

Lao Focus Group, story 1

R: Well, the story that you mentioned earlier, that's one of them that I grew up with. Another one is I believe what do you call the ten . . .

Moderator: Is it the—for the temple?

R: No, no, no. There was a king challenging all the, you know.

R: Other kingdoms?

R: Yeah, the kingdoms to who can have the wealth that equals to ten mount. So they can marry the daughter—I mean, the princess. That always been stuck in my head and of course, some other folklores or ghost stories that always scared me, but it's also funny too.

Moderator: Okay.

R: But that particular one.

Moderator: So what's the name of that one?

R: I'm not sure. This is an old one, so I would have to ask the older generation. . . . Yes. The king challenging all the warriors and whatnot, you know, he's dying and he's in need of—I mean, the kingdom in need of another successor.

Moderator: Okay.

R: And so the king put a flyer or whatever, announced, saying that whoever come up here, ten mount of gold.

Moderator: Mm-hmm, and is it just a mount like a mountain?

R: Yeah, mountain, . . .

Moderator: You know how the plane of jars where they have these big sort of vats?

R: Well, in our country, we have—what do you call, the termites mound? It's that big. So each one—there was ten of them in there, so nobody has it. So [Simeon] had an idea and he'd come up with—he went to get gold coins and place on the mound. So in the end, I mean, I'm cutting story short, but I'm pretty sure the story that—I'm spoiling the story here—the older generation can tell better. But basically, that's what stuck in my head.

Moderator: Mm-hmm.

R: So Simeon, long story short here, he placed all the gold into the ten mounds and then he solved the riddle of what the king placed. So the moral of the story is, you know, he's very creative in his idea and he won the riddles. He won the challenge.

Moderator: Okay.

R: So it's encourage, envision, motivation type of story for me and I always think of that every time I'm coming to a challenge of something. I always place that story in saying, you know, it's not how you look at the problem. I mean, it's not—the size of the problem, that's what I'm trying to say. It's how you look at it and how you handle the problem. That's always been my . . .

Moderator: You can just say it in Lao and then we'll get it translated.

R: Okay, okay, yeah. Something like that.

Moderator: So this is one of the Simeon folktales that he grew up with and that he—is one of his favorites.

R: Mm-hmm.

Moderator: And so it's another trickster story. How many Simeon folktales or trickster stories are there?

R: Oh, hundreds. Hundreds.

Moderator: So depending on which story you remember of you hear?

R: Yeah.

Moderator: So there's a collection of them?

R: Yeah.