditional festivities are maintained.

And in Laos where although there is water throwing during the New Year in mid-April, their Water Festival, known as "Bun Nam" and more similar to Cambodia's "Bon Om Touk" is held around October also with boat racing ceremonies in riverside towns and cities such as Vientiane, Luang Prabang, and Savannakhet. Much smaller towns may hold their boat races on National Day which is on December 2nd.

Back here in the United States where many have now called "home", the celebration of water continues in the Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival. Now in its Ninth year, the event draws 50,000 – 60,000 people from all walks of life to the banks of the Merrimac River. Flocking from around the nation as well from Canada, France, and even Australia, the festival is a time to meet friends and acquaintances, enjoy all sorts of ethnic foods reminiscent of the street vendors in the markets back home, and experience a fusion of ethnic performances and activities including boat racing on the 50 -70 feet long boats that have been seen dotting the Mekong River for centuries. Water is the celebration of life. Water is Life!

MARTIN J. MCNULTY

Attorney at Law

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PATRICK J. MOGAN CULTURAL CENTER



The Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center is a program of
Lowell National Historical Park in partnership with
University of Massachusetts Lowell

Best Wishes

*to the all the staff, volunteers, and participants of
the Ninth Annual Southeast Asian Water Festival!*

*Thank you for celebrating
the importance of water in
our ongoing lives!*





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Program

Friday Evening (August 19, 2005 at the Lower Locks Area & Middlesex Community College Plaza)

No.	Time	Event
1.	5:00 pm	Ponleu Chiet Khmer Traditional Musicians
2.	5:25 pm	Blessing Ceremony
4.	6:00 pm	"Blessing Dance" by Somaly Hay & Co.
5.	6:15 pm	Special Guests
6.	6:25 pm	"Laos National Flower Dance" by Tamara Phongsavad
7.	6:35 pm	"Glorious Day Dance" by Somaly Hay & Co.
8.	6:45 pm	Ponleu Chiet Khmer Traditional Musicians
9.	6:55 pm	Somaly Hay Dance Troup
11.	7:15 pm	Candle light introductory by Ven. Sao Khon & Ven. Mongkon
12.	7:40 pm	Candle Floats
13.	8:30 pm	Music
14.	9:00 pm	Clean up

Saturday (August 20, 2005 by the Merrimac River) : Main Stage

No.	Time	Event
1.	9:30 am	Traditional Musicians & Chhayam
2.	10:00 am	Blessing Ceremony
3.	10:20 am	Khmer Band
4.	10:30 am	Introduction
5.	10:35 am	"Blessing Dance" by Angkor Dance Troupe
6.	10:45 am	"Tawada" by Tawada of Boston
7.	10:55 am	"Laos National Flower Dance" by Tamara Phongsavad
8.	11:00 am	Chhayam Drum parade
9.	11:10 am	Special Guests (Mayor, etc.)
10.	11:40 am	Khmer Band
11.	11:50 am	"Coconut Dance" by Angkor Dance Troupe
12.	12:00 pm	"Bic Phimmackack" by Laotian Community Center of RI
13.	12:10 pm	"Lum Tang Vuy" by Tawada
14.	12:20 pm	Salem Band
15.	12:30 pm	"Sva Pol" by Angkor Dance Troupe
16.	12:45 pm	Band Thai/Lao
17.	12:55 pm	"Cooki Phimmackack" by Laotian Community Center of RI
18.	1:15 pm	"Mokor" by Angkor Dance Troupe
19.	1:30 pm	Javeline Entertainment Inc./Neang Neak Angkor Dance troupe
20.	2:00 pm	Boat Observation
21.	3:05 pm	Anny Robert by Laotian Community Center of RI
22.	3:15 pm	Betrayed Band
23.	3:45 pm	Boat Race Final result
24.	4:30 pm	Lao/Thai Band
25.	5:00 pm	Closing & Clean up

Saturday (August 20st, 2005 by the Merrimac River): Stage II

No.	Time	Event
1.	10:30 am	Thai Band
2.	11:45 am	Cooki Phimmackack by Laotian Community Center of RI
3.	12:00 pm	Lum Tang Vuy by Tawada
4.	12:15 pm	Salem Modern Band
5.	12:45 pm	Javeline Entertainment Inc.
6.	1:00 pm	"Neang Neak" by Angkor Dance Troup
7.	1:15 pm	"Muythai" Demonstration
9.	1:20 pm	Betrayed Band
10.	1:40 pm	Lao Band
11.	2:00 pm	Observe Boat Race
12.	3:05 pm	Tawada by Tawada of Boston
13.	3:15 pm	Lao Dance
14.	3:30 pm	Khmer Band
15.	3:45 pm	Boat Race Results
16.	4:00 pm	Khmer Band & Closing

FREE BOAT TOURS!

Saturday, August 20th
from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Lowell National Historical Park will once again provide free boat tours on the Merrimac River!

Pick up your free Boat Tour Ticket at the Lowell National Historical Park and the Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival Information Booths!

The Boat Tours will be led by park rangers and youth interns.

Tours will begin from the Boat House to the Guard Locks historic site on the Pawtucket Canal.

This will be a great opportunity for some of the festival goers to get out on the water without being in one of the racing boats.

Tour guides will explain how the canals were used for transportation and industry. Therefore the tour will be a fun ride and educational too!





