

CHAPTER 2:
The Story
of
Tum Teav



Introduction (stanzas 1-29)

- 1 This will be the telling of a story composed
In an entertaining verse-form.
Ever since former times, the story has been
Told, and over the years parts have been lost.
- 2 It is inexact, uneven, and unclear, and sentences are missing.
Striving to check and double-check the meter of the discourse,
We corrected it to be new, so that the world
Could preserve it and continue to pass it on.
- 3 We tried hard to keep it intact and correct it to be better.
We committed ourselves to the task,
And so no one could say that we threw away what was important,
We only adjusted it to conform to the times in which the story takes place.
- 4 My name will be presented anew
To the world. I have devised a plan.
I am determined and well prepared.
I have decided to deliver my name exactly,
- 5 And let all the great people, men and women,
In the world know in advance who composed this text.
This is meant just to be a break from boredom,
So that whenever they reflect on it, they will feel amused.
- 6 I will declare myself according to a riddle.
It begins by saying, "As a name, it is regarded as simple.
"The letter 'S' is given just as it is spoken.
"The name is then anticipated by adding on
- 7 "The vowel 'A.' The 'S' is then followed by an 'M.'
"The vowel 'E' before the 'S' is needed before making correct
"The original name as it was from our mother and father."
Now the name has transmigrated by its merits

- 8 And come to be embodied, and having good fortune,
The Buddha bestowed upon it existence.
Having a place, its body lived as a person
By means of the virtue of the Triple Gems upon which each day it
depended.
- 9 It came to dwell as a monk at
Wat Kamprau where it resolved unequivocally
To release itself from the Wheel of Life. It was able to evade
Fatigue and fear because of its determination to succeed.
- 10 That name followed its master
And like a fragrant flower smelled even against the wind.
The title of Preah Padumatther was the achievement
Of the level of merit it earned through its moral conduct and offerings.
- 11 The master had total compassion,
The likes of which there is not on earth.
There were head monks in the city of Kamprau
And other monks who thirsted and hungered to have knowledge like his.
- 12 I went to the city devoutly,
Intending to commit myself to my objective.
I studied the Pali chants and dissertations,
Wanting to attain virtue and perfection.
- 13 The Abbot selected me
To study under his direction just as I
Hoped. Whatever the assignment or instruction,
The compassion of the Abbot came with it.
- 14 Organized by the Abbot, the work of the monks
Residing at the temple brightened
The light of the world. Whenever skills
Were attained, the Abbot gave his approval.
- 15 On our rounds to beg for alms, we went far and near.
We didn't have fear of there not being women to ladle rice for us,
Or that someone would take offense because we traveled
Without having permission cards and because of our negligence have us
haul earth.
- 16 We finished composing these verses in the Buddhist era,
Year two thousand
Four hundred and fifty-eight,
On Monday, the fourteenth of the month
- 17 Which had passed four days in September

Plus one at the beginning of the rainy season,
In the year of the Rabbit,
The seventh year of the ten-year cycle.

- 18 I left the poem so future generations, whomever they may be,
Would truly have knowledge of composition.
My intention was to leave something for future generations, not to show off
What I know. Yet, I fear people will say that was my reason.
- 19 I declare my intention to narrate this poem
So that it may be placed in the religious tradition.
I raise my hands carefully to chant
To the noble Buddha
- 20 About the merits of the Dhamma, great and extensive,
Around eighty-four thousand high
And many deep, in an effort to help
Living beings attain the path of Nirvana.
- 21 And about the merits of the monks, the Buddha's disciples,
Whose dreadful fear of wrongdoing alerts them so they do not hunger for
things,
And are able to renounce the Wheel of Life. They truly
Make offerings to the Buddha. There are monks
- 22 Who are dedicated completely to cultivating a religious life.
Comparable to a vessel meticulously prepared,
They pursue the study of texts taking great pains
And effort in fear of misunderstanding their meaning.
- 23 I give thanks to the Great Teacher,
The mother and father of the Noble Forest
Spirits, who rescued my life.
There is nothing that can adequately compare
- 24 To the virtue of the Noble Teachings
Whose proclamation gave rise to my life.
I give thanks to the Noble Truths and Noble Path
Which push aside and extinguish misery and joy so we may achieve
Enlightenment.
- 25 I give thanks to the powers of Noble Fire and Water,
To the Noble Sun, Earth and Moon,
To the Noble Wind, Stars and Divinities,
Who reside in the prisons of the Sixteen Spheres,
- 26 To Noble Time and the Noble King of Hell,
And the four-armed guardian securely placed

- At the Kingdom of the Enlightened,
Who rest in the Paradise of the Thirty-three Divinities,
- 27 To Noble Indra presiding over his Kingdom,
Whose power has authority
Over the sixteen Heavens and their Divinities
That Noble Vissakamma had built,
- 28 I ask that your power that rules all worlds
And is the shade and refuge
In order to evade the vicissitudes of the body
Protect me as I wish it would.
- 29 Despite whatever sickness may try to afflict me,
Do not allow it into my body.
Please cleanse me
With a clear light shining like a full moon.

Part 1 (30-137)

Tum and Teav's First Love and Separation

(Tum and Pech's friendship at the temple; their trip to Tbong Khmom
to sell baskets; the meeting of Tum and Teav)

- 30 This telling begins with the name Tum.
In the rice farming district of Ba Phnom,
He was born naturally of parents
About whom however nothing is known.
- 31 When he was big enough,
And many years had passed, his mother dressed him up
And brought him to study and threw away his toys.
She sought out a well-known temple
- 32 Where the Abbot received Tum gladly,
And taught him to be skillful in the fields of healing and prayer.
Tum was able to please the Abbot because of his intelligence and diligence
And resolved to be a novice monk.
- 33 Living at the temple under the Abbot for a long time
Was another monk who was also skilled
And well liked, by the name of Pech.
The two monks made baskets to sell.
- 34 Tum was eloquent and had other talents as well.

He had a beautiful voice and handsome body.
His good nature radiated through his disposition,
And eventually he considered Pech as his younger brother.

- 35 Pech knew how to play the flute.
He was intelligent and his musical skills were well developed.
The two novice monks thought similarly,
And the knowledge they each possessed was about equal.
- 36 They made the baskets and brought some to sell
At the houses of relatives near the temple.
But when the cold season arrived,
They became worried.
- 37 Evil thoughts tormented Tum's mind and body.
He met with Pech, and they talked together like one person.
Tum said, "Oh, Pech! You must help!
"We've sold only a few *taok* and it's been a long time already.
- 38 "It hasn't been profitable, and business is slow.
"But don't give up. Like the ancient saying tells us,
'Everywhere close by
'Young men are courting young girls.'
- 39 "What the ancestors say is not wrong at all.
"We are young men in the world,
"Yet we beg for rice and don't know anything!
"Why do we fritter away our lives? We should take advantage of our youth
and travel."
- 40 After thinking it over, they came to an agreement. Looking askance,
They couldn't contain themselves. They diligently prepared
Candles and incense and hurried to the Abbot's residence,
And knelt before him to offer salutations.
- 41 Before long, the Abbot spoke.
"That you should want to go somewhere seems suspicious."
The novice monks responded, "Not at all.
"We beg you not to doubt us. Please have mercy.
- 42 "As both of us wish respectfully
"To leave you, sir... I,
"The two of us, would depart
"To help someone who has a problem in a distant town.
- 43 "If we stay at the temple, it is sure that the boredom
"Would cause us relentless sorrow.
"I'm so unmotivated, sir... not happy...

- "Frustrated and confused. I want to travel
- 44 "And follow my feelings carried by the wind of the season.
 "If we leave you, sir, we would be careful to act becomingly.
 "If we bring the *taok*, we would take along
 "Plenty to sell. Over there, we wouldn't have to negotiate the price."
- 45 The Abbot soon spoke
 Saying, "Ah, as you wish, go.
 "You have said goodbye to me and have decided to go sell the *taok* already.
 "Why is it necessary to tell me?
- 46 "Go ahead! But be careful about getting into trouble!
 "Don't, boys, when you see girls,
 "Revert to clowning around or impropriety,
 "So that unkind criticism reaches me.
- 47 "A shameful reputation in the world
 "Is contrary to Buddhist law.
 "Once you have sold all of the *taok*, don't hang around
 "Figuring out your income. Come back immediately!"
- 48 The two monks paid respect
 Goodbye to the Abbot. Departing in a hurry,
 They quickly went
 To get the *taok* and arrange them upside down in preparation for
- 49 Loading them into the ox cart. They thought to take cooked rice,
 And, having wrapped it, tried to find a sack
 In which to pack it carefully with rice paddy in case the road was rough,
 Since during that season there was bound to be rain and thunder.
- 50 After the monks prepared the sacks of rice
 In preparation for their journey,
 They hauled the cart and set it upright,
 And led the ox to be yoked then drove away.
- 51 That day at around eight o'clock,
 The sun's sparkling light
 From the East, bright red,
 Illuminated the rice fields around them.
- 52 Seeing that there was water and grass along the road, they quickly
 Released the ox and tied him. The monks ate rice,
 While the ox ate grass. Afterwards, they quickly led the ox
 To fit him into the yoke. With the ox harnessed, they continued on.
- 53 They arrived at a village and the place where they could sell the *taok*.

The lay people bought them, and there were only a few left over.
The remaining few they sold along the road
As they forged ahead toward Tbong Khmom district.

- 54 At the border of Tortoung
Thgei province, monks usually stop because people gather
Who want to buy *taok* from them. Some monks watched jealously
Seeing that Tum had such a handsome appearance.
- 55 Some of the women said, "Oh! If
"He were mine, I would grab him and convince him
"To let me have my way with him!" They edged closer to Tum,
And stole furtive glances until they were face to face.
- 56 They weaved through the crowd toward their love near the well,
And jostled and stretched excitedly to see him from a knoll in the shade
Of a banyan tree in the unusual Year of the Tiger
That makes men and women so easily excited.
- 57 Tum and Pech stayed close to the village
As a number of lay people helped them
Sell off the remaining *taok*, taking advantage of the rare
Opportunity of having the monks there a long time.
- 58 The lay people delayed them for many days.
They housed them and wouldn't let them leave
Their village, because they knew
That the rainy season had arrived when,
- 59 According to their understanding,
The monks could stay as long as they wished
And give them the benefit of reciting the scriptures.
Tum had great skill and could mesmerize them
- 60 With his sweet voice so pleasing
To hear. Both young and old, the widows
And young women of Tbong Khmom, rushed
To hear the sound of Tum's words.
- 61 At that time, Miss. Nor, who was the servant
Of Miss. Teav, was making her way to the well.
Holding a clay water pot carefully, she tried
To enter the crowd to find out what was happening.
- 62 Straining her body to see, she furtively listened to
The beautiful sound like someone bowled over.
Swooning,
Nor was enraptured and speechless.

- 63 Nor couldn't wait to get back home to tell Teav everything.
Teav, who was in the shade, was bored.
The woman who was Teav's mother had for possessions
Only her child who was more beautiful than any other woman.
- 64 Nor thought to herself and quickly decided what to do.
She filled the jar and carrying it on her head quickly walked away swaying
side to side.
Reaching the house, Nor went up to Teav's room at once.
Reporting in detail, she spoke to Teav saying,
- 65 "Oh, Teav! Miss. Teav!... Goodness!...
"That monk knows how to chant!
"His voice... it's so soothing to hear him speak...
"Like the *sarika* bird eating a banana!"
- 66 Teav was perplexed. She didn't understand what Nor was talking about.
But when Nor told her clearly, she became excited.
At that point Teav was not confused. Understanding the situation, she
became overly
Excited and wanted to meet Tum and even dared to tell her mother.
- 67 She left her room and bowed low before her mother.
Teav said, "Oh, Mother! Mother,
"Indulge me a moment as I report some news.
"Our people are far from any temple.
- 68 "We have never met any young monks,
"Or even known of one coming this way.
"I heard Nor say that two monks
"Are staying in the village who have brought *taok* to sell.
- 69 "She said they have come from far away and have decided to stay
"At someone's house. They are young monks
"With truly beautiful voices. They know different things and can do them
well.
"Noe says their voices are worth hearing!"
- 70 The woman who was Teav's mother carefully listened.
After hearing Teav, her child, she answered saying, "Ah...
"Reach and get my scarf." And she walked away
Gracefully, eyes askance and well proportioned in the way of an older
woman.
- 71 Reaching the village, she heard the din of the crowd.
Teav's mother said, "Oh, it's really true!"
She moved up to see the young monks who were indeed very talented
And joined her hands and bowed to salute them.

- 72 Then she addressed them saying, "Venerable Sirs,
"Would you come to my house
"To eat soup? We would be so pleased
To have you. Please do not refuse us."
- 73 As Tum listened to the laywoman's invitation,
His eyes inspected her closely.
He answered saying, "If I am to accept your invitation, you must hurry
And go home to finish preparing to make it permissible."
- 74 Teav's mother returned home in a rush.
She unrolled mats and spread them out in place,
Then took various kinds of pillows,
White and black, and stacked them up and put them in a row.
- 75 Pech and Tum met and agreed to accept the invitation.
Pech said, "It's time to eat anyway."
Tum said, "Hold on, the cow is in the grass.
"If he breaks the rope and eats the seedlings, we'll have to repay the
owner."
- 76 Pech said evasively, "Let's get going!
"If we Miss. meal time, we'll be in trouble.
"I'm afraid when we return to the temple, Teacher will scold us
"Saying we're sneaking around after girls.
- 77 "We've traveled all this way for what?
"We should use good judgment.
"When called to eat, we should follow the rules and not behave improperly.
"What the old custom says cannot be wrong.
- 78 "It says there once were four monks
"Who had achieved good conduct and didn't have any faults.
"If they had an affair with the laity at all,
"Their reputations would be ruined making them five."
- 79 "For that reason, you should go alone. I'm afraid people will say something
about
"The laywoman who came and invited you
"To eat and have tobacco at her house.
"Go ahead and eat. I'll tend to the cow myself."
- 80 Tum, anxious to leave, fretted
That Pech would bring up
And explain every custom to elucidate his point.
Finally, Tum was able to dress up in his monk's robes.
- 81 Made of pure silk, the texture of Tum's robes was fine and good-looking.

The crisp fabric had a mustard-yellow
Sheen that shined brightly
And was accentuated by his white scarf.

- 82 He applied a fragrant root scent
And took a fan and stuck it in his belt. He looked quite handsome
With his charming shoulder bag lifted around his neck.
When he finished dressing, he left.
- 83 When he arrived at the house, Teav's mother came down quickly.
She knelt on the ground and bowed with raised hands together
Saying, "Thank goodness you've come!
"Now wait here while we fetch water from the tank for you to wash."
- 84 The perfumed water gave off a fragrant smell.
Using the soap they offered, Tum scrubbed himself clean and fresh.
The fragrant soap with its distinctive smell
Make him think he was lucky to be a monk.
- 85 After washing, he changed his robes
And climbed the stairs to the house. His stomach was in knots.
Teav's mother brought a kind of folded cushion and presented it to him.
Then she offered the monk some tobacco.
- 86 "Surely you know chants of some kind.
"Don't be modest. Please sir,
"Come recite a poem or read a *sastra*.
"We would like to listen a while.
- 87 "Give of all your knowledge, whatever it is.
"As you will, impart
"Your recollections in some way. We would enjoy that.
"My family have come also so we may listen all together."
- 88 As Tum listened to Teav's mother, he was suddenly startled.
His eyes glanced towards the doorway.
He noticed Teav standing outside pacing back and forth,
Flitting in and out of her room,
- 89 Glancing around fitfully, she poked her head into the guest room, mouth
agape.
She wanted to leave her room badly but no one had called her.
She could only look on anxiously by herself for she was young and single.
Then she darted into her room to get a scarf and draped it across her chest.
- 90 When Tum saw that, his stomach fluttered.
He fell in love and anguish arose, tightening his chest.
"Oh! Is that Teav, my dear?"

