

## Lao Focus Group, story 2

R: She was—there's a story about the mother and the son that he's a farmer and the mother is the one that's supposed to bring the lunch to the son and one day the mother that bring the rice, the lunch to the son, is late and he was too hungry and he was frustrated and he ended up hitting his mother and kill her. So I mean, this story is teaching about the anger of youth that in that moment, when you're out of control, when you cannot hold yourself, and then you end up doing something really bad and you're going to regret it in life.

R: Do you remember how it was told?

R: Um.

R: He was eating the rice.

R: Yeah.

R: He didn't finish it. Everything to fill up and he—too late to say sorry. He already kill his mom.

R: It escalated so quickly.

R: Yes.

R: And he build a statue in the temple for the mom—I kill my mom. He go pray that every time he go to temple, my mom.

R: This story, I can—I remember quite a bit, okay? So maybe I can . . .

R: Yeah, tell the story from the beginning?

R: I went to a temple, probably like seven or eight years old and I always hear this story all the time. We tend to—when we're young, we don't know how to conserve. Not just the temple part, but the food that we consume. A lot of times we're wasteful. So the monk and the elder—our father, mother always tell us, you know, don't be wasteful, you know how . . . or whatever.

Moderator: Like one ball of rice.

R: Yes. So the story begin when the mother, who's trying to get the food ready for the son and it's the end of the harvest, okay, where the food is still being harvest, so we don't have that much. So the mother only have one handful, not even handful, probably . . .

Moderator: One bite.

R: Yeah, one bite, and so he bring over and the mother already scared that it's going to be late, okay? Because it's around noontime, because the son didn't get to eat breakfast or anything like that. Breakfast in our country is the big, big thing, you know? And the son skipped breakfast, so he's hungry after a long afternoon, hard work, you know, in the farm. Plowing and all that. So he's waiting for his mom. Finally, his mom show up. He said, "Why'd it take you

so long?" He's scolding his mom, you know, cursing and stuff like that, you know, right away, what do we learn? You know, we learn that he's disrespectful. We learn that he's very impatient. We learn that he's really mean, okay? And basically the elder, from what I learned from, and the monk that taught me, is that, you know, you're supposed to be the opposite.

So the summary of the story is that he—instead of focus on what she brought him and the lunch, you know, only have salt and one bite. She didn't even get to eat. She saved that bite, you know, to give him. And when soon she brought that over and she was trying to explain she didn't—I mean, he didn't want to hear what she had to say, so it just—you know, hit her, club her and she died. After she died, now he's still hungry. He look at the bite he's about to eat, but he could not eat. He realized that, you know, his impatience got the best of him and then, you know, and killed his own mom and he wanted to say sorry, but he couldn't. He wanted to eat, but he couldn't. You know, so the moral of the story is that it's not what you want, it's what you have and make the best of it, I guess. Okay, like that. It's really—the elder probably can tell better than what I can.