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Annual Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival!*

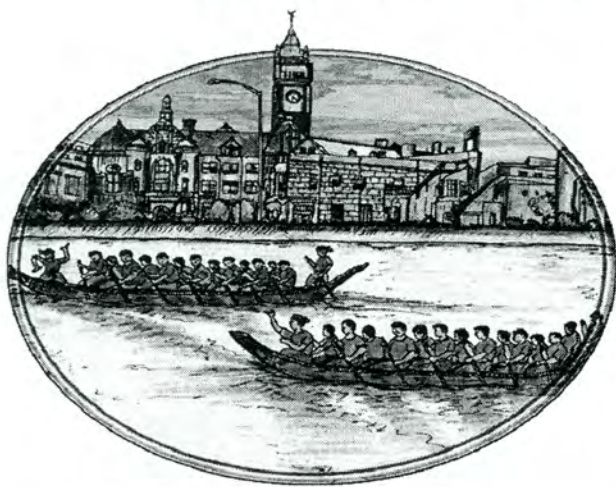


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ABOUT THE LOWELL SOUTHEAST ASIAN WATER FESTIVAL, INC.



The Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival was initiated in the summer of 1997 to bring the tradition of the boat races and the celebration of water to those who are living in the second largest Khmer community in the United States. The event has been acclaimed for being the largest water festival in the nation, drawing more than 60,000 participants each year. In 1999, the annual Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival was a critical component in helping make the City of Lowell the recipient of the 1999 All American City recognition. The Festival is now recognized internationally with participants from all walks of life and ethnicities coming from across the country and the globe including from Canada, France, and Australia.

The Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival, Inc. became incorporated as a non-profit organization with a Federal tax exempt status as a 501 (c)(3) entity in March 2004. The following organizations are incorporators of the Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival, Inc.:

Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell, Inc.
Lao Family Mutual Association
Light of Cambodian Children, Inc.
Thai Association of Boston
Wat Buddhavhavana of Massachusetts

The Board of Directors of the annual Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival, Inc. represents a cross-section of community organizations and individuals. These non-profits and individuals are committed to ensuring that the Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival, Inc. represents a wide number of constituents and voices across the communities.

(Photos by Andrew Page Photography, 2002-2003)



LOUIS L. PINN INSURANCE AGENCY

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1519 Middlesex Street, 2nd Floor
Lowell, MA 01851

Phone: 978.452.4748 * Fax: 978.452.4754

Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival, Inc.

Incorporators



Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association

Since its inception in 1984, the CMAA has played an important role in the success of Cambodian and other ethnic minorities here in Greater Lowell. The CMAA offers many important programs such as ESL courses, job training, youth programs, and cultural events. These programs have proven to be invaluable tools for a community comprised of refugees from war torn countries struggling to survive here in America. The CMAA is located at 165 Jackson Street, right in downtown Lowell.

Lao Family Mutual Assistance Association



Sayon Soeun

Executive Director

978.804.5055

ssoeun@lccweb.org

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Thai Association of Boston



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LZ Nunn and Paul
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Hai Cheng
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- * Chiuyeung Bakery (James Chin)
- * Lao United Church of Christ
- * The Salvation Army/Lao Group
- * Bangkok Desert
- * Garlic Bistro
- * The Wings of Hope of Cambodia
- * Malee Thai Food
- * Pho Bouachan of Baltimore
- * Thai Association
- * Sous Cousin
- * Bai Boon (2 booths)

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Regatta Field Parking Lot



Dunkin Donuts

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- * CCAF/Emmanuel Gospel Ctr. Inc.
- * Lowell General Hospital
- * Hope Worldwide
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Photo by Andrew Page Photography

