

Cambodian Folktales

A Little Girl

A Little Girl, she's four years old. She lived with an old lady when her parents went to work. She went around the block, picked up all the short sticks and the wood for fire woods. They cooked rice in a big, big frying pan and used the fire woods. And they gave her the crust, or the bottom of the cooked rice.

And what she'd get, a piece like that and she bring to give the boy when they bring the rice on their head. The whole by the boy, put away the part where they cut underneath. That gets put away. And when they're hungry and get a piece here, a piece here, all there, and have one little piece left in hand. And the brother wanted no more because he . . . all away. Because the whole . . . and he eat it, eat her finger and bites her finger and bleeding and she cry. And what they do? The soldiers who see it cry. "Tell her to stop crying," because it hurt so bad. She just . . . and shaking. And they put her in the bag of rice and hang her in . . .

And . . . she passed out in their rice bag. When her mom came back from work, heard her daughter hang up there. And the people, they whistled and the soldier, they ran past and one of the soldiers, they loved her also when they lived there. They took her out and gave her to her mom. Her mom thought she was going to die. It was just so hard. But later then the girl was alive.

This was a true story that happened in the village in Cambodia.

Don't hate

There's a guy who is afraid of lawsuit. He just hates it, just a lawsuit, a general lawsuit. So, he goes up into the palm tree to get away from all the lawsuits. And he is thinking, "You know, as I'm thinking here, I'm going to make the basket to weave from the palms. And then I can sell that. And then I'll get a chicken. And then the chicken will let me afford to buy an ox. An ox will afford me to buy a servant, and if the servant doesn't work, I'm going to kick him," and then ahh, he falls down. And as he falls, he grabs on to the tree, and he's hanging by the palm leaves. Meanwhile—it's just like dun-dun-dun. So meanwhile, another guy who hates to step on the poop everywhere, is riding the head of the elephant to avoid the poop. Comes along this guy, dangling from the leaf, saying, "Help me. Help me." He replies, "Okay. I'll stand on top of the elephant's head and I'll try to get you down." While he's doing that, he stepped on the elephant, and the elephant thinks the movement means to go, so the elephant goes. And now they have two men dangling by the thread, as the other one, the Mr. "I'm afraid of lawsuit," is afraid of what's happening next. And then that's when he poops his pants, right? And poops on top of the guy who hates the poop. And then four people come, and they shout, "Help us. Help us. We're dangling here by the palm.

The four people take their scarves and tie them together for them to jump down. They can jump down safely, landed safely. The guys are okay, and then they go and sue each other.

Moral: If you hate something, you'll meet it. If you hate, your fate will meet you.

The snail and the Hare

There's a snail living in a pond. The snail heard that a hare is very clever, but he is very cunning. Then, while the hare stops to drink the water from the pond, the snail yells at the hare saying that, "You cannot come and drink the water from my pond." "Hey, that doesn't bother you. I drink the water from this pond since I was born." And then the rabbit insults the snail. "The crawling snail-ey, slowly, slowly animal. You cannot one day crawl the length once I hopefully, the lengths what I hop." And then the snail hearing this one, he is so mad at the rabbit or the hare. "If you say that you insulted me that I could not crawl in one day to the length of your hop, so now we compete. We are running a race. Let's compete."

The hare takes up the challenge. "How can we set up the rule?" the rabbit said. And the snail says that, "I agree not to live in this pond anymore any longer, if I lose this race." And the rabbit says that, "I pledge that I won't come and drink the water from this pond if I lose you in this race." And then tomorrow, the next morning, these two lovely animals start up the race. And then the rabbit or the hare run around the circumference of the pond, and then the snail stays in the water. And running for a while, the rabbit didn't see any snail running behind him or her, yelling back, "Hey, the snail, slowly snail. Where are you?" And then the snail knowing we cannot run the race, cannot compete to win the race with the rabbit, and then they set up the tricks. And then that snail in the back telling the snail in the front, "When the rabbit yell at us, you at the front say, "Coo." That mean, I'm here. When the rabbit says, "Where are your the slowly snail?" The next snail right to the rabbit or the hare say, "I am here, coo."

Running for a while, the rabbit's looking around didn't see any snail, asking then, "Hey, so now slowly snail, where are you right now?" Then right next to him say, "Coo, I am here." And hearing this one he gets mad and he just keeps running very fast. Almost reaching to the finish line, one round, one lap, and the rabbit's yelling to ask for the snail, "Where are you the slowly, slowly snail?" And then the snail right next to him say, "I am here, coo." And then the rabbit know that he lost the race. He lies down right next to the finish line, because he knows that the snail is right there at the finish line before him. Then all the snails win the race and then they stay in the pond whereas the hare no longer comes to visit the pond or drinking the water from the pond. So, they drink the water from the dew instead.

Moral: Don't judge others. Teamwork can create power.

Don't Open Your Mouth

So like back in the old time, the shell of the turtle is not crackling like map or whatever kinds of like that. The shell is so smooth. The turtle lives in a pond and a couple of ducks come to play or feed themselves in the pond. The turtle asks the couple of ducks, "Why are you coming here?" And then a couple of the ducks told the turtle that, "Oh, we come here to collect supplies for the

party on the top of the palm tree.” And then the turtle asks, “Could I be invited to come to the party?” “Yes!” And the couple of ducks tell the turtle that, “How can you fly up to the top of the tree because you don’t have any wings and know how to fly?” The three animals discussed to find ways to go up to the top of the tree. And a couple of ducks got an idea. He got a stick. One duck used their beak, so each duck used their beak to hold a stick and then the turtle can bite the end of the stick. The couple of duck can fly the turtle up there.

The ducks warn the turtle that, “You must not open your mouth and speak, okay?” And then the turtle agrees, “Yes, yes, I will not. I will not speak out.” Now, the ducks prepare themselves with sticks and the turtle bites on the end of the other stick. The couple of duck fly up. And then up there on top of the tree, the other ducks are amazed by seeing this turtle coming up to the party too. And then they yell in unison say, “Oh, the turtle come to you. Brother come too!” And then the turtle is so happy. He replied, “Yeah, I’m coming too!” As soon as the turtle open his mouth, “Yes, I’m coming too!” He falls down on the ground. Then his shell hit the ground on a rock or a stick. That’s why his shell right now look like a piece of puzzle.

Moral: Keep quiet even though you are happy, or you are mad. Be quiet.