Instead of turning away, Tum tried to capture Teav's heart by singing the Dhamma.

- 91 Tum chanted *nair mo tas sas* three times
Truly beautifully, while some of those present bowed in awe.
Tum chanted the story of Metry when, under the direction of her husband, Siddhartha:
"She bid farewell to him and disappeared into the forest
- 92 "To traverse the mountain regions
"Looking to pick the fruit growing in the jungle.
"There were forest spirits everywhere
"That frightened Metrr terribly.
- 93 "She eventually fell to the ground, completely lost.
"She sobbed, curled on her side pitifully.
'It's already cold and growing dark,' she said. 'There's no
'Person anywhere to help save my life.
- 94 'I'm separated from my husband because I left and went afar.
'Oh, dear god! I'm completely undone!
'I'm worried the children will Miss. meditating with their father.
'The children must be crying. My children, what can I bring to give you?
- 95 'They must be thirsty and hungry, and there isn't any fruit left.
'It's too much! My husband must have been searching
'And calling for me since morning. I'm worried he wasn't able to eat.
'The same for the children. They must all be famished..."
- 96 Tum summarized and condensed the plot of the story
Then skipped to the story of Tum summarized and condensed the plot of
the story
And reached the end of the philosophical story
He stopped to chew tobacco very briefly
As the family paid respect to the souls of their ancestors.
- 97 The family was mesmerized by Tum.
Some listened so intently they forgot even to relieve themselves.
The beauty of the chanting attracted the interest of passersby. They
gathered around
And squeezed together in the shade in front of the house.
- 98 Then they said, "Venerable, please cast your words for us to hear as well."
Some moved in close to the house wanting to be the first to hear.
They raised both hands in salute saying,
"Please, tell us sir, what story are you chanting?
- 99 "Venerable, don't keep it from us. Speak clearly so we may know the

story.”

Tum tried to figure out what to do. He saw Miss
Teav take a velour scarf,
A newly bought vial, cigarettes and areca seeds.

- 100 When she finished folding the scarf, she raised it
Over her head three times and prayed
Saying, “Please, Venerable Buddha,
“Please, let my heart have its wish.
- 101 “Please help make it so he and I meet and are joined as one.
“Don’t let us be separated.
“In this life or any future life, I truly desire
“To attain the wish to which I dedicate myself.”
- 102 Teav finished preparing her offering and quickly went
To Miss. Nor
Saying, “Nor! Sister, have mercy!
“Offer the tobacco leaves wrapped in this *pha-hom* to him.
- 103 “Let me gain some merit.
“Don’t let me lack wealth. In
“This life and the next life, let me have high rank.
“Don’t make it so I continue to be poor.”
- 104 Tum received the offering
Then unwrapped it and took out the areca. When he had finished chewing
it,
He stopped to rest a little then sprinkled water mixed with oil and flour on
the laity.
Recall the magical *Sarika* bird!
- 105 The legendary *karivak* bird! Recall how
The matchmaker summoned the philosopher’s stone!
Tum took out some *proteal* and ate it with the areca
And continued to chant, revealing his feelings to Teav completely.
- 106 He chanted quickly to conclude,
Then tried to think of a story about a family.
He recalled the story of the Brahman thief,
Who led away a child tied with a vine.
- 107 “As the thief led him away, it makes you feel sorry for the child.
“He cries, thinking, ‘Oh! Today
‘The Brahman thief,
‘Will beat me to death. And where is my mother?’”
- 108 “The child had left the house a long time.

“His mother wanted to gather
 “Fruit for him. She was worried
 “And worked harder because her child returned hungry.”

- 109 Like a small boy Tum
 Chanted, keeping the *pha-hom* wrapped, not opened.
 He took it as evidence that Teav loved him.
 He finished telling the story and said thank you to Teav’s family.
- 110 The laity saluted Tum, and some of them tried to persuade him
 To stay in Tbong Khmom. “I will take care of you.
 “Please be my god-son, Venerable.
 “Have mercy and accept my offer.”
- 111 Before leaving, Tum said,
 “Dear people, I’m sorry if where I should have been correct I erred in my
 talk.
 “Goodbye everyone,
 “For the sun is setting and night approaches.
- 112 “Also, I left the monk Pech alone.
 “I am very distressed and upset
 “And afraid of hurting his feelings too. He takes care of me always,
 “And I always think of him. Furthermore, we are both monks.”
- 113 As Tum explained why he had to leave,
 The lay people listened. Then he left the house
 And set off. Reaching Pech, who was
 Like a brother, Tum said, “Hurry up, come here!
- 114 “Come here!” Tum thought to joke with Pech
 And let him know what had happened and especially to boast about Teav’s
 beauty.
 He said, “Pech! my dear brother,
 “I have begun my courtship of Teav.
- 115 “She is so good, my beloved brother!
 “Now, I am seriously thinking that I want a go-between
 “To make inquiries. She should initially
 “Find out what they want me to pay in order to claim
- 116 “Teav’s love and have her await my return.
 “We will go back to the temple but stay only until the end of the year,
 “Then say goodbye to the Abbot and disrobe because we will promise
 “Teav that we will come back as soon as possible.”
- 117 The two monks decided
 Not to delay at all. Tum

- Spoke saying, "Brother Pech, it's time we
"Gather our rice and put it into a sack
- 118 "Then load it in the cart. Don't delay.
"It's time to turn back before it gets dark.
"The way back is far away.
"We must not delay. We can't wait any longer."
- 119 The two monks decided to return.
At the break of day they left promptly.
After saying goodbye to all the people of the village,
They proceeded to the main road.
- 120 After driving through some back roads, they had to stop and take a break.
Tum, overcome, head bent down, wallowed in grief.
Depressed, he tried to hide his long face and look normal.
"What pain!" he said to himself. Suddenly awake, he thought to open
- 121 The wrapped-up package that smelled of flowers.
He pulled it out and brought it close to his body.
Then he noticed all the trees around him
That he described in rhyme.
- 122 "Oh, *tonlap tonla* trees, come!
"Ripe tlok tree! *Saok* tree lining the road!
"*Tlan* tree! I feel better for the moment!
"How could I abandon Teav and leave her all alone?
- 123 "Oh, what flower's scent could be so fragrant?
"Is it the fragrant jasmine flower or the strychnine flower?
"The scents from the *pha-hom* which Teav arranged
"And applied to the scarf disorient me.
- 124 "Abandoning Teav puts her in a predicament.
"She never considered me to be a monk.
"That's why she dared to go ahead
"And make the offering so carefully to satisfy her desire.
- 125 "The wax containers of the pahom are over-filled with Teav's offerings.
"Teav, my dear, my constant worry is dreadful!
"I feel grief again anew... the tobacco leaves
"That Teav, my love, offered to me...
- 126 "Now I notice the birds frantically nesting.
"The mother and father call to each other then fly off to find
"Fruit to carry in their beaks. They want to bring it
"To their children protected inside the hollow of a tree

- 127 “And feed them until they are satisfied. My misfortune
 “Is so great! Teav’s pain is great.
 “Her sadness doesn’t abate or relent.
 “I pray to the gods to watch over her.
- 128 “Please grant me my wish and that you will have me
 “Return because Teav truly loves me.
 “Now, I have come to stop and rest.
 “This burden inside my body makes me numb and weep.”
- 129 After stopping, Pech called Tum saying,
 “Tum, don’t worry and depress yourself.
 “What’s to worry? Miss. Teav has made up her mind.
 “Who would dare take Teav away?”
- 130 Afterwards they retrieved the ox and brought them to be yoked to the cart.
 They drove away turning this way and that looking for a shortcut
 Or footpath that led to the main road.
 They drove straight for the city of Phnom Chrom Sralau.
- 131 Tum was stupefied as he thought about Teav again.
 His chest became tight, and he was morose.
 He had a worried and distressed look on his face.
 “Your husband sees the grass, the *smach* and *trach* trees and *tras* plant.
- 132 “Oh, Teal tree! My body is broken.
 “Teav depends on me. Thinking of her I feel such regret.
 “*Ph-diek* tree, I was wrong to leave her at all.
 “*Ko koh* tree, I can’t think. There is no relief!
- 133 “The *koki* trees, so abundant, are like my sickness.”
 Anger, overflowing, numbed him
 As he called out saying, “Pech, dear friend!”
 Pech didn’t answer. His apparent indifference helped Pech to keep from
- 134 Being sad. Then putting himself in Tum’s place, they both cried
 As Pech struggled to reply, “Dear Tum, stop this.
 “Wait until we reach the temple later tonight.
 “We must think about bidding goodbye,
- 135 “And informing our teacher of our wish
 “To leave the monkhood because we have an urgent matter to attend to.
 “We will lie to him saying a relative is not well
 “And has contracted a deadly disease that is most serious.”
- 136 The two monks talked together.
 They drove frantically as the sun
 Sank low. Cold, Tum and Pech watched

The sun gently sink

- 137 Until it had finally disappeared, and the people went into their homes.
Nearing the summit of the mountains in
The west, they turned toward
The mountain called by the name *somaroreach*.

Part 2 (138-298)

Tum's Sin

(Tum and Pech's return to the temple; the Abbot's refusal to allow Tum to disrobe; Pech's proper disrobing; Teav's longing for Tum's return; Tum's mother's failed attempt to help Tum obtain the Abbot's permission to disrobe; Tum's disrobing without permission; Tum's request for the Abbot's forgiveness; the Abbot's blessing and arnings)

- 138 Tum and Pech drove until reaching the Wat and stopped for good.
Right at dusk, they entered the temple grounds
And stopped to release the ox
And let him eat the fresh grass growing inside the temple compound.
- 139 Then Pech and Tum met
All the other monks who came
To greet them and say hello.
"Did you trade the *taok* for rice or silver?" they asked.
- 140 "Or did you take coins? Whatever else,
"Tell us, too!" Tum and Pech let them know clearly
To satisfy their curiosity, and since the two monks were eager to please,
They said, "We mixed with
- 141 "Rice and girls and baskets,
"With resin, with horns, with clay jugs,
"With *pha-hom* turbans and sweet honey,
"And scarves too that were equal in value to the *taok*."
- 142 Then Tum and Pech decided not to delay too long.
Together they went straight to find the Abbot
And greet their teacher. At that time, the Abbot was rousing from a nap.
Waking up, he cupped water in his hands to wash his face.
- 143 The two monks bowed down low,
Cautious and afraid of their teacher who had just awakened.
They were worried that he would be angry and that he would kick them.
After washing, the Abbot turned his face, and looking at them asked,

- 144 "Pech and Tum, did you go
 "To trade the *taok* all right?
 "Were the laity over there arrogant and rude,
 "Or did they all offer trades?"
- 145 The monks answered respectfully
 And told the Abbot they had received as much rice as they expected.
 Their profit was, they guessed, equivalent to three or four *taok*.
 This would be just sufficient to cover their spending for the coming year.
- 146 The monks told their teacher all the appropriate information,
 Then said goodbye and quickly turned back
 To their quarters to rest.
 Tum threw himself down in bed exhausted and started to think about Teav
 again,
- 147 Saying to himself, "What horrible things have I done
 "That grief should arise anew to make my heart heavy?"
 He reached for the *pha-hom* that he had wrapped and tucked into his robe,
 And kissed it and held it against his body.
- 148 Perfumed scents wafted from the flowers.
 Tum took the *pha-hom* in his hand
 And brought it to cover his head, believing
 That by doing that he could at least lessen his grief.
- 149 Tum said, "Oh, flowers! flowers!
 "You are fragrant and have pollen, while I am without peace.
 "The scent of the *romchek* flower keeps me from falling asleep.
 "The myriad perfumes of the flowers numb my breast!
- 150 "Oh, I so often imagine
 "Meeting my sweetheart to calm my heart.
 "Her mother invited me to chant the story of Metry,
 "And my love offered me flowers and fruit.
- 151 "Paying homage to the great Buddhist doctrine,
 "She perfumed the *pha-hom* and presented me
 "The offering. Humbly, Miss. Teav wished
 "That she would meet me just as I wished to meet her.
- 152 "Now there is a problem, and I am separated from Teav.
 "Oh, Teav! This stifling grief torments me.
 "Teav! Suppressing them cannot defeat these convulsions of sorrow.
 "I don't know what to say.
- 153 "I am the one who imagines Teav here.
 "The one who helps her relax,

- “And thinks not to let her touch the ground
 “Afraid that a tiger or an elephant or some animal might attack her.
- 154 “I imagine stealing Teav away to come
 “With me to stay forever. Teav! You could not relay your feelings for me directly.
 “You could only give me a sign as evidence that you would wait
 “By way of the tobacco, the areca, the flowers and fruit,
- 155 “By offering the *pha-hom* to me.
 “Now I think of you every place I go.
 “As I wonder about you all alone, I am barely
 “Alive. Will my grief
- 156 “Drag on until the end of the year?”
 As the days passed Tum became despondent as his love for Teav kept increasing.
 He watched all the other young people come in droves
 Overfilling the temple during scheduled ceremonies.
- 157 They came to ceremonies. They came to ordinations. They came to P’chum Benn.
 They arrived for the gatherings from many directions.
 They came to feed the monks and make offerings as is customary
 At the end of the rainy season retreat.
- 158 Tum’s burning grief didn’t abate.
 Miserable, Tum called Pech to come and spoke saying,
 “Pech, dear brother, I’m hurting!
 “To continue like this is unbearable!”
- 159 Pech listened calmly to what Tum said then replied,
 “Oh, Tum! We must relieve your pain so you can relax.
 “Instead of awaiting the time we planned to disrobe,
 “Let’s go ask leave from the Abbot.”
- 160 The two monks agreed on this
 And quickly gathered candles and incense.
 They walked over to the quarters of the Abbot,
 And kneeling, they quickly bowed three times
- 161 Then lit the candles and incense and bowed to pray.
 When their chanting ended, they entered the Abbot’s room to ask leave.
 Nervously they said, “Please, sir... do not blame us...
 “Our reason for coming... to leave His Holiness...”
- 162 “To disrobe...
 “Agree, Your Holiness, to help us...”

- Both of them then saluted the Abbot saying,
"Please give us, Sir... a sign of your pity..."
- 163 "Because we are worried... We are under obligation to...
"My relative... She contracted something...
"A serious and debilitating disease... She's not right...
"When my mother reached the rice field, she turned to pray..."
- 164 "Entreating the family spirits...
"In great fear... then she promised...
"To honor all the spirits for helping her...
"And remember her ancestors with a complete offering..."
- 165 "Danger engulfs her... my mother prays...
"Saying she would be relieved by having me return home...
"My disrobing would give her relief from the pain...
"I will stay with her until she is old and help her defeat any other difficulties."
- 166 Their teacher listened closely then grabbed
A writing tablet to make some calculations saying, "You scoundrels
"Are lying to me! You are cowering to
"A woman's cajoling! Now you rush to abandon the temple and hurry to disrobe!"
- 167 "I've calculated the numbers and recalculated every factor.
"The numbers indicate that Tum
"Must not act impetuously for fear of suffering.
"I see that Pech however can avert this adequately."
- 168 "Pech can disrobe at the end of the Second Month of the lunar calendar.
"Tum, you must wait until it is propitious.
"You must wait until the Sixth Month before disrobing.
"After disrobing you will surely advance to become important."
- 169 Upon reaching the First Month
The wind gusted continuously.
Anxiousness assailed Tum,
As he huddled in his room crying and worried about many things.
- 170 On the one hand, he was distressed at not being able to disrobe.
On the other, he pined for Teav who was
Beyond reach in Tbong Khmom and whom perhaps
Someone had taken away.
- 171 Tum and Pech looked for a way to end the torment.
Tum said, "Let's wait for the next holy day,
"Then we will leave no matter what!"