២៧- រឿងបុរសមានកូន ៤ នាក់រៀនចំណេះ ៤ បទ

មានបុរសម្នាក់មានកូនប្រុស ៤ នាក់ បានសិក្សាវិជ្ជា ៤ បទ ស្តាប់ ចំណេះដឹងខ្លួន ពីម្នាក់ចេះស៊ី ម្នាក់ចេះដេក ម្នាក់ចេះកាត់ក្តី ម្នាក់បៀត ចេះចង់ស្រី ។ ឪពុកក៏យកកូនទាំង ៤ នាក់ទៅថ្វាយស្តេច ក្រាបទូលរាជ វិជ្ជាកូននីមួយៗក្នុងខណៈដែលថ្វាយនោះ ។ ស្តេចទ្រង់ទទួលរក្សាទុក ។ ថ្ងៃមួយស្តេចទ្រង់ពិសោធន៍បុរសម្នាក់ដែលចេះស៊ីជាមុនឱ្យរៀបអាជ្ញាធរ ជាច្រើនមុខ ។ បុរសនោះក៏បរិភោគតាមព្រះរាជបញ្ជា ដល់ទៅសម្បូរ មុខដែលស្តេចម្ចាស់ទឹកនៅមួយក្រចកក្នុងនោះ បុរសនោះមិនបរិភោគ ។ ស្តេចសួរបុរសនោះថា " ហេតុម្តេចបានជាទៅឯងមិនបរិភោគសម្ភារនេះ? " ។ បុរសក្រាបទូលថ្វាយថា " សម្ភារនេះមានទឹកនៅមួយក្រចកនៅក្នុងនោះបានជា ទូលព្រះបង្គំជាមិនទទួលព្រះរាជទាន " ។ ស្តេចនឹកក្នុងព្រះទ័យថា " បុរស នេះចេះវិជ្ជាខាងស៊ីស្លាប់មែន " ។ អំពីនោះទៅស្តេចទ្រង់ពិសោធន៍បុរស ចេះដេកទៀត ទ្រង់ឱ្យរៀបទីកន្លែងយ៉ាងស្អាត មានពួកកម្រាលក្រាលពិលី ។ ស្តេចយកសក់មួយសរសៃទៅដាក់ក្រោមក្រមាល លើពួកនោះដល់ពេលយប់ ទ្រង់ហៅបុរសនោះឱ្យទៅដេក ។ បុរសប្រដេកទៅក្រោមភ្លើងវិញភ្លាម ។ ស្តេចទ្រង់សួរថា " ហេតុម្តេចបានជាដេកហើយក្រោកវិញ ? " ។ បុរស នោះក្រាបទូលថា " មានសក់មួយសរសៃនៅក្នុងដំណេកនោះបានជាទូលព្រះ បង្គំជាមិនក្រោក " ស្តេចទ្រង់នឹកសសើរក្នុងព្រះទ័យថា " បុរសនោះស្លាប់ ខាង វិជ្ជាដេកច្រាបមែន " ។ ថ្ងៃមួយមានបុរសម្នាក់ស្លាប់នៅកណ្តាល វាល គ្មានភិក្ខុភាគស្នាមអ្វីនៅរូបកាយនោះសោះ ។ ស្តេចទ្រង់បញ្ជាឱ្យ តុលាការមុខក្រសួងស៊ើបសួររកហេតុនោះ ក៏ជុំឃើញទ្រង់ព្រះវិញ្ញាណ ព្រះ រាជហឫទ័យ ទ្រង់នឹកឃើញបុរសដែលចេះវិជ្ជាខាងផ្លូវតុលាការនោះ ក៏មាន ព្រះរាជឱង្ការឱ្យហៅចូលមក ហើយទ្រង់ចាត់ប្រើឱ្យទៅស៊ើបសួរកិរិយា រឿង នោះ ។ បុរសនោះ សូមព្រះរាជានុញ្ញាតិអំណាចក្នុងវេលាដែលស៊ើបសួរ ចរកការណ៍នោះ ។ ស្តេចក៏ព្រះរាជទានពរតាមសុំ ។ បុរសនោះចេញទៅ ដល់ទីកន្លែងដែលបុរសនោះស្លាប់ ចាត់ការហៅអ្នកស្រុកមកប្រជុំមិនឱ្យសល់ ម្នាក់ ហើយបុរសនោះ ហាមប្រាមថា " ក្នុងវេលាថ្ងៃស្អែកនេះមិនឱ្យ ទៅណាមកណាក្រៅពីភូមិខ្លួនទេ ឱ្យចូលទៅទាំងអស់គ្នាមើលអេទ្រីបុណ្យ រំលាយសពបុរសអនាថា ដែលស្លាប់នៅកណ្តាលវាលស្រែ លើកតែមនុស្ស ខ្វាក់ខ្លួនមិនត្រូវឱ្យទៅមើល ក្រៅពីនោះទាំងប្រុសទាំងស្រី ក្មេងចាស់ ត្រូវចូលទៅមើលទាំងអស់ " ។ ខណៈដែលរៀបចំរំលាយសពនោះ បុរស ជាអ្នកស៊ើបសួរ បានចាត់មនុស្សជាច្រើននាក់ ដែលបានពន្យល់ពីកិច្ចហេតុ ដែលយកការណ៍ក្នុងរឿងនោះ បើឃើញឈ្មោះណាប្រកប និងកិច្ចដែល បានពន្យល់នោះឱ្យយកឈ្មោះនោះមក ប្រគល់ឱ្យបុរសជាធានីមួយរំពេច ។ ពេលភ្លើងនេះពេញកម្លាំងមានស្រីក្រមុំ ម្នាក់ស្រក់ទឹកភ្នែកច្រោក ។ បុរសជាអ្នកតយតមើលហេតុ ក៏នាំខ្លួននាងនោះ ទៅស៊ើបសួរដំណើរដែល នាងយំនោះ ដោយយោបល់ដំណឹង ។ នាង ក្រមុំក៏និយាយតែ ដោះសារ ទៅជុំបាន ក៏ប្រាប់បុរសនោះតាមត្រង់ថា " ខ្លួននាងក្រមុំបានសាលាយំនឹង បុរសដែលស្លាប់ ទើបនឹងបានឮក្នុងយប់ដែល ស្លាប់នោះថា ដំណើរដែល

The Man With Four Sons...

Translated by Sophy Theam from "Khmer Folk Tales: Part 1" Published by the Buddhist Institute, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. 1959.

There was a man with four sons who learned to master four different skills. Son Number One knows how to eat well. Son Number Two knows how to sleep well. Son Number Three knows how the law well. And Son Number Four knows his way around women very well. The father brings his sons to meet the king, informing his royal highness each of his son's capabilities. The king agrees to keep the man's sons in his palace.

One day the king wanted to test the son who could eat well by having him eat a large number of dishes prepared by the palace cooks. Son Number One does as he was asked until he got to a soup in which the king had put a fingernail scoopful of uncooked water. The king asks him, "Why did you not eat that soup?" And the young man responds, "That soup has a fingernail scoopful of uncooked water. That's why I did not eat it." The king then thinks to himself, "That young man really knows how to eat well!"

