

Another ຊຽງໝຽງ Episode: ຊຽງໝຽງ Tricks the City Governor

Here, in a break from our focus on history, we have yet another classic ຊຽງໝຽງ episode, in which the young rascal outwits not his benefactor the ເສນາ but rather the governor of the city.

Note again the play on words, the possible multiple abstract interpretations of a supposedly literal phrase, which are almost always a staple of traditional Lao humor.

In addition, in this article you get an insight into traditional Lao approaches to dealing with illness. Come to class ready to discuss this, especially any aspects of the diagnoses and treatments in this episode that you may not fully understand.



Vocabulary from the Story (next page)

ພູະຍາເຈົ້າເມືອງ governor or administrator of a city; a position of royalty in this case. Note the obsolete spelling of “ພຣະ” as “ພລະ”, where an altered form of “ລ” is placed *underneath* “ພ” to indicate its position as a subscript. This occurs widely in ຕົວຂັ້ມ (Lao religious script), but in modern Lao this is normally only seen in the special character ຫຼ.

ເປັນໄຂ້ to have a fever

ປິ່ນປົວ to heal, cure

ມະເຫສີ the governor’s wife (a royal term for “first wife”)

ເສນາອາມາດ ministers and advisors to a king or governor

ໝໍໂຫນ fortune teller

(list continued after the story)

ພູະຍາເຈົ້າເມືອງເຈັບທ້ອງແໜ້ນທ້ອງທັງເປັນໄຂ້ນຳ ມາໄດ້ຫລາຍມື້
 ແລ້ວ ໝົດແຮງໝໍຢາປິ່ນປົວກໍບໍ່ດີ ມະເຫສີແລະເສນາອາມາດ ຈຶ່ງ
 ໃຫ້ໝໍໂຫນມາຕັ້ງເລກເບິ່ງດວງຊາຕາຣາສີຂອງພູະອົງ. ໝໍໂຫນເບິ່ງ
 ແລ້ວກໍເວົ້າວ່າ ດວງຊາຕາຍັງດີຢູ່ ອີກບໍ່ດົນກໍຊິຫາຍ ໃຫ້ເຮັດຂັນສູດ
 ສົບຊາຕາໃຫ້ເພິ່ນສາແລ້ວກໍຈະຫາຍດີ. ຊຽງໝັງມາເບິ່ງພູະຍາ ຈັບ
 ຊຳມີຊຳຕີນແລ້ວກໍເວົ້າວ່າ ພູະຍາຕ້ອງຕາຍພາຍໃນເຈັດວັນນີ້
 ແນ່ນອນ. ຄົນທັງຫລາຍໄດ້ຍິນຊຽງໝັງເວົ້າແນວນັ້ນ ກໍນຳຄວາມ
 ຂາບທູນມະເຫສີ. ນາງມະເຫສີແລະນາງນັກສະໜົມທັງຫລາຍໄດ້
 ຍິນແນວນັ້ນ ກໍຢູ່ບໍ່ໄດ້ກິນບໍ່ເປັນ ພາກັນຮ້ອງໄຫ້ຢ້ານພູະຍາຕາຍ.
 ຫລາຍມື້ຕໍ່ມາພູະຍາພັດຫາຍດີ ລຸກຍ່າງໄປມາໄດ້ ຈຶ່ງບອກໃຫ້ເຂົາ
 ໄປເອິ້ນຊຽງໝັງມາຫາກູເບິ່ງ. ເມື່ອເຫັນຄົນໃຊ້ໄປເອິ້ນໃຫ້ມາຫາພູະ
 ຍາ ຊຽງໝັງຮີບຟ້າວເຂົ້າວັງ ຍໍມີຖາມພູະຍາວ່າມີວຽກການຫຍັງຈຶ່ງ
 ນຳຂ້ານ້ອຍມາ? ພູະຍາຕອບວ່າ ກູເຈັບ ມືງວ່າກູຊິຕາຍພາຍໃນ
 ເຈັດວັນ ບັດນີ້ກາຍມາໄດ້ສາມເດືອນແລ້ວ ກູຍັງບໍ່ຕາຍມືງຊິວ່າ
 ແນວໃດ? ມືງນີ້ຕັ້ງຊອກຫາແຕ່ຄວາມຮ້າຍ ຫາເຂາະເຂັນມາໃສ່ກູ
 ຕັ້ງວ່າເປັນຄົນຖ່ອຍຮ້າຍບໍ່ຮູ້ບຸນຮູ້ຄຸນແທ້ໆ. ຊຽງໝັງຕອບຄົນ ຄົນ
 ໃນສົງສານນີ້ຜູ້ໃດກໍຕ້ອງຕາຍພາຍໃນເຈັດວັນນີ້ ບໍ່ແມ່ນວັນທົດ ກໍ
 ຕ້ອງແມ່ນວັນຈັນ, ອັງຄານ, ພຸດ, ພະຫັດ, ສຸກ ຫລື ເສົາ ບໍ່ວັນໃດກໍ
 ວັນໜຶ່ງ ທ່ຽງແທ້ແນ່ນອນ ແມ່ນແຕ່ພູະພຸດທະເຈົ້າກໍຄືກັນ. ພູະຍາ
 ໄດ້ຟັງກໍຍັງຄົດຄຽດຢູ່ ແຕ່ຊຳພັດເລົ່າເລີຍຫົວ ຄິດໃຫ້ຖືກກໍຫາກ
 ແມ່ນຄວາມຊຽງ.

Vocabulary from the Story (previous page), continued

ຕັ້ງເລກເບິ່ງດວງຊາຕາຣາສີ to consult numbers and astrological charts in order to tell one's fortune

ຂັນສູດ magical formulae, which are chanted

ສືບຊາຕາ according to one's horoscope

ຈັບຊໍາມືຊໍາຕີນ to take someone's pulse (in both the wrists and ankles)

ຂາບທູນ to inform (only used when speaking to royalty)

ເຂາະເຂັນ a clacker or bell, usually hung on the necks of animals like cows. The governor threatens to hang one on ຊຽງໝ້ຽງ's neck as a marker of shame, since "all he does is cause misery and trouble to others."

ຄົນໃນສິງສານນີ້ "all [of us] who are trapped in the cycle of life, death and rebirth"

ຄິດຄຽດ to be vexed, discontented

ຊໍາພັດເລີຍຫົວ "over his head"

ຫາກ in this case, it means "separate, in a class by himself"

ຄວາມຊຽງ "this matter of ຊຽງໝ້ຽງ"