

Yang: story 1

Yang: So recently we got some story we read back to them again in different version. There was one story I recently remember. Is about, this family who have a servant who is a man. He worked really hard, and he happened to love, fall in love with the daughter of that man. And because of the differences, he wouldn't want to marry his daughter to this poor guy. But he make a promise to him, "Hey when you work hard, when you plug enough I will let you marry my daughter." So, the servant, he believed him so he worked really hard. And until the time to get married, he arranged marriage his daughter with another rich family.

And to keep this guy, he's asking him to say, "Hey, wedding tomorrow, but now you have to do one last thing. You have to go to the forest and find a bamboo tree with a hundred blocks." And he went to the woods and tried to find, there were so many of them he couldn't find any of them a hundred pieces. So he was crying, and over here they getting the party ready for marry.

One of the, fairy came over him while he was crying and asked him, "Why you cry?" "I am trying to find this bamboo tree, so I can go back and get married." The fairy said, "Well why don't you do this, you find 100 pieces of bamboo" and then he give you a secret word so when he say "come back", everything will connect to a long bamboo. And he tried to carry that long thing around, again and he couldn't get it, it was so long so he cry again. The fairy say, "Okay well, I'll give you another one, break up to a hundred pieces, collect them all and go back home." He came back home, and he found they were getting ready for marriage.

Everybody came out, mocking him, "I told you to get a long bamboo tree now you leave me a hundred piece of bamboo." He said, "Well I'll show you." He said, "They connect, the all connect to a long bamboo tree." And this family they were like, "Oh okay, well, but I don't want to marry my daughter to you anyway." And he said, "Okay, connect." And everybody in their family stick to the tree. And they end up have to let him marry their daughter. So, yeah it's a story about, you know [crosstalk].

Phan: story 1

Phan: In Vietnam too. They were Tan, T-A-N, not my name.

Speaker 1: Her name is Tan?

Phan: Tan. She was really poor. Her mom passed away. Her father got married with another one, so she got step mother. Her step mother doesn't love her, so she designates a lot of chores and a lot of work for Tan to work, to do, while her step-sister doesn't do anything. She did everything in the house, and even she work out a lot, work out her family to have goods, and everything, but ...

Speaker 1: She supported the family?

Phan: She supported the family, and she didn't have enough clothes to wear, but she had good heart. She was so helpful, and she were willing to help everyone, so everyone loved her a lot. Somehow whenever she got a difficult situation, the old man, like a fairy, appear and help her every time.

Her mom, her step mom and her step-sister were really angry because when she grows up, she looks so beautiful, even though she doesn't have good outwear, she doesn't have good clothes at all, but she still looks so beautiful. But they feel competitive with her. They figure out many ways to kill her, but they were unsuccessful. One day when the prince wanted to get married with a girl, give out a lot of competition so that the beautiful girls can go and have a competition if they can show that they are beautiful, they are skillful, the prince may get married with him.

The step mother and the step-sister didn't want them to go to the competition because they knew that if she come she will win. So they figure out some way to prevent her from coming. They made a lot of work, a lot of chores so that she didn't have enough time to finish, and then she can't.

But with the help of a lot of creatures around, like the mouses, the mice, what else ... the fairy appear and help her. They helped her to finish the chores, and I remember really hard chores take a lot of time for her. They mess up the rice, the beans ...

Speaker 1: And the grains.

Phan: The grain. She was gonna separate one by one. That's a lot, but the birds came and helped her out.

Speaker 1: So they are animals?

Phan: Yeah, a lot of animals come and help her out with those. She didn't have good clothes to the party, to the competition.

They make magic, the fairy. But in our tradition, in our [inaudible], it's not a girl fairy, it's an old man fairy appear and help her. It's similar.

Speaker 1: Very similar.

Phan: She's supposed to get back before midnight. If she didn't get back before midnight, everything gonna turn back, the clothes, the high heel is gonna turn back. The magic is not gonna affect after midnight. Before midnight, she remembered that and then she run back, but she forgot her shoe, a small shoe.

So the prince got that shoe, and he noticed that whoever can fit that shoe is gonna be his wife. Then only [inaudible] matched the shoe, so the prince chose her to be his wife, to be the queen. But the story didn't stop there.

Cinderella did like that, but in our version, when she became the queen, she gets back to her house, on the death day, the anniversary of her father is really important day in our tradition. So she come back, she helps out and she gets ready to offer a lot of food to her

fathers spirit. Her step mother asked her to climb up to the tree, the tall tree to get something, to get a fruit to offer her father spirit. When she was climbing up to the tree, they cut down the root of the tree, she dies.

She dies, and then she became a bird, and fly back to the palace. At that time, the step mother replaced her daughter, her step-sister, to go to the palace to become the queen. But the prince at that time, he didn't care about Tan, that sister. He still missed her a lot.

Speaker 1: It's sad.

Phan: It's so sad. Then the bird flew back to the palace. When her step-sister were doing something, were trying the clothes for the prince, the bird appear and say something like, "When you wash my husband clothes, remember to wash it clearly, and never hang it up on the fence. It's gonna damage my husband clothes." And the prince heard that, and the prince know somehow the bird is his old past life. He really loved the bird. He kept the bird with him in a cage. And then her step-sister was envious, and figured out a way to kill the bird.

Later, the bird with the help of ... I forgot that thing, but later, with the fairy help, the bird spirit become Tan again, and they got a happy life. The prince, who intended to give sentence to the step mother and step-sister because of their bad deeds. There's two ending.

So the first ending, Tan asked the prince to forgive them. So she was so good, she wants to forgive them, she doesn't want to do harm for them. And the second version, there is ... but I don't like this version ending, they say after she got back, and have a happy life with the prince, the step mother and step-sister still feel angry, and they ask her how can you get the white skin, so beautiful skin like that? And then Tan say, "Sit in a hole, half the body, pour boiling water, and you will get nice skin."

At that time I said, "Wow, that's weird." because Tan have good heart, so she didn't do like that. But because it is a fairytale, some people want to get some kind of ending to punish the bad people so that it exist two kinds of ending. But I like the first one better.

Phan: story 2

Phan: Yeah, language. We come from a fairy, and a dragon. When they get married with each other ...

Speaker 1: The origin of the country?

Phan: Yeah, the origin of the country. So the fairy got pregnant, and she gave birth to 100 children. And later they know that the drag and the fairy cannot live with each other longer, forever. So they separated. 50 children followed the father to go to the mountain, and 50 others followed mom to go to the [delta]. So that's why nowadays, the 50 children gave birth to children, and grandchildren, and they are living in a mountain. And the other 50 have children and grand children for a generation in the delta. We are in the same parents.

We should love each other. We have same connection with each other. In our country, we use really special name, that is [foreign language] that in Vietnamese, there are no relevant translation in English, but it means that we are in the same origin. We are brother and sister. We are relative of each other.