The king then tests the son who could sleep well. He had his servants prepare a clean room with a nice mattress and decorative sheets. When the room was prepared, the king places one strand of hair under the sheets. And when night came, the king summons Son Number Two to go sleep on that bed. The young man lies on the mattress and immediately gets off the bed. The king asks him, "How come you laid down on the bed and suddenly got back off?" The young man tells the king, "Your majesty, there was a strand of hair under the sheets that made me get off of the bed." The king thinks to himself, "That young man really knows how to sleep well!"

There was one day when a man in the kingdom had died in an open field with no signs of beating or scarring of any kind. The king orders the courts to investigate the reason behind this death, but the courts did not come to a conclusion. His Majesty the King then remembers of Son Number Three who was well versed in the law. He asks the young man to look into the matter of the death and find out what exactly happened. The young man then asks permission to have full authority while he was conducting this investigation, which the king grants. He then sets out to the place where the deceased man lay and calls for a meeting with all the townspeople. The man warns the villagers, "Tomorrow, do not go anywhere outside of your own village. I want everyone to attend the funeral of this deceased man who had died in the middle of the rice fields. Everyone, with the exception of the blind and the handicapped, must be there."

During the cremation of the dead body, while the flames were burning at its highest point, a young woman was crying nonstop. The young man notices her and takes her aside for questioning. After a long while, the young woman finally gives up and tells the young man the truth. "I was with that man for the very first time the night he died. When he died, no one had beat him or anything like that. Just before we went to bed, he had asked me to get him some water to drink. I did not go out of my room because I was afraid my parents might know about us. So I took a silver bowl and held it outside my window to catch the rainwater that was coming down our grass roof. After he drank that water, he died." When the young woman finished her story, the young man thinks to himself, "This young woman did not have any ill intent towards that man because they had just been together that night. Dying in that manner, there must be some poisonous animal on top of that roof."

ស្តាប់នោះគ្មាននរណាវាយដុំធ្វើបាបអ្វីទេ គឺវេលាចូលដំណេកបុរសនោះប្រើ
នាងឱ្យទៅកំទឹកក្តៅ នាងក្រមុំមិនហ៊ានចេញទៅខ្លាចទឹកក្តៅយប់យប់ក៏យក
ខ្នើយត្រងទឹកក្តៅដែលប្តូរក្តៅក៏តាមស្បូវប្រក់ផ្ទះ នោះឱ្យទឹក លុះទឹកហើយ
ក៏បណ្តាលឱ្យដល់នូវមរណៈក្នុងខណៈនោះទៅ ។ បុរសដែលជាអ្នកស៊ើបសួរ
ក៏យល់ច្បាស់ក្នុងចិត្តថា "នាងក្រមុំនេះមិនមាន សន្តានចិត្តជាទុច្ចរិត

និងបុរសដែលស្តាប់នោះទេ ព្រោះទើបស្រឡាញ់គ្នាបាន ដូចគ្នាក្នុងខណៈពេល
ប្រាកដជាមានសត្វអាសិរពិសអ្វីនៅលើដំបូលផ្ទះនោះ បានបណ្តាលឱ្យបុរស
នោះស្តាប់ ។ បុរសជានាយទើបចាត់ឱ្យទៅមើល លើដំបូលផ្ទះនោះ
ឃើញពស់នាគរាជមួយនៅចំពីលើលែងដែលនាងក្រមុំ នោះមេក ។ បុរស
ជានាយក៏ឱ្យវាយពស់នាគរាជនោះយកទៅថ្វាយស្តេច ក្រាបទូលតាមដំណើរ
ហើយដោះលែងនាងក្រមុំនោះទៅដោយវិនិច្ឆ័យថា "ហេតុដែលបណ្តាល
ឱ្យបុរសនោះស្តាប់ មកអំពីទឹកក្តៅក្តៅលាយដោយពិស ពស់នាគរាជ
ដែលនាងក្រមុំនោះត្រងមកឱ្យទឹកដោយចេតនា ។ ស្តេចក៏ ទ្រង់សេរីរាជ

បុរសជានាយចេះស្តាប់ក្នុងការស៊ើបសួរខាងនូវតុលាការ មែន ។
ថ្ងៃមួយក្រោយមកមានសេដ្ឋីម្នាក់ស្តាប់ សេដ្ឋីនោះមានប្រពន្ធក្មេងល្អ ។
នាងនោះប្តេជ្ញាថា "មិនយកអ្វីទៀតទេ ។ ដំណឹងនោះជ្រាបដល់ស្តេច
ទ្រង់ឱ្យនាហ្មឺនសព្វមុខមន្ត្រីទៅចង់នាងមេម៉ាយជាប្រពន្ធខ្មោចសេដ្ឋីនោះ ។
នាហ្មឺនទាំងអស់ទៅចង់មិនបាន ។ ស្តេចទ្រង់គិតថា នាងនេះប្រហែលជា
មិនយកអ្វី ដូចដំណឹងដែលទ្រង់ជ្រាបនោះមែន តែទ្រង់គិតក្នុងព្រះរាជ
ហឫទ័យថា "នាហ្មឺនសព្វមុខមន្ត្រីទាំងនោះប្រហែលជាមិនពេញសេចក្តី
ប្រាថ្នានាងមេម៉ាយទេ បើអង្គរព្រះបរមប្រហែលជានាងព្រម ក៏ទ្រង់យាងទៅ
កាន់ផ្ទះនាងមេម៉ាយនោះ ហើយទ្រង់ឱ្យប្រាប់នាងថា "ល្ងាចនេះយើងមក
ផ្ទៀងនាង ឱ្យនាងរៀបចំទឹកក្តៅទៅទទួល ។ ពេលល្ងាចនាងរៀប
ក្រឡាព្រះបន្តី ហើយតែងស្រីបម្រើម្នាក់ដែលមានកើតស្រែងនៅខ្លួនមេម៉ាយ
ដោយគ្រឿងប្រដាប់សំរាប់ដាក់តែងរូបកាយស្រី គឺគ្រឿងមាសពេជ្រ ពិរ
គ្រឿងក្រអូបគ្រប់ប្រដាប់ ហើយឱ្យនាងនោះចូលទៅក្នុងទីក្រឡាព្រះបន្តី
ដែលរៀបចំទទួលស្តេចតាមព្រះរាជឱ្យ ។ ដល់ស្តេចយាងមកដោយព្រម
មិនបានពិតពិតសព្វគ្រប់ក៏ទ្រង់យល់ថា "ទីនេះជាទីនាងមេម៉ាយហែង