- Pech answered, "Don't be too anxious, or it won't work!"
- 172 Tum's depression revived once again.
He missed Teav. He missed her beauty. He had no rest.
He wouldn't take rice. He couldn't eat,
Or only very little. From one bowl he had three mouthfuls.
- 173 The time to stop counting the days had arrived.
During the Second Month, strong winds swept in.
The refreshing, cool air made one alert and one's skin goose-bumped.
It scattered the clouds that came sewn together en masse.
- 174 They poured in, bunched together in close groups.
Darkness filled the places where the clouds patched over the sky.
The two brothers decided to stumble on,
Blindly unashamed of being as careless as anyone could be.
- 175 Pech entered the temple to bid goodbye to the Abbot
Thinking, "What if something goes wrong... the Abbot will curse me."
He went up to him and prostrated himself,
Lifting both hands together in supplication.
- 176 The teacher responded to Pech saying,
"Pech, whatever day you want to disrobe, go ahead and do it.
"Anytime during the Second Month appears correct.
"Disrobe and farm rice. The weather is comfortable."
- 177 Tum, hiding quietly, secretly listened to what they said.
"Pech, for you to disrobe right away makes sense."
Hearing this, Tum held back his sobs.
His insides became twisted more and more as he fretted and waited.
- 178 Finally, Tum said to himself, "I can no longer stay here.
"Dear God, why must I suffer so?
"How much longer do I have to endure this torment?
"I might as well be dead.
- 179 "I don't regret becoming a monk or having shaven my head like this.
"Fate has brought me to be plunged into darkness.
"I'm lost as if my head were covered with a pot or someone had grabbed
me tightly.
"I don't care anymore if the Abbot is angry at me."
- 180 Pech went ahead and disrobed that morning.
Tum, devastated, got up and went to await an audience with the Abbot.
But Pech tried to stop him saying, "Not yet.
"Wait until you have settled down and are not so upset."

- 181 We digress from our discussion of Tum and Pech to discuss
Miss. Teav, worried, always in seclusion.
She had become very miserable and introverted.
Increasingly uncertain, she awaited Tum's return.
- 182 She said to herself, "My regret pains me.
"I can't relax. The weight on my body is like a mountain
"That was uprooted and fell, pinning me down.
"It crushes and bleeds me dry with its constant, hard pounding.
- 183 "Pain and anger twist inside my liver.
"My breath is intermittent. I'm scared to death.
"Enough! Oh Tum, I'm dying!
"My body is pale and emaciated from this misery.
- 184 "From a great distance, Tum has abandoned me.
"He has left me all alone."
Defeated and dejected, unable to revive herself,
Teav turned away to see beguiling hallucinations.
- 185 She imagined hearing Tum's voice.
He was chanting for a group of people. "Where are you?" Teav asked.
The sound of his voice made Teav yearn for
His charming and beautiful form.
- 186 Kind Teav recognized him immediately by his monk's robes
And glow like a full moon.
His bright face was round like the moon,
As though polished clean. Then he turned away and disappeared.
- 187 "Will he come back in body?
"Or has he taken a bad turn and fallen ill?
"What can I do to find out what's happening quietly?
"Perhaps I can hire someone to search high and low and investigate.
- 188 "I don't know which is the right way to go.
"Oh! The pain is so horrible!
"I buckle beneath the weight like a boat taking on water.
"Because I am frail, I am heading for a quick death."
- 189 Then Teav called for Miss. Nor,
"Nor! Dear friend, help me. Help me figure this out.
"Do my hallucinations mean it will be a long or short time before Tum
returns?
"Nor, estimate how many months and days before he comes."
- 190 Miss. Nor, the governess, dodged the question
And said, "Wait until next month to watch the clouds

- “Drift from the northeast to take shelter
 “And gather together. At such time thoughts will come to you, Miss. Teav.
- 191 “The wind will sweep in the cold air and the dew will fall.
 “A turmoil in Tum’s heart will make him feel sympathy for you.
 “He will try to think about his Teav and want her love,
 “And ask himself, ‘Why persist in being a monk?’
- 192 “Every day Tum worries, too. He has no peace.
 “He can’t sleep at all because he has abandoned you.
 “He broke away from you because he had resolved
 “To build up merit and be true to the Doctrine.
- 193 “Tum’s desire is to have you as his beloved.
 “The reason that took him far away
 “Will not last very long, dear Teav.
 “He will leave the monkhood and your wish will be realized.
- 194 “Don’t grieve and fret. Please control yourself.
 “Most likely he is not sneaky, so don’t panic.
 “I fear that if you are not well, hardships will arise.
 “If your mother finds out about this, she will surely curse you.
- 195 “She will say you are not pure and that you behave like a cow.
 “The family will snicker and laugh saying,
 “The child has family. She has ancestors.
 “Therefore she should not behave like a bad girl.’
- 196 “You called me to consider the future. Don’t be angry.
 “I wouldn’t refuse you anything, dear.
 “I’ve tried to understand you always.
 “The limit of your ability to control the situation is like the saying:
- 197 ‘One’s nature is a cake that they have premixed.
 ‘It has been measured out according to the cook’s wish.
 ‘Never is the cake any bigger than the mold.’
 “Oh, Teav! I am so worried about being able to take care of you adequately.
- 198 “I’m afraid Tum may not come to look for you.
 “Teav, my sister, don’t scorn me. I’m afraid when
 “I think about it. I am afraid misfortune will beset you.
 “Because of what? I have heard that Nguon plans to revenge Tum.
- 199 “Because he is the son of the Governor of the district,
 “His rank is high, and he is wealthy. The Governor and his people
 “Rule over Tbong Khmom district,
 “While Tum is an ordinary person and must answer to them like everyone
 else.

- 200 "I went ahead and told you this. Dear, don't be hurt.
"Don't be offended or upset.
"Although we can't calculate just when Tum, looking for you,
"Will arrive, he would not abandon a good thing."
- 201 Teav answered, "True, it's just as you say, Nor.
"You have knowledge and insight
"And speak rightly. Most likely Tum will arrive soon.
"Your telling this makes me excited more than ever."
- 202 Believing this, Teav relaxed somewhat.
She laid herself down and slept a while.
Later, she awoke startled, and meditating on Tum,
She lit a candle and incense and prayed to him.
- 203 Let's leave the story of Teav again in order to show
The way Tum always takes the *pha-hom*
To cover his robes and body. Its perfume smelled
Truly fragrant without ever lessening.
- 204 In the dead of the night,
He was afraid, body and soul.
He was depressed and worried.
He didn't regret wanting to disrobe, for he missed Miss. Teav terribly.
- 205 Early morning arose clearly, and sunlight
Shined from the east brightly.
The heat reached Tum's body not long afterwards. Quickly
Tum got on his feet and walked away.
- 206 When he reached the haven
Of his mother's house, Tum met her.
Indeed, when his mother saw that her child had arrived,
Joyfully she descended from the house in a hurry.
- 207 Reaching him she asked, "My son,
"When did you leave your monk's quarters?
"My darling child, did you come here for being
"Miserable or content?"
- 208 Tum cried copiously. Tears ran down his face.
He intended to lie because he was not happy.
"Oh, mother! I cannot eat...
"I'm not well at all.
- 209 "There is a throbbing pain in my stomach that hardly ever stops.
"It's as though someone is scratching and pinching me. It seems like
dysentery

- “Or like a hot mucus churning inside me.
“It agitates and scares me, and I can’t sleep.
- 210 “And I’m unable to close my eyes. Oh mother!
“Upon my mattress and pillows I lay rigid and motionless.
“When I lay down to sleep, everything is stiff.
“I’m kind of angry. I try to be patient and suppress the discomfort.
- 211 “I told this story previously
“When I went to bid goodbye to the Abbot, but he didn’t even look at me.
“I said I was not well and that dysentery pained my insides.
“I said my body was uncomfortable, not so well.
- 212 “The Abbot wouldn’t give me an inch, while he released Pech from the
monkhood.
“I begged the Abbot in every way, but he blocked every argument.
“What does keeping me here accomplish? It makes me miserable.
“Mother, go persuade him to let me leave!”
- 213 Tum’s widowed mother cried along with her child.
She kneeled down then replied,
“My dear child, in every case
“You have never behaved improperly in any way.
- 214 “The Abbot likes you more than any other. He likes you so much!
“He has entrusted you with all the temple’s possessions, old or new.
“He let you take care of his tobacco and areca nut.
“Rice, water and food, you are allowed to eat as you like.
- 215 “What has happened this time?
“I am always happy to give you my consideration. I feel sympathy
“And pity you as though we had the same life.
“Now you are miserable and no one knows.
- 216 “From the time you were small until you were grown up,
“Dear child, I have heard only good news.
“But after hearing what you’ve told me, I’m afraid of doing wrong.
“But if that’s how it is, you may ask me to go speak to the Abbot.”
- 217 When Tum heard his mother, his sadness lessened.
His body relaxed because of the comfort of being in her presence
And because his mother said just what he wanted her to,
According to his misleading information. Then Tum said goodbye,
- 218 “Mother, I am going to the temple.
“Mother, what time can you go? Make haste.
“Hurry. Don’t delay.
“Come before I am too weak.

- 219 "Another thing you can do concerns the ancestor's spirits.
"They usually take care of us in every way.
"Therefore, help me placate them. If you can do this,
"When we go to ask leave from the Abbot, he will be put at ease."
- 220 Tum's mother reflected on the situation.
She arrived at a plan of action quickly.
She grabbed fresh betel nut and areca,
Candles and incense, and took a lace scarf to cover herself and left.
- 221 Tum's mother moved gracefully and smoothly.
Then she proceeded to enter the temple to seek an audience
With a monk of moderate seniority
Saying, "Oh, sir! I'm embarrassed.
- 222 "Everybody has always applauded Tum, both young and old.
"They would praise him highly. Now everything has changed.
"The Abbot is not patient with him either.
"Tum says the Abbot has changed his mind and attitude about him.
- 223 "Tum is my son. What happened, sir?
"Normally everyone is very pleased with him. Why did the Abbot change
his mind?
"My child came to tell me saying,
'I'm leaving the monkhood.'
- 224 "It's intolerable for me to keep this in.
"I can't restrain myself and remain silent.
"My son is only a novice, sir.
"Because I'm a woman, there are limits to what I can do."
- 225 Then Tum's mother bowed goodbye.
From there she went
To the Abbot's quarters. She greeted him,
Lifting her hands and raising them over her head.
- 226 Then she said, "I would like to say that
"If I speak incorrectly, please sir
"Have pity on me for I am only a lay woman.
"What do I know to dare to speak in Tum's stead?
- 227 "Tum, who is my son, arrived
"Home and leaving nothing out said he can no longer endure the
monkhood
"And wants to disrobe. If he remains a monk
"For a long time, he's afraid he'll Miss. the point of the Dhamma
- 228 "And commit careless mistakes because he's naive

- “And fickle. He’s too easily tempted by pleasure.
 “Sir, I’m so worried. On the one hand, I’m afraid for him to disrobe.
 “On the other I’m distressed about the dysentery that afflicts him.
- 229 “Is it true, sir, that it’s very serious?
 “I’m worried he was given Chinese or Vietnamese sweet cake.
 “Urinating at night, he says, is sometimes difficult sometimes easy.
 “Having to constantly defecate at night makes him unable to sleep at all.”
- 230 The Abbot, not long afterwards, spoke,
 “No, the young novice Tum
 “Went away to sell *taok*. After selling all of them,
 “He returned love sick over a girl.
- 231 “In the district of Tbong Khmom, there are many young women
 “Who are charming, young and single.
 “Now they desperately desire husbands.
 “For that reason I am not pleased.
- 232 “We must not allow Tum to disrobe.
 “I’ve calculated the numbers and seen that he would be met by death.
 “Tum’s fortune predicts bad luck.
 “He must be prevented from disrobing until the end of this year.”
- 233 The woman who is the widowed mother of Tum
 Listened as the Abbot gazed
 Glaringly at her. He dissuaded her sternly
 With harsh language as though he were extremely angry.
- 234 Then she left and reached the road where Tum was waiting for her
 She said, “Dear child, don’t argue.
 “How can you oppose the Abbot? It would be comparable to a war.
 “He is like the French when they show off their guns.
- 235 “Although the Abbot may shoot you dead, your reputation doesn’t end.
 “Just as animals die, the same goes for ourselves.
 “If the Abbot predicts you will be uprooted, then you will be
 “Knocked down flat on your back dead.
- 236 “For this reason, are you going to stop trying to disrobe, my child?
 “If you continue to be frustrated, you will be hurt.
 “Now go find some water to drink and wash quickly.
 “When you finish cleaning up and eating, begin on your studies.
- 237 “Study the Buddhist scriptures and their meanings and do whatever
 “To move away from this problem once and for all.
 “It’s like mending a torn dress
 “With fine needlework, or putting things right by sweeping dirt from the

house.”

- 238 Then Tum answered, “That’s enough! Stop!
 “Mother, don’t compare everything. I can’t stand it.
 “If that’s the way it is, go home and lay down to rest.
 “You’ve helped enough. Relax. Don’t torment yourself.”
- 239 Come the morning, we wonder why Tum
 Has taken only the *pha-hom* Teav gave him.
 He is walking into the forest to seek solace
 And quiet. Then Tum stands up to pray.
- 240 He salutes the Buddha and the Abbot
 And changes out of his monk’s robes. Not long afterwards he leaves the
 forest.
 Then he goes to enter the temple
 To expiate his sins, sad that in the future his wrongdoing will yield bad
 results.
- 241 Tum addressed his mother.
 Physically upset as though gravely ill
 With that sickness that is heartache and stays without letting go,
 He bid goodbye to her.
- 242 “Venerable Buddha, do not take offense at what I’ve done.
 “Do not use this sin against me, Sir.
 “Please, Your Grace, absolve me and allow me
 “To reach the shore where there is no more suffering.”
- 243 Tum decided to get away from the temple straight away.
 Distraught from frustration, he ripped his kroma and pinned the end,
 making a pocket.
 Then he grabbed his monk’s clothes, folded them and inserted them into the
 pocket.
 He carried the bundle on his hip as he walked until reaching the big forest.
- 244 He asked the forest’s spirits to hide and shelter him. Then he took out all
 The braided flowers, votive candles, incense and food
 To offer the spirits. Then Tum
 Joined and lifted his hands to pray.
- 245 Tum chanted saying, “Sometimes being
 “Who lust for pleasure in other lands
 “And become filled with desire
 “Abandon their faith without any regret.”
- 246 Tum prayed to the spirits not to hinder him,
 As he changed out of the last of his monk’s clothes without regret.

Then he put on a fine, clean silk sarong
And lifted all of his monk's garments and hung them from a branch.

- 247 The forked branch sagged close to the ground.
The young monk Tum who had dared to perform
His own disrobing then continued on his way.
Yet, his conduct, sneaky and improper, was not finished with him.
- 248 He arrived at the temple grounds after a short time.
Avoiding everyone, he looked for Pech. When he found
Pech, he laughed and took him out of sight.
Tum grabbed Pech by the shoulders and shook him playfully.
- 249 From that time, it was not long before
Tum began to pine for Teav and realize what he had done.
He hung his head in utter despair and confusion,
Missing greatly the place where they had first met.
- 250 He imagined waking up and grabbing
Hold of Teav's hand and saying, "Maybe
"As you are a single, grown woman
"You can run away from home with me."
- 251 He imagined his lovely sweetheart listening to him
As he chanted to her and the lay people outside the house
In the town of Tbong Khmom where they first met.
He had not forgotten the power of their love.
- 252 Tum, who had just disrobed,
Spoke to Pech saying, "Pech! I ask
"For your pity, since my
"Heart wants only to pine for
- 253 "And think of Miss. Teav who
"Has given me the wax container.
"The cloth *pha-hom* gives off a fragrance that makes me delirious
"Every night and day. I have just disrobed."
- 254 Pech readied himself as he waited and listened to Tum.
He responded, "Oh, Tum!
"If it is like that, you cannot go on in peace
"Because you will never be happy.
- 255 "Your sin remains because you are culpable.
"You are a monk who is clearly from a good family,
"Yet doesn't believe in the Buddha. Most serious
"Is that you dared to run away and disrobe without remorse!"

