

## Lao Focus Group, story 6

Moderator: So it's a true story?

...

Moderator: A long time ago.

...

Moderator: In the heritage city of . . .

...

Moderator: There's four.

R: Four kings.

Moderator: Four kings in the ancient . . .

...

R: Four kings?

Moderator: So there's four kingdoms in the olden times, . . . yeah. And . . . So those are the four regions of Laos. Northern, middle . . .

R: Four kings.

Moderator: So the four kingdoms of Laos.

...

Moderator: One of the kingdoms, his name is . . .

...

Moderator: He's the king of . . .

...

Moderator: He was sleeping and he was dreaming.

...

Moderator: He was dreaming that he was crossing the river.

...

Moderator: King what?

...

Moderator: What's a . . . ?

R: Poop.

Moderator: The king? Okay, why are people eating poop?

...

Moderator: Okay, so he had a dream that he was eating poop?

...

Moderator: Okay.

...

R: Why is everything about poop?

Moderator: I don't know.

R: We'll find out.

...

...

Moderator: Okay, so he's straddling the [Meekon] River with one leg on each side of the Meekon River.

...

Moderator: So as he's eating the poop—I'm so glad we finished eating.

...

Moderator: He wakes up. This is a dream. He goes to the temple and talks to [Ajon] who is the monk.

...

Moderator: Ajon's name is . . .

...

Moderator: So he interprets the dream for them and says, oh, you're going to have good luck.

...

Moderator: So now you need to travel north, up north.

...

R: By boat.

Moderator: By boat.

...

R: Canoe boat.

Moderator: By the canoe boat, so it's by yourself, paddle up.

...

R: The waterfall.

Moderator: Okay, so he approaches a waterfall.

...

Moderator: There's one piece of gold, just like a lime, the size of a lime, a gold nugget.

...

Moderator: So as he was canoeing, he struck a golden nugget the size of a lime?

...

Moderator: He says if you come upon a golden nugget, don't take it. So when you're at the top of the waterfall?

R: Yeah, the big waterfall.

...

Moderator: Now as he's paddling, now the nugget is now a pound of gold nugget.

R: Not a pound, coconut.

R: Coconut.

R: It's a big one.

Moderator: It's not a pound, it's a coconut.

...

R: . . . eat the poop.

Moderator: Now that he's paddling up to . . .

. . .

Moderator: . . . is another region, another city.

R: Another town.

R: Another town.

R: Soon he gets to another town, he found another gold, big like 55 gallon—

Moderator: So like a 55 gallon of kerosene, the container?

R: Yes.

Moderator: That's how much gold he found. The monk says don't take that, don't take that. Keep going.

. . .

Moderator: So now it's in the evening, he's getting hungry. So now he parks his canoe and he comes on the river bank.

R: And the name is [Parkan]. The town is [Bakan].

[Crosstalk]

Moderator: So the tributary to the Meekon is Parkan and NonBakan] which is close by.

. . .

Moderator: Which is near . . .

[Crosstalk]

Moderator: So now he's starting to do the . . .

. . .

R: He starts the fire cooking.

Moderator: So he's getting ready to start the fire.

. . .

R: He went to get a rock to make like a stove.

Moderator: Okay, so he's now . . .

R: So he can put like three logs . . . to make a stove, okay?

Moderator: He wants to make a camp fire, right? So he's collecting the wood for the kinder and now he has three stones to put the stove on top.

. . .

Moderator: So he grabs the rock. Now the rock turns to gold. And he turns around and around him is just gold everywhere. All the rocks are gold. So now he's . . .

R: Build a temple.

Moderator: So he builds a temple.

R: The temple name is [Simkon]

Moderator: So Simkon. So in . . .

R: That's a real story.

[Crosstalk]

R: Yeah, that's a real story.

Moderator: There is several different temple names.

R: One's Simkon and one's . . .

Moderator: [Simand]. The two temples names are . . .

. . .

Moderator: Simand and many of these temples . . .

[Crosstalk]

Moderator: Okay, we have to hear the story. We have to hear the story first, because if we have four people talking, the person typing will hear four voices.

R: Okay, after they build two temples, Simand and Simkon, then the gold is still left and they put where? They put in the mountain called . . .

. . .

Moderator: The mountain. And so all of this gold, there are over 100 temples in the region and so they used the gold to build these temples and they kept having leftover gold and so they then

started moving out of the . . . city into the mountain to build another temple in the mountain with the leftover gold.

. . .

R: The temple now is about 800 years now.

Moderator: Eight hundred years old.

. . .

[Crosstalk]

Moderator: So the moral of the story is . . .

. . .

Moderator: So remember, the monk says whatever you get—like it started off with just the lime nugget and he says, “Don’t take that. Wait until you get to your destination and that’s where you’re going to find your gold and that’s where he found the masses of gold.

R: I think it’s about you can take what is belongs to you, not belong to somebody. Don’t take anything that belongs to somebody. What we learned from that.

Moderator: So take what is yours and not what are others?

R: Yes.

[Crosstalk]

Moderator: So this story is written in the tombs of the scriptures of the monks. So in each of these temples, you will hear this story.

. . .

Moderator: So that’s like, it started with just a dream and then he went on this journey to go up north and he followed the monk’s advice by not taking things that weren't his.

R: There’s a lot of people have dreams like that in my country.

Moderator: And so when people dream about eating poop, it’s actually a good luck dream?

R: It’s lucky.

[Crosstalk]

R: If you crave the poop—if you have a dream you crave the poop, you have good luck.

[Crosstalk]

R: Okay.