

Story Card THAI-UDN 012

Story title	Padang Nang Ai			
Story-teller(s)	Taworn Manosil	Sex		Age
Recording time/date	2014			
Recording place	Ban Nonsa, Huay Sam Pad Sub-district, Prajaksilapakham District, Udon Thanee Province (Address: Ban Nonsa, Huay Sam Pad Sub-district, Prajaksilapakham District, Udon Thanee Province)			
Length	25 minutes			
Language(s) used	Isaan			
Data available	video	audio	picture	notes other ()
Topic/key words				
Category				

Summary

Two Nagas, Phaya Sutho and Phaya Suwannaga, were best friends. They came to the earth and hunted for food. They promised each other that whatever animal they caught, they would share it equally with each other.

When one of them hunted an elephant, he shared the meat and brought the hair to his best friend. When the other hunted a porcupine, he also brought the porcupine's hair to show to his friend. The friend who had hunted the elephant saw it. He could not believe his friend and got angry with him. He thought that his friend was dishonest. A war broke out between the two.

This caused trouble to Indra, a king in the heaven. Indra came and told Phaya Sutho and Phaya Suwannaga to stop fighting. However, they would not listen to Indra and continued to fight. So, Indra had to talk with them again. Indra said, "If you do not stop fighting, I will force you to dig a river from a big pond and compete with each other." One Naga started to dig from Muang Krasae to Lao; The other started from Khong to Nong Harn. Many rivers and ponds were created as a result.

Phungki Naga's son and changed himself into a white squirrel to meet Nang Ai. Phungki and Nang Ai had met in their previous life. Phungki was a deaf man. Nang Ai was Nang Ongkham. She was a daughter of a rich man and was very beautiful. However, she was not in love with anyone. Her parents liked Phungki because he was very hard-working. The parents asked him to marry Nang Ongkham. But Phungki thought that Nang Ongkham did not like him. So, he only stayed with Nang Ongkham and did not relate to her as the husband and wife would.

Phungki stayed with Nang Ongkham for a long time and became rich. He wanted to go back to live with his parents. He lied to Nang Ongkham that he would go back to visit his hometown. Nang Ongkham said that she wanted to go with him to visit his parents. Although Phungki did not want her to come with him, he could not stop her. So, they traveled together and in the evening they stopped at a tree on the riverbank. Phungki climbed up the tree to pick fruit and threw it to his wife, who sat under the tree. He ate fruit on the tree and did not show interest to his wife. He slept on the tree, while his wife slept under the tree. Phungki saw his wife sleeping and fled away.

Nang Ongkham woke up and did not see Phungki. She walked to the forest and met a hunter. The hunter helped her. He told her to cross the river to go to a house on the opposite side of the river. However, she drowned to death in the river. She sank in the river. Before she died, she wished that if she had a new life, she wanted to be the most

beautiful woman. She also wished that her husband would fall in love with her. After she had died, she had a new life and was born to be Nang Aikham. She lived in Kita Nakorn. The hunter was born to be Tao Padang. Phungki was born to be Tao Phungki. The story began again.

Kita Nakorn had a beautiful daughter. Her name was Nang Aikham. Her beauty was very well known in many places, including Pa Pong Town, where Tao Padang was living. Tao Padang visited Kita Nakorn and fell in love with Nang Aikham. Tao Padang sneaked into Nang Aikham's room. They became the wife and husband. Nang Aikham's beauty was also famous at Naga City, where Tao Phungki lived. Tao Phungki transformed himself to be a human and came closely to see Nang Aikham. However, he did not have a chance to talk with her.

A ceremony was held at Kita Nakorn on the fifth and sixth month every year. They called this ceremony Bun Burk Fa Kor Fon Jud Bang Fai, or a ceremony for asking the rain from Patya Tan. There was a Bang Fai, or rocket fire, competition. The king sent invitation letters to many towns to tell them to attend the competition. He announced if Chiang Hian town where was the town of his brother won the competition to Kita Nakorn, the king of Kita Nakorn will give the town to Ching Hian'king. If Pa Pong won in the competition, he will give Nang Aikham to Tao Padang. When the ceremony began, the news was reached to the Naga city, Phungki wanted to meet Nang Aikham again, he transformed to be human and tried to be closely with Nang Aikham but he could not.

When the Bang Fai competition began in seven days, Tao Padang was lost to the king of Ching Hian town. So Padang did not get Nang Aikham as his wife. However, Tao Padang still rode a horse and visited Nang Aikham. Phungki transformed to a white squirrel and met her in the terrace.

When Nang Aikham met the white squirrel, she wanted it. She ordered the servants to hunt the white squirrel. The hunter was near the city and now there was Ban Kong Pran now. The hunter also announced to the people helped and hunt the white squirrel.