- 256 Tum said, "If that's so, Pech, let's go.
"We must find the food and all the things we need
"To offer the Abbot to absolve me of my sins.
"Then will be gone the anger in his heart for what I've done."
- 257 The two students fully realized what they had to do.
They proceeded to Pech's home as fast as they could
To find all the food and fruit they needed for the offering.
When they had finished, Tum told Pech to accompany him to the temple.
- 258 They entered into the temple grounds. When they climbed to the Abbot's quarters,
The Abbot was seated, reclining on a cushion.
Tum and Pech sat themselves down and raised their hands evenly
Clasped together above their heads.
- 259 The Abbot looked directly at Tum and Pech
Saying, "Tum, poor fellow, what business do you have coming here?
"Why do you want to meet me again, you rascal?
"Enough! I won't say anything against you.
- 260 "A teacher should never curse his student.
"I don't have anger for you. I will be honest and forthright.
"If a student slips and goes awry
"In his actions, I try to direct him
- 261 "So he can rebuild a reputation that is high and far-reaching.
"If a student is afraid and ignorant,
"I try to teach him not leave his studies undone.
"I call on him to study the Doctrine until he knows it well."
- 262 Pech and Tum respectfully listened to their teacher.
As he directed them about every path of action, they kept scratching themselves
And lifting their heads bashfully and sheepishly.
Afterwards they carefully responded to his words.
- 263 "Please grant us forgiveness for the suffering we have caused.
"Save us so we may go forward in our lives, Sir.
"Venerable, pardon all of our sins.
"Mercifully protect our reputations from now on.
- 264 "I was wrong and improper in everything I did.
"Please, I ask of you, Venerable, to save me.
"Being just a student, Venerable, I was made ignorant
"By mundane desires."
- 265 The Abbot responded,

- "Ah, true indeed. It's just as you've described.
 "Those words, in terms of accuracy, are well said.
 "But you must still beware of danger to yourself.
- 266 "I am not angry about any of your sins old or new.
 "But in the world do not let this happen again.
 "Sins from the past come to occupy you unseen.
 "You are never rid of them as the Laws of Karma tell us clearly.
- 267 "The Buddha showed us there is always sorrow.
 "Sometimes it changes to be happiness right up until you are old.
 "As for the state of death, it is unavoidable.
 "Such were the words the Buddha spoke in his teachings."
- 268 Tum and Pech bowed with hands clasped while
 Listening to the Buddha's teachings
 And as the Abbot, who pitied his students, chanted
 The Three Refuges of the Buddha.
- 269 "These prayers, the Lord Buddha bestowed His advice to
 "Anybody who thirsts and hungers for knowledge, both male and female
 "Born every day into the world,
 "Wishing that happiness may be attained."
- 270 Pech and Tum listened to their teacher
 Chant to the end offering his blessing. They responded
 Saying, "Amen. May we have relief
 "And respite from sorrow as the blessing we happily receive."
- 271 They lifted their hands in obeisance.
 In their hearts there was a sense of satisfaction
 That spread through their bodies, stirring happiness.
 They were so relieved and excited they seemed unable to contain
 themselves.
- 272 Then Tum bid goodbye to the Abbot saying, "Please
 "Venerable, disMiss. me because I have spoken
 "With all the laity in the outlying provinces.
 "They have already spread word amongst themselves that I will go there.
- 273 "Specific arrangements were made which I'm not allowed to miss.
 "Those families must act according to
 "Calculations to buy the *taok* on credit for rice.
 "If I delay too long, I'm afraid our agreement will be nullified.
- 274 "The good people of Tbong Khmom
 "Who reside in the thorny forest
 "Depend on my magic chants and knowledge of

- "Ghosts, village spirits and sorcerers.
- 275 "Then they had a happy idea.
"To prevent my leaving they planned to arrange a marriage for me,
"Then arranged things with Miss. Teav who had just entered the shade.
"Because Pech and I hated the idea, we snuck back to the temple."
- 276 The Abbot tried to listen to the words of Tum and Pech,
Then responded abruptly, "You've made this up!
"It's not true, you rascals!
"As usual, misery which causes everything is behind this.
- 277 "The people in the world, both women and men,
"Never really hate the opposite sex.
"Don't lie to me! I know the situation.
"But I will not talk like someone trying to catch you in a lie."
- 278 Then the Abbot gave
Tum permission to act according to his wishes without restrictions.
He said, "Go ahead and don't worry about having offended me.
"It's up to you to behave well.
- 279 "Don't flaunt your knowledge or be arrogant.
"Beware of others who can hurt you because you are too self-absorbed.
"Don't speak without respect for others or their family
"Relations. Always be on your best behavior.
- 280 "Don't be the type of soldier who overruns whatever is around him.
"Don't tease children, or people will curse you.
"As for the wives of powerful people, don't
"Entertain the desire to snatch them away for yourself.
- 281 "Don't flirt with them.
"Normally women are obstinate. They want you immediately.
"They look for men and lead them astray.
"They are quick to satisfy their desires without worrying about the consequences.
- 282 "Gossip of your misdeeds will reach me.
"The Buddha's teachings show
"That one's sins continue a long time,
"Passing from one birth to the next.
- 283 "As for me, your teacher, you are without sin.
"Don't claim that I am close-minded.
"I give you my blessing. Please, come closer.
"Come and I will take this opportunity to chant the Dhamma."

- 284 The Abbot held a fan to block his face.
Hearing him chant gave them great pleasure.
"May they have long lives and true happiness.
"May their happiness be plentiful and give You merit.
- 285 "May they have strength
"And attain high rank, money and wealth.
"May their strength and intelligence not diminish,
"And may their wives be young and pure.
- 286 "May they have famous reputations which spread their power
"So that others respect and fear them. May both men and women
"Everywhere take care of them, especially those in the territory
"Of the district where Miss. Teav lives, so they may arrive there to govern."
- 287 The students were both fulfilled.
Their worries were now gone and they were completely satisfied.
There is nothing to which this can be compared.
It was actually as though they had gone to heaven.
- 288 Afterwards, Tum and Pech bent down and listened to the Abbot
As he gave them his blessing.
They raised their hands to bid him goodbye,
And descended from the Abbot's quarters and hurriedly walked away.
- 289 Tum and Pech climbed up the steps to Tum's house and sat down.
Tum told his mother, "Now,
"Mother, we have decided that the time is right
"To make the journey to Tbong Khmom. Mother,
- 290 "Is the way open for me go, or will you prevent me
"From meeting our schedule over there?
"The Abbot says if I am to have inner peace
"And happiness, I must be free to go."
- 291 Although Tum's mother wanted to prevent him from going,
She said, "My child,
"Your mother every day seems not very
"Healthy due to having contracted an illness.
- 292 "Being old, the time has come to earn merit before I die
"And seek out the support of family.
"It's not as though you are a child. Taking care of you does not require
discipline.
"I will not delay the time of your departure."
- 293 She said, "You have set the exact time of your departure.
"Once you leave, there will be no stopping you.

"It would only be a waste of valuable time.
"You be careful of damaging your mother's good name."

294 As soon as Tum and Pech realized the situation, the two
Were both equally happy.
In their state of pure and extreme elation,
Whatever worries they may have felt were now gone.

295 Pech and Tum met together.
Turning toward one another, the dear friends conversed,
"We must get going, friend.
"There is no time to waste.

296 "We must proceed victoriously.
"To have success we cannot be afraid. This is our time of glory.
"With supernatural or earthly power,
"All can be reduced to nothing.

297 "The crow's foot that is not clean will lose its possessions.
"To start out on the wrong day brings misery.
"We must go on zero-two or zero-four.
"We must go when everything is just right."

298 Tum and Pech were completely satisfied with the time
They had decided was best to start off.
When the morning light clearly dawned,
Then the two would leave.

Part 3 (299-354)

Tum and Pech's Return to Tbong Khmom

(Tum and Pech's journey to Tbong Khmom; the terrifying night in the forest; the children along the road; the soldier; their arrival at their adopted mother's house in Tbong Khmom)

299 As Tum and Pech followed the road along the rice field,
They noticed relatives walking quickly after them. They turned around
And the entire family saluted them.
An aunt said, "Greetings!

300 "We all bid farewell to you that leave for Tbong Khmom!"
"Dear aunt," Tum said, "Don't cry. I'm not
"Abandoning our village. I will return as usual.
"Aunt, I would not leave my mother for good.

301 "But I feel sympathy for my brothers and sisters,

- "Who, according to what I've heard, need my help and care.
 "I'm afraid a disease has afflicted them,
 "Spreading a debilitating sickness."
- 302 The family of Tum and Pech evasively answered,
 "Oh, nephew! What happened to your face to make it yellow!"
 They turned away startled and went back quickly.
 Sorrow for Teav like water washed over Tum.
- 303 As soon as the two young men had bid goodbye to their families,
 They got back on the road to the district of Tbong Khmom.
 After walking a while, they hesitated, missing their village.
 Pech and Tum felt sick at heart.
- 304 Just as Tum reached a wooded glade,
 Incessant longings for Teav tied his stomach in knots.
 Tears flowed as he thought of his sweetheart.
 "Oh, Teav! My thoughts for you are beyond words!"
- 305 They arrived at a field of reeds, fallen and sprouting.
 The white flowers, creeping and sparkling bright
 Were like the shining body of his beloved.
 Like the reeds' healing flowers, he longed for her so much.
- 306 Glimpsing the deep waters and the *trakaet* grass,
 Tum addressed Teav, "My heart is perplexed.
 "The trakuon plant is like my body. I must stop to lie down.
 "I will stop in the shade of the branches of the wild guava.
- 307 "The *yeaplong*, like me, has become dislocated and far removed from home.
 "To this sad forest it has come, so long separated from its bamboo grove.
 "It misses home always,
 "Just as I Miss. you, Teav. I'm afraid just to think about it!"
- 308 Then the two young men reached the forest.
 By morning, we observe Tum's sadness increasing.
 Tum is listing the names of the trees cleverly,
 As Pech reaches to pull down the branch of a fruit tree because he is thirsty
 and hungry.
- 309 As Pech picks the succulent fruit to eat,
 Tum keeps thinking about Teav and says, "Oh, Pech! There are
 "*Puoch* fruits like the time Miss. Teav dared to give me the *pha-hom*.
 "It seemed that she wanted to show her love for me.
- 310 "Look, there are sandalwood, litchi fruits and plums.
 "They are like Miss. Teav who clearly misses her sweetheart
 "And whose dreamy imaginings she cannot reveal.

- "Like the moon, the fruit falls far from the tree.
- 311 "The *srakhom* has died.
"Its downfall is a result of wrong conduct. Observe the mango tree!
"Observe the monkeys in groups jumping quickly.
"Because their loved ones are far away, they call out.
- 312 "Their calls are really
"Vessels of Miss. Teav. They ask, 'Why is it
'That you left? You should try to borrow
'Someone's buffalo and thunder back to take her away.'
- 313 "I see there are fruits ripe and green.
"The wild mangoes are scattered here and there just as I am separated from
"My sweetheart. But my limbs move straight ahead.
"The desire inside me will never forget her.
- 314 "I see the vine pleased with its clinging fruit.
"It is like Teav's love. I can never turn away from
"The token of her love." Tum and Pech
Were now moving right along, but had not emerged from the forest.
- 315 "Far from the long rice fields, I am disheartened.
"It's as though I think this way because of the cicada.
"As the insects keep crying more and more, your Tum becomes obsessed
with
"Hallucinations that it is afternoon already.
- 316 "It is afternoon and we have overshot the main road.
"Whether we have gone right or not,
"We've been a long time in the forest. Hey, Pech!" Tum said aloud,
"Let's look for a place to rest and cool ourselves off."
- 317 Pech answered, "If we do like that
"We should look for some clearing that is safe.
"We have to be careful. I'm afraid there are tigers crouched in hiding!
"If they attack us, we're done for!
- 318 "Keep going. Stopping to make camp here doesn't make sense.
"You're acting foolish because a woman has got you in a tizzy. Try to hold
on!"
Pech and Tum talked it over. Then they decided
To climb a tall tree.
- 319 When they reached a branch where they could sleep,
They lay down without fear.
But upon hearing the sounds of animals calling, Tum quietly listened,
Readying himself. For some time,

- 320 Tum glanced up at the moon,
Shining a clear and radiant light. It was perhaps
Ten o'clock, deep in the middle of the night.
Thinking of this and that, Tum quietly nodded off to sleep.
- 321 The wind blew quiet and cool,
Refreshing the air as falling dew crackled on the leaves
It sprinkled down in front of him, soaking
And saturating the *oulaok* and *beng* trees.
- 322 The sounds of all the animals' nostalgic cries
Answering each other transfixed Tum as he listened to the melodies.
Pech and Tum, feeling afraid,
Became very worried.
- 323 Pech said, "Oh, we shouldn't have
"Come to sleep in the forest just because you were worried about your
sweetheart!
"Animals of every kind surround us!
"It is quite obvious that this is not right!
- 324 "If someone is dignified, he should live in a dignified way.
"If someone is defiant and opposes tradition,
"He will receive ridicule and be accused noisily,
"Especially for being willing to die for a woman!
- 325 "Sad one, the Abbot for a long time said
"That you will bring hardship to your family.
"But because you have been an adequate student, he was willing
"To offer his blessing straight from his heart.
- 326 "Word will reach the Abbot that you have been stupid.
"In the dark, you walked and slept in the jungle.
"If we kill ourselves meaninglessly in the forest,
"The Abbot will be sick with regret and sorrow."
- 327 At that time, the danger of the nighttime ended.
In the clear morning light, they could see everything in the distance.
It was time to move and get out of there.
Walking away, they emerged from the forest and arrived at the road.
- 328 Tum and Pech had fled the forest and spotted a village.
When they neared some houses at the outskirts of the village,
They went closer to ask for rice and food.
When they finished eating as much as they wanted,
- 329 They left the people of the village and went on.
Passing along, they heard male

And female birds perched in the trees.
Tum, having something to say, addressed Pech,

- 330 "Brother, look at the birds' erratic flight.
"The brown owl timidly flies, testing new wings from out of the trees.
"The dove flies to its nest in the bamboo stand.
"The *popoch* swoop out of the *popoul* tree,
- 331 "And the parrot cries." Tum could not stop worrying
About Teav, his beloved, with whom he was not yet united,
And to whom he had not yet returned. Was Miss. Teav still
Willing to wait for him?
- 332 Like an enraged lunatic, Tum pressed on.
Though anguished by the journey, he surged ahead
To reach Teav to find out whether she missed him
With all her heart or not.
- 333 Continuing on in the same direction, they arrived
At an area where the main road was very near.
Seeing some children, they called to them, but they did not reply.
They urged them adamantly to speak.
- 334 The children were all friends,
And their bodies smelled of water buffalo dung.
Tum and Pech said, "You there!
"You don't need to be afraid of anything at all!
- 335 "We want to hire you for money.
"We won't leave anyone out.
"Let's get all of you to prepare yourselves.
"Now, children! When I ask you something you should tell me the answer!"
- 336 The children finally opened their mouths and said, "What do you want to
ask?
"If you want to know something, you had better keep your word
"Clearly and follow through on your promise.
"We're frightened by the sound of your voice."
- 337 Tum and Pech stepped forward
And said, "Boys, are we going in the right direction
"To go to the house of the good and kind Miss. Teav?"
"It's very far!" the boys answered. "But if you hurry you can get there
before long."
- 338 "Does Miss. Teav have a husband already or no?" Tum asked the boys.
"Tell me directly, just as you know.
"Tell me everything honestly according to your side

"Or is she still single and unattached?"

