

Lao Focus Group, story 5

R: . . . my dog and meat.

Moderator: Okay, so this is a story about a dog and . . .

R: And meat.

Moderator: And the meat.

R: Okay? I learned at school very young about this.

Moderator: So he learned this when he was younger.

R: Yes.

Moderator: The dog, he traveled from his house to go to another . . . , then he found the meat. Small meat.

R: Somewhere between—somebody left on the road somewhere.

Moderator: Okay.

R: Then he walked with the meat in the mouth, so when he passed the bridge, the water right there, passed by the sun was very [shy] and he was looking in the water. He sees the meat, it's very big.

Moderator: The reflection of the meat?

R: He said, oh, I'm going to get that big meat. His meat in there.

Moderator: Uh huh.

R: And he dropped the small meat and jumped to the water to get the meat. There's no meat and he lost the small piece of meat. And he cannot swim. And the alligator come help him out to cross the river to across the river, the dog pooped on the alligator's head. That's why you see the poop head in there? That's a dog poop in there. Yes. Then . . .

Moderator: But why? Why would he poop on his head?

R: Because he needs to hunt. He got mad to the alligator.

Moderator: Why? What did the alligator do?

R: He opened the mouth, that's why he was afraid the alligator was going to eat him. He pooped in the head.

Moderator: Okay, so we missed that, right? So as he—what, the alligator came to take the dog across. The dog was afraid of the alligator, because he opened his mouth.

R: Uh huh.

Moderator: And so when—like the scared poopless. So he was so scared, he pooped.

R: Came out from him.

Moderator: So he pooped on his head and then he jumped off the alligator's head.

R: Uh huh. What we learn from here? Okay? Okay.

Moderator: Okay.

R: Okay, what we learn in here. Two things we have to learn in here. When people give you—you found the meat, it belongs to you, not belongs to somebody or . . . to steal another piece of meat from somebody.

Moderator: Mm-hmm, so be grateful for what you have and not what someone else has?

R: Yeah, then . . .

R: Poop on the alligator head.

R: Then you learn from the dog right here? You learn from the dog, from here, that people help you out, give you food or carry or something, you get accident. You show respect, say thank you, not poop on their head, okay?

Moderator: So learn that lesson and say no pooping, but you have to be thankful.

R: So the dog never learned his lesson.

R: No. He's still learning from that. You, say thank you, you know?

[Crosstalk]

Moderator: So that story, the title for the story is The Dog and His Meat? Right? So once upon a time, there was a dog and he was in a village and he was walking to another village, right? So along the way, when he walked to the other village, he saw a small piece of meat on the side of the road. And so he got all excited, he was like, "Okay, I'm going to take this piece of meat with me." So as he is traveling, the meat has—so I'm thinking it's the bone with a little meat on it, right? So he grabs onto it and has it into his teeth. And as he was walking, he's crossing over a bridge and it was really bright and so he looked down and he saw his reflection in the water and he noticed that in the reflection in the water, there was a bigger piece of meat. Because the light shining on the reflection causes . . .

R: He was greedy.

Moderator: And so he was like, “I don’t want this one. I want that one down there.”

R: Yes, exactly.

Moderator: So he opens his mouth, dives down, but he can’t swim. Along came the friendly alligator in the . . . River, says, “I’ll help you across, so just get on top of my back.” But he’s afraid. So he gets on his back, because he’s going to take him to the other side of the river, but he gets afraid of the—the dog becomes afraid of the alligator, because the alligator kept opening up his mouth and so he was scared poopless, so he pooped onto the alligators head and jumped off and ran away. The end. No meat?

R: No meat.

R: No nothing.

Moderator: And no nothing. The moral of the story is be thankful.

R: So that’s the end of the greedy dog.

Moderator: Be thankful for what you have.

R: Mm-hmm.

R: And be appreciative of people who help you and so don’t poop on them, but say thank you instead.

R: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

R: We have the exact same Korean version, but there was no alligator. But the dog barked at the dog in the water to take the bigger piece and then lost his. That was the end. So if you are greedy, then you're going to lose.

Moderator: What you have.

R: Yeah, what you have.

R: Yes.

Moderator: Wow, that’s a nice story. I like that one. Don’t be greedy. Don’t be greedy and don’t be poopy.

R: That’s it.

R: That’s it, okay.