The squirrel had to run away. He came to a mulberry garden, or Saun Mon, which is the present-day Ban Suan Mon. The squirrel passed Jarn forest, or Don Aum Jarn, and Ban Aum Jarn, the hunter could not shoot the squirrel even though they followed it until to Ban Phon Thong, the hunter could not shoot it. Then the sting was torn, so the hunter change to used the rope as a sting in Ban Phon Thong and he carried the rope to "Ban Kon Sai". The hunter shot a squirrel, the voice of the bow loud as Puk so the place was called Ban Mung Puk. Phungki ordered his servants as a bird and snake tighten the hunters. The hunter did not fear with them and killed all bird and snake.

The squirrel or Phungki fled to be in the hollow of tree. The hunters followed and shot him but the squirrel was still alive, it was run and hid in the forest. The hunter had to call "Siang Som" who saw the squirrel and he received the reward from the hunter. The place was called "Ban Don Ghuen. The hunter followed and shot the squirrel dead from the big tree. Siang Som cut the meat at Ban Chaing Hwear now. When they cut a squirrel meat, the meat was immediately grow up, So they got a thousand of cart the squirrel meat(or about 1 ton). The meat of squirrel was shared to everyone in the Kita Nakorn except the widow because they did not have the husband to help on hunt the squirrel. The people ate delicious meat, the smell of the meat reached to Paya Tan city.

When the king of Naga heard that his son was killed. He really angered and he ordered his servants went to battle with the Kita Nakorn. Wherever they found the meat of squirrel felt in the ground, they had to make the area was collapsed to underground. In the meantime, Padang was coming to meet Nang Aikham, he had smell of the squirrel meat. He asked Nang Aikam that

"Ai, what did you have dinner" "I having squirrel salad(Larb Krarog), the squirrel which hang the gold in its neck"

"Don't you afraid there will be collapsed to underground". After he talked, he heard the voice behind of city. Then he asked Nang Aikham to jump and rode the horse, the city was began to damage, Nang Ai was in hurried and brought the ring, neglect, gong, drum, gold.

The horse was hardly run because it was so heavily with many things while the Nagas were following at the same time, the Naga was dig the ground and almost reached to the back feet of horse. When Padang saw that he told Nang Ai thrown the things from the horse because its too weights. She thrown gong, drum, ring as the last thing. The horse or Mabagsam almost run across the log which obstructed along the way but it could not across because it was a Naga transformed to a log.

So Padang used the stick to put on the ground and left Nang Ai waited him, he plans to pick her up later. Padang rode the horse to city and turned back, he saw Nang Ai was sank in the water and the city was under the water or "Nong Harn now.

There were many place had a stories , there were Suan Mon where was from Nang Harn, Kita Nakorn was the first place that the squirrel run to Ban Phon Thong, Ban Aum Jan, Ban Khon Sai, Ban Pai Jan, Ban Don Ghuen, there also some evidence which related to the legend. Ban Ching Hwear was the place that they cut the meat of squirrel. Ban Tung Kong Pan where was the hunter hunted the squirrel included Non Mae Hang,Mae Mai, Non Ton, Non Tao.

During, 1962-1963, there was the island in the pond and it was also Huay Sam Pad as a stream which flew from Kita Nakorn to Pong Pang town. There were Huay Nang Lak, Huay Kong Sri, Huay¹ Nam Gong, Nong Waen where was namely similar to the legend. It was continuing to the legend of Bang Fai or the rocket fire. The Bang Fai felt in Ban Kham Noi, the potassium nitrate was mix in the pond, the people used the water to wash the face,

They also smell of its. Since my father was child, he used to see the carcass of Bang Fa. This story was reflected about the greedy of the human. The squirrel was compare as a mine. Potash was a white gold in the legend. If the people was greedy and wanted too much. It will destroy everything. If the people would dig and used over the potash mine in the ground, the town will be collapse similar to Nong Harn, Nang Ai wanted a squirrel, the people wanted the gold white as the white squirrel. It caused to the town collapsed. Then they could not renovate the city. According to Nang Ai was greedy, she wanted the white squirrel because it was beautiful. If Padang will marry with Nang Ai, they are appropriated because they were human, if Nang Ai will marry with Phungki, it could not be because he was an animal and this story was end up with.

There was another curse of the Indra. The Indra confined Nang Ai with him and he will give Nang Ai to the winner between Phungki and Padang. He ordered that if the Naga won to the human, the pond will expanded and if Padang as a human won, the pond will not expand.

Someone did not believe in Nang Ai but there were still the war between human and Naga. There was no the winner, you could see, the vice of provincial governor ordered to dig the pond then the water was overflow from the pond. This's the curse of Padang, and the curse of Nang Ai; she wished her husband crazed on her and crazed on her and the Kita Nakorn was the curse of the Naga which was destroyed it.

¹ Huay is a stream in Esan Laungage