- 339 The children replied clearly,
"Miss. Teav's house, if you keep to the populated areas,
"Is only as far as the amount of time it will take the sun
"To fall past its zenith. By then you will arrive."
- 340 "She has only a widowed mother who is pretty.
"And she has a servant who is devoted to her.
"The servant is a religious person who wants do the right thing.
"She is even tempered and believes in following through on whatever she
does.
- 341 "She treats Teav as a child and gives her free time,
"While she waits for her at home. She has lived there
"As Teav's nanny free of resentment.
"She is happy and has no faults.
- 342 "We have told you the real situation.
"There are family far and wide or close friends,
"Who could tell you and let you know this as well.
"Our desire is to be clear and not disappoint you."
- 343 Tum spoke to the children playfully,
"Ah, you boys! We came here to pray
"To the gods that Teav will know the medicine for infertility
"Gray hair, sprained bones, hernias, blistered skin and blenorrhoea!"
- 344 As soon as Tum and Pech had spoke,
The children scattered
And rushed back to the village. Tum and Pech thought a moment,
Then Tum said, "Which way Pech to Teav's house?"
- 345 "Don't worry, Pech answered,
"And don't rush things. Be wary of other people.
"They will be angry and blame Teav's family because they will guess
"We are looking for the house where Miss. Teav stays.
- 346 "Since we are here, let's go to our adopted mother.
"She will explain the way things work here.
"Surely, she will remember
"Our happy faces from the last time we met and needed help."
- 347 After talking together, Tum and Pech forged ahead.
They came upon a soldier, and Tum veered to avoid him.
He didn't dare ask him anything, afraid he might give them a hard time.
Thinking it over, Tum turned around thinking he knew him, though he
wasn't sure.

- 348 Then Tum raised his hands in greeting to ask,
 "Please excuse me, sir.
 "One of those houses is my adopted mother's. It cannot hide from me.
 "I used to depend on staying there."
- 349 As soon as Tum had finished, the soldier replied,
 "That's right, go down the road,
 "The small path traversed by the fence,
 "Until you get to the house. It will be truly clear to you!"
- 350 Pech and Tum bid farewell. Arriving,
 They recognized the house definitely. It was not long at all
 Before they called out and their adopted mother happily replied,
 "Oh, children! You've been gone so long. Seldom do you come here!"
- 351 Tum and Pech, happy to see her, bustled up to the house.
 Raising their hands in salute, they bowed together.
 The woman who was their adopted mother sat close to them
 And asked them many questions.
- 352 When she asked about their parents in the village,
 Tum said, "Mother looks ahead but doesn't dare to hate me."
 Then their adopted mother spoke as though she were choking,
 "So you begin by coming to double check the situation here?"
- 353 Tum answered saying, "I ask you respectfully
 "To be quiet until I explain everything to you.
 "I ask of you, mother,
 "Not to feel anxious as I speak.
- 354 "The lying and concealing of truth,
 "Which up to now I have relied upon, has been because of Miss. Teav.
 "She promised her love and offered as evidence
 "A container of tobacco leaves wrapped in a *pha-hom*."

Part 4 (355-391)

Teav's Arranged Marriage to the Governor's Son

(The arranged marriage between Teav and the Governor's son;
 Teav's unwillingness to cooperate; her mother's anger at her refusal
 to marry into wealth and status)

- 355 We will stop and digress from
 The story of Pech and Tum and go to Tbong Khmom
 And talk about the endeavors of Orh-Chhuon,

Who is meeting with his wife.

- 356 He says to her, "Hey, wife! Our son who is so special to us,
 "We must guard him because I have rank.
 "There are wealthy children
 "Among the elite who line up in great numbers to meet him.
- 357 "I have heard all the people clearly
 "Speaking outright and with a kind of certainty,
 "Spreading gossip that there is someone of suitable rank for our son.
 "The child's appearance is as attractive as our Nguon as well.
- 358 "That girl has a widowed mother only,
 "But all the possessions she desires.
 "She actually has a servant to wash her feet.
 "Her complete attributes will last until she is old!"
- 359 His wife listened attentively to him.
 She believed that the girl's suitability was not yet clear.
 She addressed her husband saying, "Sir,
 "I detect bad intentions.
- 360 "We must think before arranging our son's marriage with someone's child.
 "A girl or a river, by having a body,
 "Has greedy intentions. We must think before giving Moeurn Nguon
 "To spend all the years, months and days of his life with her."
- 361 Orh-Chhuon reflected as he listened to
 His wife express her suspicions.
 Then he said, "Dear wife,
 "I have heard from people
- 362 "And others
 "Who come to meet with me
 "That there is nothing but praise for Teav's beauty
 "In the countryside.
- 363 "If our dear child is enamored with this girl,
 "We should empathize with our beloved son.
 "In that case, it would be appropriate for us to plan the breads, sweets
 "And various foods like fish and meats that we will need.
- 364 "Then identify someone who is clearly knowledgeable
 "And truly has knowledge of philosophy,
 "Who puts things cleverly, and is used to negotiating
 "Persistently and skillfully and knows how to be eloquent.
- 365 "He must be able to explain things to the girl's side

- “And acting as our go-between follow tradition
“To inform the mother
“Of Miss. Teav and relate whatever conditions they may have.”
- 366 The wife of Orh-Chhuon undertook the matter of gifts immediately,
Gathering them together quickly as in a single motion.
She took all the foodstuffs and wrapped them to keep fresh.
When she had prepared the gifts completely, she sent them on their way.
- 367 The go-between and his helpers departed over-loaded with gifts down the
road.
Despite serious efforts to keep straight, they twisted and turned
As they tried to speed up, beating the oxen across the hills and plains,
Forests and jungle while trying to keep an eye on where they were going.
- 368 Looking ahead,
They saw someone who clearly was Teav’s mother. Without a doubt,
These were not ordinary people. When
They had come close enough for Teav’s mother to know who they were,
- 369 She scurried down from the house
And spoke as would befit an in-law,
Saying, “Sirs, welcome! Come in!
“Do you intend to travel far?
- 370 “Or is it that you come looking for me?
“Please, would you kindly explain.
“Let me know your business. Explain everything
“Clearly and don’t keep anything back.”
- 371 Everyone had reached the house.
Teav’s mother, very happy, had just arranged a wooden tray.
Bread was put on a copper serving table and quickly brought in.
The visitors climbed the stairs to the house, raised joined hands in greeting
- 372 And said, “We come in good faith
“To perform our responsibilities as best we can.
“If we act improperly, we respectfully apologize.
“If we seem proud or rude in any way, please forgive us.
- 373 “For the Governor together with his wife
“All two, all three, have given word
“To instruct us to deliver these gifts
“In the hope of securing your sympathies.
- 374 “They form a kind of road or bridge across which to step quickly.
“We politely inquire, Madame, what would you say
“To this offer to engage your child? For it would be of great moment

"If your daughter were to exchange vows with Moeurn Nguon, the Governor's son."

- 375 Teav's widowed mother listened,
Quite taken by the offer. Enthralled,
She managed to say, "How flattering!
"Sir, by all rights, she is a treasure!
- 376 "I do my best every day, but it is difficult still.
"They come in droves. It seems relentless.
"But, I must say, my child is busy!
"Even relatives want to come for her hand, many at a time!
- 377 "I don't know yet if it's appropriate that relations
"Proceed with the Governor
"Because we are commoners. We should restrain ourselves.
"It is quite unexpected, to have been called upon by a member of the elite.
- 378 "His Excellency, Orh-Chhuon, is too important!
"Usually, beneath the sky everything is lower than a mountain.
"Those who have power don't ask.
"They simply cut, stab and beat someone without mercy.
- 379 "It's only right that I inform our relatives before making any decisions.
"Go offer my respects to the Governor and his wife,
"And tell them that before we form relations,
"It is necessary that I consult my daughter."
- 380 The go-between remembered everything Teav's mother said.
Then she lifted the foodstuffs that were the gifts
And presented them to her. After, she bowed her body
Respectfully and raised her hands in salute.
- 381 The entourage started back to the Governor's residence.
Everyone bid goodbye to Teav's mother
And set off to inform Orh-Chhuon and his wife of what had happened,
Committing everything to memory exactly.
- 382 Afterwards, as for
Teav's mother, she rushed around overjoyed.
Seeing the breads and foodstuffs set on the table in trays,
She quickly put them away for safe keeping.
- 383 Then she addressed her child. "My dear,
"We should be happy!" she said, her face aglow.
"I am giving you in marriage to the Governor's son,
"So we can have the happiness that rank and wealth afford!

- 384 "We will have daunting power! We will have status!
"Accordingly, your rank will rise!
"I am talking to you! Don't be proud
"And impudent! Show that you value your mother!"
- 385 As Teav heard her mother tell her to remember her place,
She became utterly afraid.
Then, having something to say, she said, "Oh, mother!
"I, who am your child, regret these gifts of rice and food.
- 386 "If you want to make an arrangement with them,
"Offer one of your children who is free. You have other boys and girls
"To offer to them. Whether you choose number two or three,
"It's up to you to give them in marriage. Why must it be me?"
- 387 Teav's mother listened to Teav's stubborn refusal.
"It's not wrong at all that I dare answer, 'Mother, don't!
"You should arrange your child's marriage with her interests in mind.
"When you see a powerful person, you offer me without my consent!"
- 388 The mother waited to hear Teav speak, then responded
Telling her, "Oh, Teav! You should calm down
"And control your emotions. You are not looking ahead.
"Calm down first. Don't argue me into a corner.
- 389 "Be careful you don't destroy everything with your recklessness.
"A chicken's egg will come to have worries
"As it rolls straight for a stone and breaks into a million pieces.
"If you persist in cornering me, you will push me over the edge!
- 390 "In our tradition, you would be compared to
"The child who doesn't listen and is obstinate.
"They take this kind of person to show
"How those who are stubborn and difficult become outcasts.
- 391 "It never happens Teav that the cake
"Can be bigger than the mold.
"The baby water buffalo that refuses to follow its mother through the jungle
"When it is on fire will surely meet its death."

Part 5 (392-442)

The Consummation of Tum and Teav's Love

(Tum's seduction of Teav; Tum's stay at Teav's house at her mother's invitation)

- 392 So ends this digression to depict
Teav's mother's outbursts. To continue,
We will speak of Tum who remains
Utterly grief-stricken.
- 393 For comparison, here is an example of Tum's feelings.
When he met with Pech, who was now completely recovered,
He said, "Brother Pech, we have come
"To stay here many days. My endurance
- 394 "Is almost broken. My insides are scattered in pieces.
"My sorrow is due to leaving Miss. Teav for so long.
"I've yet to meet with my sweetheart.
"Here, a moment is like being separated many days.
- 395 "Pech, let me go or let me die!
"How many more nights must I be without her, Pech!
"Don't delay any longer!
"Answer! Try to understand!
- 396 "If I don't have Teav,
"It will be the end of me!
"When I see her in my dreams,
"I cannot think of anything else!
- 397 "I dedicate myself completely to my precious!
"The limits of my body are like a hare
"That has taken shelter in a thicket high and far.
"Falling, it scatters its cares away."
- 398 Pech listened to Tum. Approaching him,
He replied, "Now, brother Tum, I agree you should go.
"But you must be careful. I fear that along the road
"There are enemies devising tricks to end your life.
- 399 "Don't worry yourself about her too much. Women speak in riddles.
"One type can be fickle.
"They say, 'We want to be your wife,'
"Then they become uninterested and you die meaninglessly.
- 400 Tum listened to Pech's words of advice
And said, "Yes, this is wise.
"But, brother, don't think that she is like any other girl.
"I am willing to die for her.
- 401 "Miss. Teav is absolutely good, and I love her.
"Her heart is joined with mine. She even dared to engage me
"With the *pha-hom* and send a message proposing our union.

"We fell in love because Teav is devoted to me."

- 402 When Pech and Tum finished talking,
Tum said goodbye to Pech and left. Wanting to meet Teav badly,
He asked himself, "Oh, dearest sweetheart so fine!
"Have you forgotten me already or do you still await my return?"
- 403 Thinking thus, Tum walked on by himself.
He began to feel sad and alone halfway down the road.
Melancholy thoughts pursued him,
As he walked closer and closer to Teav's house.
- 404 At that time, Teav's mother was not at home.
She had gone walking long before.
Tum arrived and stopped in front of the house and stood there weary of
going further.
Teav, seeing someone, said, "Sister Nor...
- 405 "Sister, go and tell that person to let himself be seen clearly.
"I am afraid he has a problem. What did he come here for?"
Nor heard Teav tell her this and went out quickly.
"You there! What do you want? Please come closer, so we can see you."
- 406 Tum had been listening to their conversation out of view.
Upon hearing Nor call him directly, Tum got up
And approached the house. Then Nor, wondering,
Asked, "What business brought you here?"
- 407 Tum listened to Nor's question.
Tum replied in a way that was familiar,
"I have come looking for Teav, Miss,
"Because Miss. Teav promised herself to me."
- 408 Nor answered, "Sir, this is very strange!
"You are quite mixed up in the head!"
Then Tum said, "Mixed up about what? Don't be so suspicious.
"You have seen me chant for everyone to hear.
- 409 "Now you act as though you don't recognize me!
"But I have proof right here in my hand.
"Teav wished me to have this scarf and container.
"She wanted me to disrobe quickly and told me not to be long in
returning."
- 410 Teav, hearing Tum's words spoken that way,
Got goose bumps and felt butterflies in her stomach that didn't subside.
She opened the door and came outside saying, "Dear sir!
"You even dared to bring the scarf as evidence!"

- 411 "Who told you that stuff about the scarf?
"Did they have you come here to make us worried?"
Tum said, "Since I have the scarf from your hand directly,
"What I said should not make you surprised. It's your own doing."
- 412 Teav said, "Who would have the gumption
"To be so in awe of the words he dares to speak?
"You may as well turn back home and quickly!
"Don't stay and do anything that is unbecoming!"
- 413 Tum said, "What kind of person would be so easily fooled
"Into going back and what's more allow himself to become separated
"Before having his sweetheart? Don't wave me away.
"Let's join together as one, not be broken apart."
- 414 Teav said, "You compare me to a flower,
"While you are like a bumble bee
"That flies around and spotting the flower enters straight away.
"Afterwards, it doesn't delay and is soon on its way again."
- 415 Tum said, "I am like the lion king,
"While Miss. Teav is like a large cave.
"If the lion king has a place to live,
"He will never allow himself to leave."
- 416 Teav said, "I am like a dock,
"While you, so charming, are like a boat.
"You are quick to park a while, precious one,
"Then hurry away without a second thought."
- 417 Tum said, "Oh, I am like a large fish,
"While you, young Teav, are like a river.
"The fish that has deep water swims leisurely from side to side.
"Don't, dear! Don't reject me or be suspicious."
- 418 Teav said, "I am like a tree,
"While you are like a *sarika* bird that perches there every day.
"You stop to perch and take shelter,
"Then fly off at great speed to go to some other place."
- 419 Tum said, "I am like a tiger,
"While you, dear, are like the jungle.
"Usually a tiger doesn't turn away quickly.
"He avoids leaving behind his precious forest."
- 420 "I am like tree trunk used as a hive,
"While you, handsome sir, are like the bees
"That come there to live then fly off one day,

"Leaving the tree trunk defiled and useless."