បានជាមនុស្សទាំងឡាយមិនហ៊ានមកនៅទីនេះ ក៏ទ្រង់ដាក់ព្រះអង្គគង់
ចងដោយសំគាល់ថា នាងមេម៉ាយហើយទ្រង់ផ្ទៀងជាមួយនាងនោះ រួចហើយ
ទ្រង់កំណត់ព្រះចិន្តាថា "អញមកចង់នាងនេះបានហើយ ។ ដើម្បីឱ្យ
ឃើញ ជាស្តេចតាមដល់ភ្នែកអ្នកទាំងពួងផង ស្តេចក៏ទ្រង់ខាំផ្តាល់នាងនោះ
ជាសំគាល់ រួចទ្រង់យាងមកព្រះបរមរាជវាំងវិញ ទ្រង់មានព្រះរាជឱ្យ
ផ្តាំថា "ព្រឹកស្អែកនេះឱ្យនាងចូលទៅគាល់ស្តេចកុំខាន ។ ត្រង់យាង
ដល់ព្រះបរមរាជវាំង ក៏ទ្រង់មានព្រះរាជឱ្យប្រាប់ អស់នាហ្មឺនសព្វមុខមន្ត្រី
ថា "ព្រះអង្គយាងទៅចង់នាងនោះបាន មានទាំងសំគាល់ស្នាមព្រះទន្តនៅ
ផ្តាល់នាងនោះផង ហើយទ្រង់បានប្រាប់ឱ្យចូលមកគាល់ព្រឹកនេះ ឱ្យនាហ្មឺន
សព្វមុខមន្ត្រីទាំងអស់ចាំមើល ។ ដល់នាងមេម៉ាយចូលមកគាល់យកទាំងស្រី

បីដៃលាក់តែងកាយទទួលស្តេចពីយប់នោះមកជាមួយផង លុះចូលមក
គាល់ក៏អង្គុយតាមមុខក្រោយនាងមេម៉ាយអង្គុយមុខស្រីបីដៃអង្គុយក្រោយ ។
ស្តេចឱ្យនាហ្មឺនទៅពិនិត្យមើលកន្លែងសំគាល់ដែលទ្រង់បានប្រាប់ហើយនោះ ។
លុះភ្នាក់ងារដែលទទួលព្រះរាជឱ្យទៅពិនិត្យគ្រឿងមកទទួលស្តេចវិញថា
នាងអង្គុយក្រោយនោះមានស្នាមនៅផ្តាល់ជាសំគាល់ដោយឆ្មេញ វាងនាង
មេម៉ាយ គ្មានស្នាមអ្វីជាសំគាល់ទេ ។ ស្តេចក៏ចូលព្រះរាជហរទ័យដោយ
សេចក្តីទ្រេសមិនបានពិនិត្យជាមុនក៏ទ្រង់ព្រះចិន្តាព្រះវិទេវទៅឃើញថា "នាង
នេះជាស្រីមានប្រាជ្ញានិងអក្សកងណាទៅចង់នាងពុំបាន ក៏ទ្រង់នឹកដល់
បុរសដែលជាអ្នកស្តាប់ខាងវិជ្ជាចង់ស្រី ក៏ទ្រង់មានព្រះរាជឱ្យឱ្យ ចូលមក
គាល់ ។ ស្តេចក៏មានព្រះរាជឱ្យសួរទៅបុរសនោះថា "ឯងទៅ
ចង់នាងមេម៉ាយជាប្រពន្ធស្មើបានឬទេ ? បើឯងត្រូវការវត្ថុអ្វីទ្រង់ព្រះរាជ
ទានទាំងអស់ ។ បុរសនោះក្រាបទូលថា "ទទួលតាមបន្ទាល់ដោយ

