

### **Lao Focus Group, story 3**

Moderator: There are similar moral stories in the Buddhist scriptures and so that's a similar one where they use it as part of temple. So when they have the young students who come in that do the Buddhist scriptures based on his life and those stories and then they do Lao stories that are much more contextualized to the Lao villagers, depending on where they're at.

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Moderator: So there's a husband and wife.

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Translator: His wife making a full, deliver a lunch for husband.

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Translator: Every day.

Moderator: So the wife—there's two couple, the husband and wife. The wife prepares food for a lunch for her husband every day and delivers it every day.

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Moderator: And so the husband is hungry, because he doesn't have any food with him.

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Moderator: So she was giving ohms to the temple first, before she was able to bring the food to her husband.

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Moderator: So his stomach was growling and he's really hungry and it's growling and he's rubbing his tummy and saying, "I'm really hungry. I'm famished."

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Moderator: And he's like, I wonder where my wife is. Why is she a little bit late?

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Moderator: And so when she came with the food, he couldn't quite eat, because he'd lost his appetite.

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Moderator: About his appetite. She's like, I'm sorry I'm late, because I had to go give ohms to the monks first.

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Moderator: And then I had to come back home and steam some more rice for you to come give it to you.

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Moderator: The husband says, I'm grateful that you were able to give ohms first.

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Moderator: So part of the blessing is to get—the monk blesses the water that is sort of like the christening version of the Christians and so for him, he took the Christian water and rubbed it all over himself and then he wasn't as hungry. Did I get that right?

R: Yeah.

R: No.

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R: She said that her husband—the monk—prior to that, the monk also went to the husband to get food to . . . and then the husband doesn't have any food to offer. The husband offered the water from the well or to the monk and then the monk took that water to wash himself.

Moderator: Okay. Did you guys get that? So in the Lao culture, the monks come in the morning with their bowl of alms to get—so this is their acts of compassion where people will make food and prepare food and so this is their—the villagers' chance to contribute to their next life. So when he came around to the husband, he didn't have any food, but he had fresh well water and so the monk was able to take the water and cleanse himself. He didn't have food to offer, but he had water to offer. And so that was his ohms giving prior to his wife giving food to the monk.

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Moderator: So they were both happy and grateful that they were able to contribute. So the husband was able to contribute the water and be able to pray to Buddha and thank him.