- 421 Tum said, "I am like an elephant,
"While you, young lady, are like sugar cane.
"Once the elephant tastes the sweetness, he never goes
"Far from the sugar cane, dear!"
- 422 Teav said, "Oh, dear sir!
"Who would not be suspicious
"Of the words of a man trying to show off his intelligence?
"So don't tell me not to be suspicious."
- 423 As Teav spoke wisely,
Tum had no fear at all. He grabbed Teav's hand
And kissed her saying, "Oh, my dear,
"Do you still doubt me? Do you still not believe how I feel?"
- 424 Teav was furious that Tum should be so disrespectful
As to grab her hand and harass her without consideration.
"Think of it! You should be ashamed of yourself! How could I
"Admire someone who would dare to barge in here this way?
- 425 "How dare you come here and kiss my cheek and even touch my breast!
"Someone who is not afraid of anything doesn't please me!"
Tum said, "I'm sorry if I was wrong! Please let me, my dear,
"Love you forever and ever!"
- 426 Miss. Nor, Teav's nanny, seeing the situation,
Left quickly without a word,
Afraid Teav would be embarrassed by her presence.
Teav was ready to give her love to Tum.
- 427 Tum hugged Teav in his arms playfully.
Neither of them was afraid to consummate their love.
Inside a comfortable house like that
The young woman became easily aroused with passion.
- 428 Teav willingly let Tum come close to her.
Tum, impassioned, kissed Teav's face.
They told each other that
They would exchange spit-up areca. Then Teav said,
- 429 "Dearest, I am afraid that you
"Have put all your love in this embrace,
"And that afterwards you will leave and abandon me!
"My dear, have pity on me!"
- 430 Tum kissed and comforted his precious sweetheart,

- Saying, "Oh, my dear, love of my life,
"I will not let go of your hand, my sweet.
"I give myself to you for my entire life,
- 431 "Because you have merit as big as Mount
"Meru, enormous, overshadowing the continent,
"While I am short like an imitation necklace,
"The life of someone sent to serve King Rea-mea."
- 432 Teav said, "I am like a star,
"While you, dear love, are like the moon.
"The star shines in the sky,
"Accompanying the moon and never parting."
- 433 "Oh, Tum! Night has fallen.
"May our love-making continue until midnight.
"Wish that we will be together in every life,
"Never to part, never to stray from each other from now on."
- 434 They heard the voice of Teav's mother
Who had just come back home from the temple ceremony.
Didn't Teav know enough
To get Tum outside at once?
- 435 Teav's mother had given Nor to understand full well
That Teav was in the shade and should have no mark on her reputation.
Teav's mother arrived at the house as planned.
The male and female servants arrived with her as well.
- 436 Teav's mother saw Tum. She went up to him and asked,
"Sir, where are you coming from? Your appearance here makes me
wonder."
Tum said, "I came from far away.
"I just arrived yesterday."
- 437 Teav's mother questioned Tum further, wanting to know his plans.
"How many days before you return?"
Tum said, "I came here looking to buy
"Things for water buffalo and horses. To avoid bothering anyone,
- 438 "Since we came from far away together, the two of us
"Have been staying at the residence,
"The house of someone we have known for a while.
"Previously, I chanted for her."
- 439 Teav's mother knew clearly what to do. As though it were no imposition
at all,
She requested Tum to stay at her house. Then she called Teav to tell

Her that she would stay downstairs for however long or short a time necessary.
Tum's appearance was already one of being pleased and not afraid.

- 440 Teav's mother then prepared a mat and pillow.
After completing the preparations, she went to tell
Her daughter where she would sleep.
"We must make a place for the Venerable."
- 441 During that time, when the handsome Tum
Was with Teav, they made love
With hearts full of passion.
For many days, they kept their love a secret.
- 442 Tum forgot about his home and didn't think of
Pech. The two lovers
Were not bothered by evil thoughts.
They were perfectly content to be alone together.

Part 6 (443-446)

The Governor's Son's Courtship of Teav

(Moeurn Nguon's courtship of Teav; Teav's silence)

- 443 Later on, word arrived from Moeurn Nguon,
The son of Orh-Chhuon, that he had gold and silver
To bring to gain favor with the adorable Teav.
He assumed Teav had been loyal to him.
- 444 He didn't know about Teav's mother's strategy. She made it appear
That Teav had love for him. Moeurn Nguon
Was so impressed with her he said, "Sweetheart,
"You are the best in the world!
- 445 "If you agree in your heart,
"I will take care of you as husband and wife.
"Don't let there be any others.
"I alone will take care of you, my dear."
- 446 Moeurn Nguon came and went not daring to Miss. a day.
Teav's mother treated him as one who is loved greatly.
Miss. Teav did not act reluctant or doubtful.
She stifled herself and didn't speak.

Part 7 (447-531)

Tum's Summoning by the King and Separation from Teav

(Tum and Pech's recruitment into the Royal Orchestra by King Rea-meas; Tum's separation from Teav; Tum and Pech's journey to inform their families and the Abbot of the King's demand; Teav's sadness; Tum and Pech's sad journey down river to the King's Palace; Tum's title of "Moeurn Ek")

- 447 Having come this far,
We will stop to digress briefly
And describe the King
Who dwelled in the royal city.
- 448 The King who lived in the Cambodian capital
Was named King Rea-meas. His power was tremendous,
And nearly all the people were safe and content.
The capital where the King lived was the citadel of Lovek.
- 449 There was a wall surrounding the royal Palace
That was beautifully decorated and very tall.
There were official quarters to house the dancers
That were especially wonderful, like being in heaven.
- 450 The King had a royal queen
Who was attractive, adorable and virtuous.
She had every attribute and inestimable grace,
And didn't have any kind of disease.
- 451 The entire Royal Court,
As well as the army generals,
Were at the King's service
And dependent upon King Rea-meas.
- 452 There were the royal stables for the King's swift horses
And beautiful carriages under the direction of the elephant keeper.
There were countless items for amusement
And practically every valuable available for making religious offerings.
- 453 At that time, Tum's reputation
In the district of Tbong Khmom as an intelligent young man was spreading.
It was said he knew how to combine singing with stories of all kinds.
In that part of the world, no one could compare to him.
- 454 In addition, there was Pech,
Who was accomplished at playing entertaining music.
After hearing of the reputations of the two young men,

The King wanted to meet them.

- 455 He commanded to have
Tum and Pech brought before him.
He dispatched a royal servant with the order,
Stating his wish and that it be executed quickly.
- 456 The servant bowed respectfully.
After receiving the command, he turned on his heels
And rushed to his destination.
Finding Orh-Chhuon, he relayed the King's demand.
- 457 Orh-Chhuon received the message with a nod,
Then dispatched the servant to depart quickly
And get Pech and Tum without delay,
As the King had ordered.
- 458 When Tum and Pech were brought to the Governor's residence,
They approached Orh-Chhuon and saluted.
Orh-Chhuon told them that the King
Had ordered that they deliver themselves before him.
- 459 Pech and Tum saluted without argument,
Saying, "We will do our best to leave tomorrow.
"But we need time to get our personal belongings together.
"Governor, please understand and show pity."
- 460 The servant of the King said, "We sympathize with you.
"Handle this as you like. We won't say anything.
"But you must be quick and make haste,
"Because the King demands your presence as soon as possible."
- 461 At that time, Tum and Pech
Knew the situation clearly. They turned to leave
And bid goodbye to Orh-Chhuon, then returned to Teav's house
To tell all that had occurred to Miss. Teav.
- 462 "Oh, Teav! Because there has been a royal command
"Right from the King himself
"Ordering me to present myself before him immediately,
"I ask to leave you, my dear."
- 463 Teav answered, "Oh, my dear,
"My sorrow is endless. I am devastated.
"I cannot bear it.
"The implacable sadness inside me does not relent."
- 464 Tum said, "Oh, my dear sweetheart.

"Every day I have held you in my arms.
 "Starting tomorrow, we will be separated from each other.
 "Oh, Teav, don't worry."

- 465 Teav said, "Oh, my sorrow is so strong!
 "It doesn't have an outlet to go anywhere.
 "I am being separated from the love of my life!"
 Teav tried to grab some items to prepare a keepsake.
- 466 She took a cloth and betel leaves rolled into cigarettes
 And packed them into a new box and gave it to Tum.
 She kept reminding Tum, "Dear,
 "After you get there, prepare to return as soon as possible.
- 467 "Come back to get me, dear.
 "I'll be here withering away to nothing."
 Tum held her in his arms and kissed her face.
 He clung to Teav, his beloved.
- 468 When the day dawned clearly,
 Tum and Pech adorned and dressed themselves then went straight to
 The servant of the King, honest and true.
 Before the two young men started off,
- 469 Tum thought to address the King's servant.
 "At this point, I ask you, sir,
 "To escort me to Ba Phnom, so I may inform my mother
 "As well as the Abbot and my relatives of the King's command."
- 470 The servant listened, then without pause
 Said, "I can escort you as you wish
 "To let you bid goodbye to your mother and relatives.
 "That way your absence will not worry them."
- 471 They began to traverse the jungle of Tbong Khmom district,
 Listening to the birds in flight call as they returned to their nesting places.
 Hearing a male and a female, two together, crying sadly,
 Tum imagined that it was like Teav in his embrace.
- 472 Tum said, "Oh, Teav, my beloved,
 "Today you and I are separated truly.
 "We cannot meet, my beloved.
 "It is indeed as though my darling is orphaned."
- 473 Walking didn't relieve his sadness, and Tum become stiff and tight.
 Taking in the sights along the road,
 Tum recited the names of the various trees
 Growing on the sides of the road in long rows.

- 474 Tum saw that there were palm, fig, *songkei*, *tgnanh*,
Treal, *trah*, *kravank*, *khoy*, *sraukhum*,
Sraulei, *sraulau*, *krbau*, *ktaum*,
Traunom, *ahaot*, *changva*, *tmat*,
- 475 *Dongkau*, *trayong*, *ktung*, *krasang*,
Ompel, *phlong*, *phlaeng*, as well as *phlubat*,
Litchi, *durien*, *mien*, *lang*, *sat*,
Meakbat, *bongkhau*, *phnau*, *chan*, *chaa*,
- 476 *Trabek*, *trausake*, *ombieng-tgnei*,
Angkhrong, *smach*, *smei*, *roke*, *roka*,
Krauch, *kraay*, *svat*, *svay*, *trach*, *treal*, *svaa*,
Saeda, *sandan*, *tgnanh*, *chrei*, *chrey*.
- 477 There were also *dak-pheay*, *whay*, *dak-po*,
Songkho, *pongprak*, *rang*, *smei*,
Phnom-phneing, *chkei-sreing*, *loet*, *lang*, *dei*
Santei, *kraukop*, *ngop*, *krahlañ*,
- 478 *Chaurameas*, *bhos*, *neak*, *chaurakeig-thuy*,
Praupaeñ, *khoe muy chhur*, *theal*, *traiñ*,
Reach chhpeh, *thmenh trey*, *wey*, *añchieñ*,
Akeiñ, *angkoal*, *kandoal-bhat*,
- 479 *Trach*, *treak*, *chongreak*, *chras*, *khteng*, *ktom*,
Khokhei, *rang*, *phnom*, *beng*, *bhay-mat*,
Sdok-sdoe, *sdei*, *sdoev*, *trav*, *kduoch*, *kdat*,
Leang, *sat*, *sau*, *tbah*, *kah*, *sral*.
- 480 Tum walked in the forest looking around at the animals.
There was only sadness and longing in his heart.
Thoughts raced through his mind.
He thought of Miss. Teav constantly.
- 481 Tum glimpsed a rose out of the corner of his eye.
He praised it saying, "Oh, dear flower!
"Flower that grows so near to me!
"Your fragrance comes to me and the smell is so fresh.
- 482 "Fragrance of the *kompleng* flower,
"Like me beside sweet Teav!
"Fragrance of the *champeï*'s rose flower,
"Like me beside pure Miss. Teav.
- 483 "Champa tree, which I've just happened to meet,
"Now I am separated from dearest Teav!
"Romdol plant, a great sorrow passes over me.

- "My heart misses my precious sweetheart.
- 484 "Oh! The fragrance of the *kravanh* flower,
 "Like the scent of Teav, so real and close to me!
 "All of these new fragrances... the scent of flowers...
 "Cling to the fringe of the *pha-hom* tied around my waist!
- 485 "Walking along long fields, *trieng* grass sprouts everywhere.
 "The setting sun moves across the sky.
 "In the corner of my eye, I see the overcast sky and scudding clouds,
 "Like my shifty flight from Teav, they come.
- 486 "The bumble bee that swirls around the *kraulaing* flower
 "Is like my body moving from place to place looking for your love.
 "The *popoch* and the *popoul* birds fly into their nests,
 "Just as I came to seduce you.
- 487 "The *kro-ling kro-lorng* and the *khraulieng-wake* birds
 "Desert their mates in the flock,
 "Like I deserted the precious and beautiful Teav,
 "To come over here by myself.
- 488 "Oh, how I pity the *tavav* bird
 "Calling in the deep forest in every language.
 "It is like the voice of the tender and beautiful Teav,
 "Coming in reply... I imagine.
- 489 "The *trayong* bird calls in answer to her mate,
 "Who has sped away deserting her,
 "Like I deserted precious Teav.
 "For many days I have been unhappy. My sorrow is unrelenting.
- 490 "I hear a plaintive crying sound.
 "A wild hen is trying to answer her mate.
 "I think of Teav again!
 "Oh, Teav! It's as though you were orphaned!"
- 491 They walked along the jungle, bypassing the dense areas.
Tor-tae birds flew towards their nests in formation.
 The flock flew, turning this way and that.
 A parrot led his mate cautiously to their nest.
- 492 The *sarika* bird called looking for his mate happily.
 They flew far away as he led her to eat the fruit of the *srahkhum* tree.
 All the animals bustled in the jungle mountains,
 Coming and going, calling back and forth, *mai! mai!*
- 493 We speak now about Tum and Pech,

How they sped on, traveling both night and day,
Until reaching the district village of Tuk Ahlay,
And how Tum met his beloved mother and conversed with her.

- 494 Tum explained the situation to his mother.
"I have a job. The King has sent for
"Me and Pech, my beloved brother.
"He has decreed that we go to the Palace
- 495 "To be singers to entertain the Royal Court.
"For this reason, mother, please prepare yourself.
"Don't worry. Don't despair, Don't let it bother you.
"The King knows what's best in this world."
- 496 Tum's mother listened to what
Her son told her. "I'm pleased, my dear.
"If you go, take care of yourself.
"Be sure your respect for the King is made clear.
- 497 "Don't you be neglectful or absent-minded.
"Don't look for Vietnamese women to flirt with.
"Be careful not to squander your money on gambling.
"Make good use of the situation there."
- 498 Tum bowed and saluted
Goodbye to his mother. Quickly, Tum and Pech
Went to the temple to pay respect
To the Abbot and inform him of their journey.
- 499 Both of them bowed before the Abbot.
Their teacher honestly and calmly
Questioned them. He wanted to know their plans,
And Tum responded straightforwardly.
- 500 "The King sent his servant to come for us," Tum said.
"After he arrived, he selected us to be singers.
"We are to go and be the personal servants of the King."
The abbot carefully listened. He was clearly attentive.
- 501 He said, "So, you are going to serve the King.
"Night and day, be careful of yourselves. Don't get into trouble.
"Don't you fall in love with the girls.
"Watch out that the palace ministers don't accuse you of wrongdoing."
- 502 "When you have an audience with the King, be careful that your bodies
"Are positioned away from the King.
"Don't enter when it is quiet. Watch yourselves.
"Serve the Monarch well.

- 503 "Don't challenge the King's authority.
"Fear His awesome power.
"As for the Queen, don't go near her.
"You will lose your lives because she is a woman."
- 504 Pech and Tum listened to the abbot's advice.
They bowed with hands joined.
They bid goodbye to their teacher and started off.
They departed quickly remembering his words.
- 505 The entire royal delegation accompanied
Tum and Pech as they prepared for the journey.
They walked directly to the docks and waited for the boats because
Of the King's orders to make haste.
- 506 They boarded the boats and rowed down the river.
Tum contemplated and scanned the surroundings.
As the sun set behind the forest,
Tum thought in silence and in pain.
- 507 From Tum's journey we digress
To talk of the lovely Teav.
Since the time Tum separated from her,
Teav became depressed and ill at ease.
- 508 She didn't think of eating rice or drinking.
The pork, chicken and duck meat that filled her plate
Were left untouched as she could not eat.
Worried and unhappy, she endured her sorrow.
- 509 Teav said, "Oh, love of my life!
"I was used to your love and our being together.
"Now, separated from my husband,
"My heart withers away without cease.
- 510 Miss. Nor tried to comfort Teav saying,
"Don't feel so downcast, my dear.
"Sooner or later you will surely meet again. He would never abandon you.
"Oh, Teav, stop tormenting yourself."
- 511 Teav listened to Nor tell her all of these things,
And her sorrow abated quickly, and she was able to relax.
Nor led Miss. Teav directly to her bedroom
And put her to sleep on her bed.
- 512 Such is the situation of Teav regarding Tum.
Let us now continue with Tum who is despondently
Rowing the boat quickly along the river.