After the funeral, the young man then goes to the young woman's house and climbs to the top of the roof. And sure enough, there was a King Cobra coiled right on top of the woman's bedroom. He beats the cobra with a club and brings it to the king. "The reason that man died without any bruises or scarring is because he had drunk rainwater poisoned by this cobra's venom. And this young woman had offered the water to the man unknowingly." The king then praises the young man to himself, "This Young Man really knows how to investigate well."
Shortly thereafter, a rich man in the kingdom passes away, leaving a beautiful young wife behind. This young wife was resolute in not taking another husband. Upon hearing about her, the king commands all of the ministers of the palace to try to court her into marrying one of them. But no one succeeds. The king then thinks, "It must be true then that this young widower will not want another husband. But maybe it is because the level of the ministers is too low for her. Perhaps I can win her over." The king then offers a visit to the widower's house and tells her from the ground, "Tonight, I will be joining you. Please prepare your house for me."
That evening, the widower prepares the bed for the king, and dresses up a maid to be with the king as if she were the widower. When the king arrives, he inspects the bedroom and satisfied, says to himself, "This must be the room of the widower's. That's why no one dares to enter here." He goes to the bed where the maid was sleeping and hugs her, saying, "I have won over you!" As proof of his victory, he lightly bit one of her cheeks and left the woman to go back to his palace.
He sent a messenger to summon the widower to the palace the next morning. The next morning came, and after telling the ministers to look out for the bite mark on the cheek, the widower and her maid entered the main chamber of the palace. The maid sat just behind the widower. The king's messenger had been ordered to look for the mark on the widower, but he found none on the beautiful woman who was sitting in the front. He informs the king, "There was a bite mark on the woman that was sitting in the back, but I saw no sign of your mark on the widower." The king then blames himself for being so reckless as to not inspect the woman he was with carefully the night before. He says to himself, "This is a very smart woman. It's impossible to find anyone to win her over!" He then thought of Son Number Four.
The Young Man who specialized in wooing women was asked to meet the king. "Do you think you will be able to

មិនចាំបាច់យកវត្ថុជាឧត្តមទៅទេ សុំតែសំពត់ជាវិបសមាសយកទៅល្បែង
 ពាក់ ហើយនឹងឆ្អឹងគោមួយថោ វេទខ្ពស់ជាប់ទៅនឹងខ្លួនតែប៉ុណ្ណោះ ។
 នាងមេម៉ាយជាប្រពន្ធខ្មោចស្បើ វេលាដែលត្រឡប់ពីគាល់ស្តេចវិញ
 ក៏រៀបសាលាធ្វើបុណ្យខ្មោចស្បើជាថ្មី វិលាយសត្វស្រេច រើសធាតុយក
 មកខ្ពង់តម្កល់លើសាលាបុណ្យឆ្នង ។ វេលាយប់នោះ បុរសដែលទទួលប្រពន្ធ
 រាជឱង្ការបានទៅដល់លើសាលាដែលនាងមេម៉ាយធ្វើបុណ្យខ្មោចស្បើ ដែល
 បុរសនៅវេលាព្រឹកស្អែកនោះ ដល់ហើយធ្វើជាយំសោកនឹកខ្មោចប្រពន្ធ
 ស្លាប់ ដែលមានធាតុស្លាយជាប់ខ្លួនផង ដោយសេចក្តីទុក្ខយ៉ាងខ្លាំង ។
 បណ្ឌិតក្រុមនាងមេម៉ាយដែលនៅលើសាលានោះ ទាំងប៉ុន្មានមាតិ
 សេចក្តីឆ្ងល់ភ័ន្តរាងគ្រប់គ្នា សួរទៅបុរសនោះថា ហេតុអ្វីអ្នកមកយំ
 សោកចោកខ្លួនប្រណែនលើទីនេះខ្លាំងម្ល៉េះ ? ។ បុរសនោះប្រាប់ទៅ
 អ្នករក្សាសាលានោះថា ខ្ញុំឃើញគេធ្វើបុណ្យខ្មោចស្បើនោះ ខ្ញុំនឹក
 ឃើញដល់ខ្មោចប្រពន្ធខ្ញុំដែលបានស្លាប់ដោយសង្វេគ និង ទុក្ខវេទនាដែល
 ប្រាត់ប្រាសជាថ្មីមួយជាន់ទៀត ខ្លួនខ្ញុំ ទាំងពីរប្រពន្ធស្លាប់ទៅជាយូរហើយលឿង
 បង់ការងារទោលអស់ស្តាយតែធាតុប្រពន្ធដើរដោយសេចក្តី អាណោះអា
 ល្មើយ ។ ហើយបុរសនោះសុំអ្នកចាំ សាលាស្នាក់មួយយប់ ។ បុរស
 ដែលចាំសាលាមិនហ៊ានសំរេចដោយខ្លួនឯង ក៏យកសេចក្តីនោះទៅជំរាម
 នាងមេម៉ាយ ជាចៅហ្វាយ តាមដំណើរដែលបុរសនោះអធិប្បាយអំពី
 សេចក្តីកំសត់របស់ខ្លួន ហើយសុំសាលាស្នាក់ ។ នាងមេម៉ាយមាតិ
 ចិត្តអាណិតដល់បុរសកំសត់ ដែលមានទុក្ខប្រាត់ប្រាសប្រពន្ធ នោះក៏យល់
 ព្រមឱ្យស្នាក់ ហើយបង្គាប់ទៅមនុស្សបម្រើឱ្យរៀបអាហារ ហោជនឱ្យទាន
 បុរសនោះផង លុះយប់នាងមេម៉ាយទៅស្តាប់ធម៌ទេសនាឆ្នងបុណ្យខ្មោចស្បើ
 នៅលើសាលាតម្កល់ធាតុទុកនៅនោះ ។ បុរសចង់ស្រីក៏ សំរំធ្វើ
 ជាដេកលក់ទៅ ។ នាងមេម៉ាយស្តាប់ធម៌ទេសនាចប់ត្រឡប់មកផ្ទះ វិញ ។
 បុរសជាអ្នកចង់ស្រីឃើញឱកាសស្ងាត់ល្អ ក៏លួចយកធាតុប្រពន្ធទៅ ដាក់
 ប្របធាតុស្បើជាប្តីនាងមេម៉ាយ ។ លុះដល់ព្រឹកឡើង នាងមេម៉ាយចូល
 ដល់សាលា បុរសនោះស្រែកយំខ្លាំងថា អ្នកណាឈ្លួតយកធាតុប្រពន្ធខ្ញុំ
 ទៅបាត់ ។ នាងមេម៉ាយឆ្ងល់ក៏សួរបុរសនោះថា ហេតុអ្វីអ្នកឯងយំ
 ខ្លាំងម្ល៉េះ ? ។ បុរសនោះប្រាប់ទៅនាងមេម៉ាយវិញថា អ្នកណា
 លួចប្រពន្ធខ្ញុំទៅបាត់ ហើយចោទប្រកាន់ទៅលើនាងមេម៉ាយថា ខ្មោច
 ប្តីនាងមេម៉ាយលួចប្រពន្ធខ្លួនទៅ ។ នាងមេម៉ាយមានសេចក្តីអត់
 ចិត្តនឹងបុរសនោះប្រកាន់ដល់ខ្មោចប្តីថា លួចប្រពន្ធខ្លួន ក៏នាំបុរសនោះឱ្យទៅ
 មើល ឃើញនៅជិតគ្នាមែន ។ បុរសក៏ចោទប្រកាន់ខ្លួននាងមេម៉ាយថា ប្តី
 នាងយកប្រពន្ធបាត់ ធ្វើជាប្រពន្ធខ្លួនឯង លុះតែនាងព្រមធ្វើជាប្រពន្ធបាត់
 វិញ ទើបព្រមសុខចិត្ត ។ សេចក្តីចោទដល់ខ្លួននាងមេម៉ាយនោះ ជា
 អំណរច្រើនណាស់ដោយឧបាយកលយ៉ាងល្អិត ។ នាងមេម៉ាយរកត្រូវដោះ
 សារក្លានក៏ចាញ់កលនោះជាទម្ងន់ ថែមទាំងមានសេចក្តីអត់ចិត្តនឹងខ្មោចប្តីខ្លួន
 ដែលស្លាប់នោះថា ជាមនុស្សគ្មានសប្បុរសដល់ប្រពន្ធក៏ពុំកើតទុក្ខនឹងខ្លួន
 វោនទៅលួចប្រពន្ធតេយកមកបញ្ជើនៅមុខ ក៏ទទួលព្រមយកបុរសនោះធ្វើជា
 ប្តី ជាសេចក្តីតបទៅនឹងខ្មោចប្តីខ្លួនដែលលួចប្រពន្ធបុរសនោះវិញ។ ចំណែក
 បុរសនោះ ដល់បាននាងមេម៉ាយជាប្រពន្ធ ៣-៤ ថ្ងៃ ក៏បបួលគ្នាទៅគាល់
 ស្តេច ៗ និងនាហ្មឺនសព្វមុខមន្ត្រីបានទតឃើញក៏មានសេចក្តីសរើរដល់បុរស
 នោះថា ជាអ្នកមានវិជ្ជាចេះចង់ស្រីប្រាកដមែន ។

