

## Story Card THAI-ROI 007

Story title	Tang Chang Phuek, or Pu Sangkasa Ya Sangkasri				
Name of story-teller	Tongsin Tanakanya	Sex	Male	Age	57
Recording time/date	25 October 2014				
Recording place	66 Moo 5, Ban Ta Yiam Wang Thong Lang Sub-district, Selaphum District, Roiet Province				
Length	35 minutes				
Language(s)	Isaan				
Data available	video, audio, picture and notes other ( )				
Topic/key words					
Category					
Summary/Full story	<p>The story of Pu Sangkasa and Ya Sangkasri was told by Kanha Palapol, who lived in Non Kibor Ban Pakped, Namklam Sub-district, Suwannaphum District in Roiet Province. He used to be a monk. He could read letters on palm leaves.</p> <p>This story is about the first human couple. Phaya Tan made humans with his scurf. He molded it into a human body. Phaya Tan made one man and one woman and sent them to the earth. While they were falling to the ground, a strong gust of wind blew and separated them on to the opposite sides of a riverbank. The man was named Pu Sang Kasa; and the woman Ya Sang Kasri.</p> <p>They lived on the earth but could not cross the river. They grew a cucumber and used it to build a bridge over the river. Then, they finally met each other. Pu Sang Kasa fell in love with Ya Sang Kasri and wanted to marry her. Pu Sang Kasa said to Ya Sang Kasri, "We have long stayed together. Will you marry me? We should have children as our descendants. We are getting old now." Ya Sang Kasri replied, "If you want to marry me, the leader of a family should be smart. If you can answer my riddle, I will marry you." The riddle is "What is the darkness and the brightness?"</p> <p>When Pu Sang Kasa heard the riddle, he immediately responded, saying, "The darkness is the moonless night and the brightness is the sun. It is an easy riddle. Is my answer correct?" Ya Sang Kasri said, "No. Your answer is incorrect. You are really good and perfect. But you could not answer my riddle. I cannot marry you but will give another chance to you. Go and find the answer. I will wait for you here."</p> <p>So, Pu Sang Kasa traveled to find the answer. He met many people. He asked them if they knew the answer to the riddle. Their answer was similar to his. He traveled ten thousand years but still could not find the correct answer. He was disappointed and decided to go back to see Ya Sang Kasri.</p> <p>Knowing this, Phaya Tan changed himself to Rusi, or a hermit, and wait for Pu Sang Kasa on the way. Pu Sang Kasa saw Rusi and asked him about the riddle. "What is the brightness and the darkness? Help me answer the riddle. I have traveled ten thousand years but I have yet to find the answer. Rusi said, "This is a Dharma question. The world exists because of Dharma. The darkness and the brightness is the mind of humans. The darkness is present because of humans' badness and greed. The brightness is the moral and openness of the mind when humans accept Dharma in life, which leads to the goodness."</p>				

Learning the answer, Pu Sang Kasa immediately started traveling back to meet Ya Sang Kasi. It took him another ten thousand years. When he finally met Ya Sang Kasi and answered her riddle, Ya Sang Kasi said, "The answer is correct. I still do not want to marry you, because it has taken you long time to find the answer." Pu Sang Kasa was very disappointed and went back and stayed on the opposite side of the riverbank with the sadness.

Phaya Tan felt that he had to help him again. This time he appeared in Pu Sang Kasa's dream. He told said to Pu Sang Kasa, "Mold one male and female buffalo. Then take them to Ya Sang Kasri." Pu Sang Kasa woke up. He went to see Ya Sang Kasri and molded a couple of buffalos after Phaya Tan's suggestion. Phaya Tan ordered Deva<sup>1</sup> to be born as a buffalo. So, Pu Sang Kasa's buffalos came to have life.

When Ya Sang Kasri saw the buffalos, she understood that Pu Sang Kasa was wise. She decided to marry him. The buffalos gave a birth to many buffalos. Pu Sang Kasa and Ya Sang Kasri used buffalos to farm. Then, they also had many children. However, their children were all very thin and not healthy, even though they had enough food to feed them.

When Phaya Tan saw children of Pu Sang Kasa and Ya Sang Kasri weak, he became worried. He changed himself into a white elephant, or Chang Phuek. The elephant walked around on farmland. Then, Chang Phuek urinated all over. Chang Pheak's urine was white. Pu Sang Kasa and Ya Sang Kasi tasted it and found it salty. They followed Chang Phuek's footprints but it disappeared.

Pu Sang Kasa and Ya Sang Kasri asked their children to use Chang Phuek's urine, make salt, and produce pickled fish, or Pa Daek. Pa Daek helped children of Pu Sang Kasa and Ya Sang Kasri stronger and healthier.

Pu Sang Kasa and Ya Sang Kasri's children increased and their descendants multiplied. Since Chang Phuek's urine was limited and there were more humans, they started to fight over salt. Phaya Tan had to change himself into a white elephant again and urinated all over the area between the river and Himmaphant forest.<sup>2</sup> This made the area into fertile land. Humans would not starve and became healthy. When they finished the salt harvest season, they could sell salt for income. This has been the case till now.

This story is a part of Chadok of Kadchana Photisan. Kadchana means Chang Yai or a giant elephant. The story is about the life of Tao Kantanam. The story also talks about salt production in Isaan and refers to a number of related things, for example, Non Kibor, Bor Noi, and Bor Yai all of which are part of Non Aumlum close to Tang Chang Phuek. It is a road from Ubon Ratchathanee to Korat and also to Bangkok. A plenty of salt reserve is found in the area. The story is one of many legends relating to salt and salt production in Isaan.

---

<sup>2</sup> Himmaphant forest is the forest in the heaven, the believe of the Pharm and Budhistm