He is observing the fish swim just breaking the surface of the water.

- 513 “The *rah, chhtau, kahoe* and *reachrehoe*.
 “The *phruah, phra, tihoe-phroy, konlong*.
 “The *domrei, kahet, kahei* and *russei*.
 “The *changva-phleang* glimmering swiftly swimming.”
- 514 “The *sanday, kroh, kray, chipin* and *chaurakeing*.
 “The *pthok, krañ* and *andeing* are numerous and profuse.
 “Along the tributaries from Kompot province, dolphins and rays
 “Jump and dive in the river.”
- 515 “The *chlouñ* and *chlat* fish aggressively weave beside
 “The *chaurakeing, keis, kei, khrom, and khochrea*.
 “*Plah-mah-pha-mhu-bhul* water sounds swish in and out
 “From a cave where the fish gather swimming in schools.”
- 516 “Water lilies grow close to the *trakiet* plant.
 “The *traukuon* plant growing alongside is like my body,
 “While the *traukiet* plant growing next to it is like dear Teav.
 “The *traukuon*, like me, holds her in his embrace.”
- 517 “The *praulong* fish nibbles a *praulit* flower. It tugs at the flower
 “In the same way I tease Teav.
 “Now I abandon her swiftly.
 “Enough! Surely she awaits my return!”
- 518 We will quickly move on
 Without going into further detail.
 Let’s talk of the time they rowed rapidly until reaching their destination.
 They immediately docked the boats at Kampong Luong.
- 519 Disembarking they glimpsed all the merchandise for sale at the port.
 Squatting, selling and buying colorful silk sarongs,
 Were every race and Khmer ethnic group.
 Then, in front of the palace, they were quickly escorted
- 520 To go to the foot of the staircase of the King’s residence.
 The servant brought them to greet the palace ministers,
 Then he led Tum and Pech without delay
 To His Royal Highness King Rea-mea.
- 521 Oh, what a scene! At that time the noble
 King expressed His royal desire
 That all members of the court ensemble
 Make ready for Tum to sing.
- 522 When the ensemble finished preparing everything,

They presented themselves to the King in perfect order.
The King arranged for his concubines and their attendants
To sit around him in order of rank.

- 523 Pech and Tum joined their hands
And raised them above their heads. One of them reached to grab
A guitar and started to play.
Tum chanted in the form of a dialog.
- 524 "The noble King is endowed with power,
"Ascetic restraint and virtues which have no equivalent.
"It has been the expressed wish
"Of our Master to have us brought before him.
- 525 "Being a singer of songs of a sort,
"I ask His Majesty's forgiveness
"Whenever I perform incorrectly, distastefully or
"Improperly. It is because of a group of people from
- 526 "The countryside in Tbong Khmom district
"Who enter into my thoughts often, Sir, making me stupid.
"May His Majesty pity my immaturity,
"For I am young and afraid of addressing His Majesty"
- 527 "And not showing sufficient respect for His Majesty's authority.
"I ask Your Majesty to have pity on me.
"I am but a lowly commoner.
"May His Grace save me."
- 528 The King spoke kindly.
"Oh, Tum, it is well that you think
"And say that you are not of a noble family.
"If this were really true, you would not have gone so far
- 529 "From your country village. Tum, don't be afraid.
"Don't worry about anything. Now, you will stay here.
"I hereby bestow upon you a proper rank.
"Tum, from now on you will be called Moeurn Ek.
- 530 "Never will you be divested of your new status.
"Your King pities you greatly."
After many days, Tum could no longer endure his separation from Teav.
Tum worried about Teav being so far away from him.
- 531 Missing Teav again, Tum became forlorn.
With a heavy heart, he wished only
To be able to meet Miss. Teav who was the object of his love
And decided to ask the King to depart from the palace.

Part 8 (532-628)

Teav's Selection to be a Concubine and Reunion with Tum

(Teav's selection as a King's concubine; the reunion of Tum and Teav at the King's Palace; the King's decision to marry Tum and Teav)

- 532 Oh, time! At that time the King,
Of great merit and royal birth, was relaxing.
He thought in his intelligent mind
To order a clear accounting of the potential concubines in the Kingdom.
- 533 "In the cities of Kampuchea throughout the land,
"In every province of the Kingdom,
"I want to arrange a search for any girl
"Who has the attributes to be a queen.
- 534 "Woman who are Chinese, Vietnamese or Cham, use your discretion.
"Don't say the order is from me, the King.
"Even if she is a Khmer peasant or farmer,
"You must act quickly without delay. Remember to fear the King!"
- 535 He decided at that time to end his speech.
The King gave the order
To have advisers called forth to transcribe the edict,
Stating that arrangements be made for the selection of a queen.
- 536 The Commander-in-Arms arranged things as necessary
And left to go to every province, one, two, three...
Servants brought the King's edict into the cities
Of the Cham, Chinese and Khmer local leaders.
- 537 Some went to Treang, a southern province,
To the villages of Kampong Som, Banteay Meas,
Bati and Prey Kabas until, stumbling
From exhaustion, they stopped the delegation of horses and elephants.
- 538 Then they mounted the horses and elephants and went to Samrong Tong
district,
Phnom Sruoch, Thpong district and Korng Pisei.
Pressing forward as fast as possible,
They also looked for women who were not practiced in meditation.
- 539 Returning to Bati and Prey Kabas,
They were happy to have completely returned.
They continued the search in Sa-ang province and Kandal Stung.
Without worry, they decided to cross the river quickly

- 540 And go to Lovek province and Rolea Pha-ea,
Before carefully proceeding to Khlong Krang province.
Some continued to Pursat and Battambang
Then crossed the Batrae River to Kampong Svay.
- 541 They crossed into Choeung Prey district,
Kampong Siem and soon arrived in Parayan
Some jumped from place to place,
Kien Svay, Lvea Em and Ta Ek harbor.
- 542 They went to Romduol province and entered Svay Teap,
Constantly reversing direction and going to Romeas Hek.
They went to search Peam Chor and came to Loeuk Dek,
Then split up upon reaching Srok Muk Kampoul.
- 543 Some searched along the mouth of the Tonle River,
But were not able to find any concubines. They decided to go
Before the King and truthfully tell him of the results of their search.
The delegations from far and near came together to inform the King.
- 544 When their report ended, they took leave of the King
And made for Ksach Kandal because they doubted the use of going to Ba
Phnom, Prey Veng or Tortoung Thgei,
Which were very poor and wouldn't have what they wanted.
- 545 Tracing the river they continued their search in Romeas district.
Afraid of losing their way, they decided to requisition a boat and crossed
the river.
They rowed fast until arriving at Stung Trang.
Disheartened, they decided to stop and rest.
- 546 Though discouraged, they forged ahead with their royal duties.
They brought the King's message to Chhlong district and Kan Chor.
Along the way, there were *krauch*, lemon trees and jackfruit.
Across the land, they moved forward stealthily and came to Suong Songkei.
- 547 When they arrived at the border of Tbong Khmom district,
Orh-Chhuon, who was the Governor, had Chinese, Khmer
And Cham-Malay women assembled on a strip of land along the rice
paddies.
The royal delegation paraded past the women, glancing around
without satisfaction.
- 548 Reaching a *bodhi* tree at the northern side of the town well,
They saw the people scurrying around trying to see above the crowd.
Each member of the royal delegation closely
Observed the women but were not satisfied with any one.

- 549 When the setting sun refreshed the air,
Teav, a girl of superior demeanor, appeared.
The delegates' faces lit up and their disappointment lifted
As they said to each other, "Dear friends, what complete goodness!
- 550 "We searched everywhere in the Kingdom.
"Nowhere has there been a woman so refreshingly beautiful!"
The entire delegation was struck
With a truly overwhelming and incomparable joy.
- 551 Leading each other, they looked slantwise at Teav's appearance saying,
"There is no one anywhere endowed with such virtue.
"She is well-suited to be the King's concubine.
"Such is the level of her youthful and charming looks."
- 552 The royal delegates of each group questioned
The villagers who, wanting to please, knelt down and raised their hands in
salute.
They said, "Teav is truly good, dear masters.
"Currently, she has been given to the son of Orh-Chhuon."
- 553 The delegates snoopied around and made opportunities to interrogate the
townspeople.
"Now, tell us. Should it be considered definite,
"The marriage, or has it just been arranged?
"Don't be vague or hide anything from us!"
- 554 The townspeople were afraid. They raised their hands to respond saying,
"It is at the stage of chewing tobacco, sirs.
"What we have told you is the truth."
After listening to the townspeople respond, the delegates didn't doubt their
honesty.
- 555 Then the delegates delivered the King's demand to Orh-Chhuon with
dispatch,
Making haste through the night and day.
Arriving, they entered, and Orh-Chhuon bowed and raised his hands
In respect. He quickly
- 556 Went to Teav's mother and told her that
The command of the Great and Noble Monarch
Was to have Teav escorted without delay
To greet his August and Powerful Majesty.
- 557 Teav's mother heard the Royal Proclamation.
Bowing down she raised her hands in obeisance. She then decided
To tell the family members and make it understood exactly
That they must present their beloved Teav before the King.

- 558 Orh-Chhuon hurried to ready the wooden boats.
He presented the delegation with supplies.
One boat, the good Teav boarded.
Her blood relatives and friends came to send her off.
- 559 At that time, Teav's mother addressed the gathering
And all the elders saying, "Now
"Let us decorate Teav, our child, properly."
Afterwards, the boats embarked swiftly.
- 560 The soldiers stood at the ready along the shore.
Then they grabbed the oars quickly all together and embarked.
Some paddled the boats around. Others pushed off.
Teav said goodbye to her family as her boat was pushed away from shore.
- 561 Seated in the boat, Teav was unhappy. Her sorrow would not abate.
Teav said, "Dearest, Nor! Look at us now!
"Sister, help straighten out my thoughts.
"They are taking me to go serve the King!
- 562 "Sister, don't you pity my troubled heart?
"This heavy sadness follows me. It has no end.
"Could this be your younger sister's time to die?
"Oh, misery! Two sorrows fill my heart anew.
- 563 "One sorrow is my worry over the King
"Taking me to be his concubine to join in love.
"The other is my separation from Tum, my beloved.
"Why go on living? I would rather die!
- 564 "I was born as a human in this world.
"Given to the female race, I must endure misery.
"My beloved sweetheart is gone away!
"What heart could withstand such grief?"
- 565 Teav's mother rode the boat along with her.
The crowd that slowly followed them from the shore didn't know the
situation.
They assumed that Teav went willingly to the King.
With incomparable joy, they sent Teav off.
- 566 Teav on the other hand was sad and withdrawn.
She tried, but could not bear her sorrow and appear unafraid or stay
Calm by following the Middle Path.
Meanwhile, the boats sped forward on the current.
- 567 The birds floating on the surface were too many to count.
The wind swirled the clouds.

Taking off, the birds scattered here and there.
Entering their nests, they blocked out the circle of the moon.

- 568 Teav said, "Oh, moon so dear.
"Your color, like a crystal in the sky,
"Is like my body taken from Tum. Separated,
"Your light becomes cold.
- 569 "A multitude of stars gather around you,
"Like me and Tum when we used to care for one another.
"The stars follow their orbits,
"Like my body accepting Tum, my beloved."
- 570 At four o'clock in the still of the night,
The wind blew very cold.
Teav missed Tum, and because of her longing,
Imagined him reaching out his hands to hold her.
- 571 When the faint light of dawn quickened,
Miss. Teav discerned schools of fish
Rising to the surface in the clear water:
Changva, ptong, ptok, kok, trauche.
- 572 The docile *slat* fish tried its best to swim
Among the *keo* fish as they crossed each other's paths.
Crabs and snails in clusters followed the schools of fish.
The *praulit* plants with their "duck wings" seemed to take off in the wake.
- 573 The boats rowed swiftly down the river.
Once they had passed the province, they sped along easily.
Teav thought constantly about Tum.
Going with the wind, they soon reached Ko Koh Island.
- 574 Rowing fast, they kept a lookout for Chikong Harbor,
Then turned towards Russei Srok Island.
Poor Teav could only think of Tum.
She was unhappy and frustrated within.
- 575 They paddled to Potikong Traunung River,
Roka Kaong then to Lvea Tae.
Teav was quiet, thinking
And wondering incessantly about Tum.
- 576 They reached the Dombang River, Metrei Point,
The villages of Sla Torei and Moan Dap.
They passed Ta Ek Port and the Prasap River,
Then stopped rowing at Khsach Kandal Island.

- 577 Teav was unhappy and drained.
She missed Tum very much and the love they knew.
Those who are quickly excited are easily hurt.
It comes from not thinking things through completely.
- 578 The King's men had no knowledge of Teav's broken heart at all.
They rowed hard to pass the nearby islands.
Having reached the Luong and Bankang rivers,
They sped past the port of Chroy Changva.
- 579 Reaching the city of Phnom Penh, the land became flat.
The soft afternoon sun sank in the sky.
Disembarking, they saw the extensive wares along the marketplace
Where large groups of Chinese and Khmer bustled to and fro.
- 580 Afterwards, they boarded the boats and embarked.
They didn't dare stop for long out of fear of the King.
They reached Chraing Chamres and Prek Phneou then continued,
Planning to cut through Chhun Steang Harbor.
- 581 They rowed to Sbek Island down river from Chen Island.
Once the rice was cooked, they ate, then continued on their way.
They saw from their boats all the magnificent wares in the market
And the proud customers who came desiring them.
- 582 When the boats reached Kampong Luong, they stopped so Teav could
prepare.
They told her to look her most beautiful.
Teav bathed until she was perfectly clean.
She dressed up and wore a scarf over one shoulder, taking care to look just
right.
- 583 As the sun sank low in the sky,
Teav became depressed thinking about Tum.
The weak sun sank and was almost blocked out by the mountains.
Under a gray, cold sky, they continued to the Palace.
- 584 They walked along a divided road
And reached the citadel of Lovek as planned.
Strains of music came from the foot of the King's royal Palace.
They saw the bustling market with its rows of stalls spreading in all
directions.
- 585 The Palace was impressive with its ornamental spires.
Naga railings stretched along the road leading to the Palace.
Limestone cemented the sections of the citadel.
An expansive moat surrounded the Palace.

- 586 The army barracks and courtyard were well designed.
Teav saw the Palace and sobbed, upset about her separation from Tum.
She heard the sounds of melodic music being played.
Large brass gongs cried out in succession.
- 587 Out of respect for the King,
The court was not inattentive. When he spoke, they noisily clamored.
We will digress from the events we are describing,
And make the following presentation.
- 588 We speak of Teav, miserable and completely unhappy.
She yearned for Tum. Being
Late at night, it was quiet and gone was the stifling heat.
The wind blew against her body.
- 589 Teav lay down but could only think of Tum.
She could not get to sleep. Her suffering had no relief.
She cried, "Oh, Wind! You toss me here and there.
"How long must I be without Tum.
- 590 "I'm miserable again. Tum, my dear, you
"Are back home and must have forgotten me.
"Now I have come here only to lay down and cry.
"A spreading wound burns in my chest.
- 591 "This morning they will escort me to greet
"The King who lives far away and rules with a nod of his head.
"I am a commoner. Who,
"Compassionate One, knows the sorrow besetting Tum and me?"
- 592 The dawn light shined brightly.
Miss. Teav, upset, felt a great sadness.
Tears poured down. In sorrow over being separated from Tum, she cried.
Her body felt weighed down as though a mountain had toppled atop of
her.
- 593 She relaxed little by little.
Her hands were barely able to untie her bundle of belongings.
Seeing all the articles of clothing,
She dressed up to make herself beautiful.
- 594 Dressed also in her sorrow, lovely Teav
Soon finished adorning herself. She then very carefully
Made-up her face with oil and colored powder,
So it shined like the moon.
- 595 When she finished getting ready,
They left in a group for the Palace.