successfully court the rich man's widow? If you need anything, let me know. I will give you anything you need to assist you." The Young Man answers back, "Your Highness, I will not need any valuable possessions to help me. I just would like an old white fabric to wear and a pot of cow bones that I can carry with me always."

After leaving the palace, the Widower prepares her deceased husband's funeral at the temple. When the body was fully cremated, she collects his ashes, puts them in an urn and displays them for all to see and pray for. The Young Man, clothed only in old, faded white fabric arrives at the temple where the funeral was taking place. He then begins wailing in sorrow about his deceased wife, whose bones are always with him.

The Widower's funeral guests are startled to hear the man sobbing like a child. They ask him, "Why are you in so much sorrow?" The Young Man replies to the caretaker of the temple, "When I see the funeral of the Rich Man, it makes me think of the death of my dear wife who died so horribly and painfully. It reminds me of my separation with my lovely wife. I have died with my wife a long time ago, leaving everything I have except for her bones, wandering around everywhere in sadness." The Young Man then asks the Caretaker if he can spend the night on the temple grounds. The Caretaker tells him that he cannot grant him permission because the Widower is the owner of the grounds and he would have to ask her first.

After listening to the story of the sorrowful man, the Widower agrees to let him sleep for the night and even has her servants prepare food for him. That evening, the Widower stays at the temple until the prayers are finished while the Young Man pretends to be asleep. After the prayers, the Widower goes back to her house. Seeing this as an opportune time, the Young Man takes his "wife's bones" and lays them next to the ashes of the Rich Man.

The next morning, the Widower comes back to the temple to see the Young Man sob endlessly. "Someone has stolen my wife's bones! Who has taken my wife's bones? Someone has stolen my wife!" The Widower approaches the Young Man and asks him, "What is the matter?" The Young Man replies, "Someone has stolen my wife! Your dead husband must have stolen my wife away from me!" Feeling a pang of disappointment that her dead husband may have stolen the Young Man's wife, the Widower leads the Young Man to the main temple where her husband's ashes were, and sure enough the urn of her husband's ashes and the bones of the Young Man's wife were right next to each other!

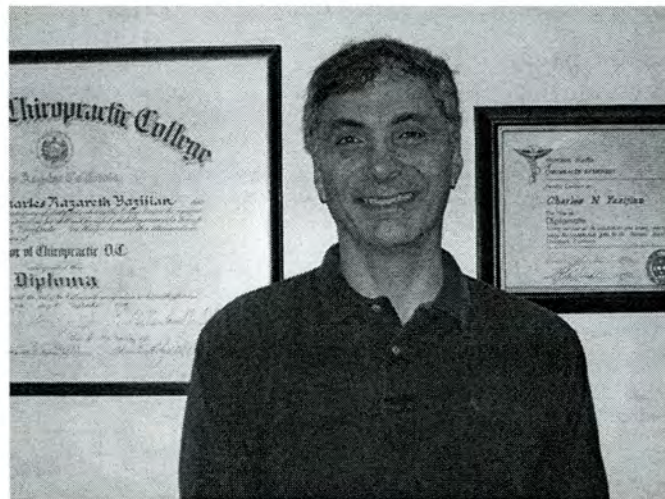
Upon seeing that, the Young Man says to the Widower, "You see, your dead husband HAS taken my wife as his own! The only fair thing is for me is to take you as my wife in return!" Being unable to get herself out of this situation, and also feeling disappointed that her dead husband was not gentlemanly enough to think about the sorrow his own living wife was going through, in addition to witnessing her husband taking someone else's wife right in front of her, the Widower agreed to become the Young Man's wife as Revenge.

After being married to the woman for three or four days, the Young Man brings his new wife to the palace for all to see. This time, both the king and the ministers praised him. "This Young Man does indeed know how to win over a woman!"

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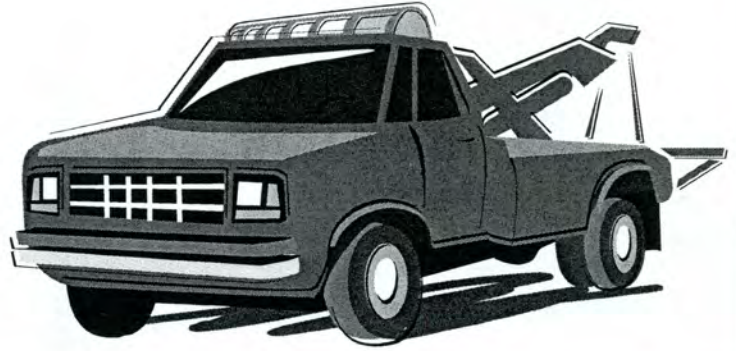
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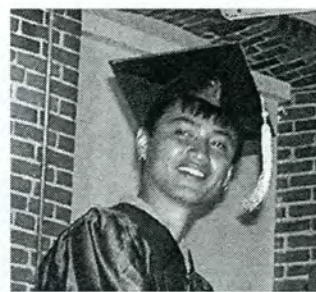


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LOY KRATONG – “Festival of Light”

On the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month (November), the tide in the rivers is highest and the moon at its brightest, creating a romantic setting ideal for lovers. The Thai people choose this day to hold the 'Loy Kratong' festival, or the 'festival of light.' Loy Kratong is one of the two most recognized festivals in the country.

Loy Kratong is probably the most picturesque and beautiful of all Thai celebrations. 'Loy' literally means 'to float,' while 'kratong' refers to the lotus-shaped receptacle which can float on the water. Originally, the kratong was made of banana leaves or the layers of the trunk of a banana tree or a spider lily plant. A kratong contains food, betel nuts, flowers, joss sticks, candle and coins. The making of a kratong is much more creative these days as many more materials are available.

The Loy Kratong ritual is a simple one. One needs only to light the candles and the joss sticks, make one's wishes and let it float away with the current of a river or a canal. On that day, thousands of people will gather beside the canals and rivers. With kratong in hands, they light the candle, put some coins in the kratong and silently make a wish, and carefully place their kratongs in the water and release them to the current. They watch intently as the float drifts silently downstream, hoping that the candle will not go out. Its flame is said to signify longevity, fulfillment of wishes and release from sins. Altogether it is considered a romantic night for couples or lovers. Couples who make a wish together on Loy Kratong are thought to stay together in the future.

Origins

Different legends surround the origins of Loy Kratong. The most popular version is it was an expression of gratitude to the goddess of water 'Phra Mae Kongka' for having extensively used, and sometimes polluted, the water from the rivers and canals. It is also in part a thanksgiving for her bounty in providing water for the livelihood of the people.

Some believe the festival originates from Buddhism. They say the offering of flowers, candles and joss-sticks is a tribute of respect to the footprint of the Lord Buddha on the sandy beach of the Narmaha River in India, as well as to the great Serpent and dwellers of the underwater world, after the Lord Buddha's visit to their watery realm. It is possible that this is derived from a Hindu festival that pays tribute to the god Vishnu, who meditates at the center of the ocean.

Others believe that the floral kratong is offered to the pagoda containing the Lord Buddha's topknot, which was cut off at his self-ordination and is now in heaven. Another explanation is that it is a way to pay respect to one's ancestors.

Whatever the true origin, the practice of Loy Kratong first began in the ancient kingdom of Sukhothai in the 13th century. A young queen named Nang Noppamas was believed to be the one who made a small boat laden with candles and incense and floated it down the river. The name Nang Noppamas has been associated with Loy Kratong ever since.

Today, Loy Kratong offers a unique occasion to celebrate. It is a good time for people to make wishes and look to the future as they float their floral offerings along the waterways.



Photo by Sayon Soeun



***Special thanks to Wat Buddhavhavana for making all of the candle floats once again for this year's "Candle Float Ceremony" to be held on Friday, August 19th, at the Lower Locks canal located off of the Middlesex Community College Campus.**



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