- Arriving, they clamored around the doorway,
And waited for the King at the end of the royal hall.
- 596 Oh, time! At that time, the august
And noble King departed from the aviary.
The royal concubines and young women attendants
Of various rank took their places before the all-powerful Monarch.
- 597 The King came to a large hall.
The four Palace ministers greeted their Monarch.
The royal concubines, right beside the maiden Teav,
Had an audience with His Majesty.
- 598 Oh, time! At that time, the precious Miss. Teav,
Radiant, charming and good without fault,
Was led forward in the group
To have an audience with the great and powerful King.
- 599 Kneeling before him, the group bowed and saluted three times.
In fear of the King, they spoke while bent doubled-over.
The royal guards, ministers and concubines
Earnestly greeted their master.
- 600 The King turned on his throne to look closely.
He saw that Teav had superior attributes that matched her appearance.
He was impressed.
Speaking to himself, he said, "This Teav makes me swoon!"
- 601 The King gently asked the Queen saying,
"Of all the fine, young women, dear Queen,
"This Teav is the best, or am I just imagining things?
"My brimming heart tells me to keep her. It would be wrong to send her
away."
- 602 The Queen said, "She is truly fine.
"She is superb and radiant.
"Well-suited to be a concubine of the King, clearly."
The King gave instructions to have Tum called to sing for him.
- 603 Tum heard the King's voice and strained to hear exactly what he wanted.
When it was clear, he quickly entered and prostrated himself before the
Monarch.
When he had finished saluting, he prepared a song.
At that moment, he saw beautiful Teav and her mother who had escorted
her there.
- 604 In his determination to have Teav, he had no thought of personal
livelihood.

Hot as a cooking fire, he lowered his head silently.
In his torment, his chest tightened and thoughts ran amok.
At his wits' end, he didn't even fear the King's power.

- 605 He sang, "Oh, there once was an august king of tremendous fame,
"Who was the sovereign of every place in the world.
"The people throughout the land
"Feared the power of the noble king.
- 606 "One day, he ordered to arrange a search of the kingdom
"To select a woman to come and be his concubine.
"Now he had Teav, young and charming,
"But it was not appropriate and contrary to her destiny.
- 607 "Though I fear Your Majesty's authority and power,
"I respectfully ask permission to tell the truth regarding this Teav.
"She is already engaged to me.
"I promised to stay with her in every life.
- 608 "I made a pledge and the promise was born.
"In our rebirths as a boy and girl,
"I would meet my beloved Teav
"And would never let myself be separated from her."
- 609 Teav listened to the words that Tum sang.
She felt hot in her chest and tight.
She didn't dare look up at Tum's face again,
Afraid the King would blame them.
- 610 Tum sang, describing everything that had happened
Since he had fallen in love with Teav.
Teav, meanwhile, was pale and stricken.
Shocked, she was speechless.
- 611 At that time, the august
And noble King became angry with Miss. Teav.
He knew, however, that he should show mercy,
And he pondered judgment.
- 612 "The Law says I should blame her.
"Accordingly, I should separate her from her fiancé.
"By doing this, the Buddha would erase any wrong-doing.
"Thus, I should expel her from the Palace until goodness is restored."
- 613 The King told the Palace officials
To have Miss. Teav brought before him so he could question her.
"If the reply she gives agrees with Tum's words,
"We will release her in accordance with her response."

- 614 The King wanted first
To question Tum. "Tum!
"Is Teav really your fiancé? Answer!
"Don't hide anything. Speak the truth!"
- 615 At that time, Tum was terrified of the King.
He listened closely and quickly raised his joined hands respectfully.
Tum addressed the King truthfully.
"Please have mercy on me Your Majesty.
- 616 "Have me killed for my serious crime.
"Condemn me to live as a slave of Your Highness.
"I respectfully say as a slave and without deception
"That Miss. Teav is in fact my fiancé."
- 617 The King then questioned Miss. Teav.
"Teav! I have given your situation close attention.
"Speak truthfully. Don't be afraid.
"Have you and Tum laid together, or is this untrue?"
- 618 Teav addressed the august King.
"Your Majesty, please have mercy on me.
"Tum and I are exactly
"As Your Majesty has already been informed."
- 619 At that time, the august King
Had listened to all that had been said.
He completely believed Teav's words.
The King issued orders to his officers.
- 620 He ordered the ministers,
Royal advisors and slaves
To make ready the wedding materials
As he would marry Teav with Sir Tum.
- 621 The Council of Ministers took leave of the King.
They went house to house in separate groups
To inform one and all that the next day
They must not delay and hurry to the Palace for the wedding ceremony.
- 622 Then the King arose and retired to the royal bedroom.
Entering his sleeping chamber,
The King lay down upon his high and comfortable bed.
As for Tum, he thought about what had taken place that day before the
King.
- 623 When the early morning light shined coolly,
The noble King awoke from sleep.

He left his bedroom and entered the hall to meet his concubines.
All of the ministers went to have an audience with the King.

- 624 The King ordered that everything be made ready,
And that Teav along with Tum be escorted immediately to greet him.
Tum and Teav presented themselves before the King and bowed, saluting.
The great King wished them happiness and prosperity.
- 625 The important officials gathered together.
The Council of Ministers joined in to assist with all the preparations
For the wedding of Tum and precious Teav,
As the all-powerful Monarch looked on with compassion.
- 626 Having greeted the King that morning already
With an abundance of empty wishes regarding the wedding,
Teav's mother left the King
And led her family to return home.
- 627 As for the charming and beautiful Teav,
She was joined in marriage with Tum.
Teav was happy and without worry,
Truly fulfilled as though her heart had realized its goal.
- 628 Tum, for some time now, was happy and at ease.
He joined the King's court and relaxed with dignity.
In his place of comfort,
He didn't have anything to worry about.

Part 9 (629-751)

Teav's Mother's Trick and the Separation of Tum and Teav

(Teav's mother's plan to marry Moeurn Nguon and Teav; her letter to
Teav; Teav's separation from Tum; Teav trapped; Teav's letter to
Tum; Tum's vow to win Teav back; the King's letter; Tum and Pech's
journey to Tbong Khmom; Teav's worry that Tum will not arrive in
time)

- 629 To speak of Teav's mother who had returned home,
Worries beset her without relief.
"Oh, Teav! My precious child!" she cried,
"How did you ever come to have such a pitiful husband?"
- 630 "It's all because of that scoundrel thief!
"He is vile beyond limit! He dares to trick us!
"He said Teav is truly his fiancé,

- "So the King would not blame him!
- 631 "I will separate Teav from this scoundrel.
"Have no doubt! I am determined
"To outmaneuver him by my wits,
"And be rid of that no-good womanizer Tum.
- 632 "I had already decided to marry Teav to Moeurn Nguon,
"The son of Mister Orh-Chhuon. It was definite!
"I will make that rascal Tum ask himself why he ever left his family
"To come here on that day!
- 633 "I had already decided to give her to Mister Orh-Chhuon!
"Moeurn Nguon, his son, had even offered his hand!
"He has wealth and high rank!"
In anger, Teav's mother plotted her revenge for many days.
- 634 As twilight fell, Teav's mother
Furiously dashed off a letter.
She was willing to lose everything she had known and bring on death
Just to follow thoughtless flights of fancy.
- 635 Then Teav's mother started off.
She arrived at the Governor's residence.
They had become like relatives to each other, because of their mutual trust.
Being a true friend like that, she would tell him her plan.
- 636 She entered and sat down composing herself.
Raising her hands in greeting, she said, "I
"Am only a woman. Because we had already made arrangements
"I'm afraid of doing wrong by taking back my marriage agreement with
you.
- 637 "I'm so angry, Governor, with that rascal Tum.
"He has brought disgrace to my reputation.
"He is arrogant and has no respect for anyone.
"Now, I must ask you
- 638 "To find a way to prepare the desserts and food,
"The pork, chicken, duck, fish and rice wine,
"As well as vegetables of all kinds from all over.
"I have prepared a letter and arranged for its delivery
- 639 "To Teav my child to have her come back home quickly.
"The letter says that her mother who lives
"Far away is seriously ill and feverish.
"It instructs her to come, as her mother's flesh and blood.

- 640 'Return quickly before it's too late,' I repeated.
'I'm anxiously waiting, fearful
'My strength is very little... not enough to sustain me...
'If I don't see you, there will be a tragedy.'
- 641 "When Teav arrives,
"Interrupt whatever you may be doing to set our trap.
"She will be given to Nguon to be his wife
"As we previously arranged together already."
- 642 Teav's mother returned to her house.
She thought a while then hurried
To find someone to copy the letter quickly
And prepare every item for the journey. She told the servants to go
- 643 And make ready the messenger.
She instructed him to tell Teav not to delay
Or take a long time traveling, because now
Her mother is sick with a fever and unable to eat.
- 644 The messenger, along with a number of others,
Simultaneously clambered
Into the boat and paddled quickly down the river,
As though they wanted to reach the world beyond.
- 645 They docked the boat and went instantly
To Tum's house. Tum immediately asked them to explain their purpose.
Teav said, "How is my mother?
"Is she well or has something happened?"
- 646 Everyone from the other side listened.
When Teav finished asking about her mother, they explained the situation.
They produced the letter and gave it to Miss. Teav.
Reading the letter, Teav was frozen with fear.
- 647 Teav said, "Oh, my dearest,
"My mother is seriously ill, close to death!
"She says she is not eating, famished and emaciated.
"Now, she urges that
- 648 "I leave you and go immediately.
"I must hurry back in order to follow the custom
"Of gathering one's children and relatives
"To make offerings to the family spirits in the house."
- 649 Tum sighed deeply then responded.
"Oh, sweetheart. Go quickly.
"Afterwards, if your mother is well, hurry back.

- "Don't stay away any longer than necessary!
- 650 "I will arrange for the journey to be made pleasant.
"I am unable to go and must remain here.
"My responsibilities to the King must be fulfilled.
"My dear, take care of yourself!"
- 651 Teav said goodbye to Tum and boarded the boat.
They rowed quickly and cleared the headland.
Rowing hard, they did not stop anywhere.
Teav felt sad, and her face was pale.
- 652 On the one hand, she was sad about leaving her one and only husband.
On the other hand, she was sad about her mother being seriously ill.
Teav said, "Oh, I dread being apart from Tum.
"And I worry about losing my mother. I am sad in many ways."
- 653 They stopped rowing at the port and immediately reached a group of islands.
They sped forward between the gaps in the islands. There was no straight course.
They didn't stop to rest until
Docking and disembarking at Tbong Khmom.
- 654 Teav climbed up the steps to her house and presented herself.
She saw her mother and aunts and uncles gathered together.
Relatives were busily conferring with one another,
Preparing foods, breads and mixing rice wine.
- 655 Hands grabbed cooked rice, cakes and wine
To offer the ancestors. They sprinkled water and saluted with hands clasped.
"All ancestral spirits of the mother,
"Please come to this side to eat.
- 656 "When you finish eating, please give your blessing to your grandchildren
"And numerous descendants. Don't leave anyone out."
At this point, Teav had just arrived.
"Now child, restrain yourself and think ahead.
- 657 "Teav come here, dear child, and listen
"As your mother explains everything from beginning to end.
"Normally, when a child is born with an attractive appearance
"And a charming voice,
- 658 "His renown will make its way to the King.
"The King will then bring the child before him, and showing pity,
"Make him an official because he doesn't have anything

- "And is very poor and doesn't have food to eat.
- 659 "For this reason, your mother looks at things differently.
"Orh-Chhuon thinks you should be pitied.
"He has rank and wealth.
"He wants to save you from a life of poverty and is committed to your marriage
- 660 "With Moeurn Nguon, his son, who has
"The status and wealth we have hoped for.
"For our rowboat to reach the shore, we must only work the oar.
"You'll have everything your heart desires!
- 661 "You'll have elephants, horse carts, Khmer buffaloes,
"And a palanquin with a shaded bed.
"You'll have soothing music both day and night."
Teav had had enough and was completely exasperated with her mother.
- 662 Hearing her mother go on, Teav nearly fainted.
She was ready to die from anger.
She said, "Oh, mother! You have extensive virtue.
"How did you become so removed from the meaning of the Buddha's law?
- 663 "If you want me to have a husband,
"Tum is the one I love.
"To this I would agree to gladly.
"We are devoted to each other forever.
- 664 "If you don't have pity on me,
"And force me to marry Moeurn Nguon,
"You may as well take my life, because the marriage is not right.
"I beg you to accept my refusal."
- 665 Teav's mother glared at her.
She had become upset because of her child's defiance.
She cursed Teav saying, "Scoundrel! You are stubborn as steel.
"I would like to grab your mouth and tear it apart now.
- 666 "I tell you that I will let you have prosperity,
"And you dare to be so impudent as to say it's not right!
"You say you love that rascal Tum who doesn't even have parents!
"You don't think about the gossip that would bring! You have no shame!
- 667 "He doesn't know people who have wealth!
"And you want to marry that orphan!
"From where will he acquire a reputation?
"For a long time coming you would surely be poor!"

- 668 Teav heard her mother's intense anger.
Trying to get a word in edgewise, she pleaded her case.
Her mother, in silence, bolted straight
Over to the house of Orh-Chhuon.
- 669 Governor Orh-Chhuon, who had great merit,
Saw her, and with extreme pleasure
Said, "Madam, welcome! Come and make yourself comfortable!
"What is upsetting you? Does it concern me?"
- 670 The would-be in-law answered,
"Governor, prepare the wedding quickly and quietly.
"Inform the women to make the cakes.
"Call the guests to gather at once."
- 671 We stop to digress before presenting the wedding.
We will describe Teav who has become horribly sad.
She has no desire to eat,
And a heavy sorrow burdens her thoughts.
- 672 Teav lay down wide-eyed from pain and sorrow.
"Oh! Life is over!
"My death will be because I went far from Tum, my eternal love.
"I don't know if he will be angry with me.
- 673 "I left him, and they really tricked me!
"Oh, Tum! Now, they've locked me up.
"They will prevent me from seeing you until I waste away to nothing.
"I have pledged myself to you. My mind is made up."
- 674 Teav, in her sorrow, composed a letter to Tum.
After it was written, Miss. Teav carefully
Folded the letter shut and wrapped it tight with betel, areca seeds
And tobacco leaves. She then dispatched a servant,
- 675 A person in whom Teav placed her complete trust.
Sympathetic and a praiseworthy relative, he was
A skilled messenger who knew the roadways well.
He sped away as on wings meant for speed.
- 676 The messenger, clear about what Teav had ordered him to do,
Didn't delay at all in delivering the letter
And fresh betel, areca seeds
And tobacco that Teav had wrapped up together.
- 677 He started off,
And reached the roadway in an instant.
He caught his breath, then quickly

Accelerated to get to the river.

- 678 He spoke to the men and women at the river
To transport him down the river for free. They felt
Sympathy for such a distraught person.
They boarded the boat and shoveled the water, paddling furiously.
- 679 When they reached the provincial shore,
He called to everyone. "Oh, people!"
The entourage of Tum and Teav, wanting to be of service
To their beloved couple, approached the messenger.
- 680 Together, they went for help to the King,
Whom they respected, being good people.
Tum and Teav's enemies scattered far not daring to be close by,
For fear that they would be beaten to a pulp and killed.
- 681 The boatmen returned home
And recounted everything that had happened.
Teav's servant arrived at the Palace. Without
Worry of arriving unannounced, he proceeded to
- 682 Tum's house where he was already known and trusted.
Tum immediately asked a million questions.
"Did you come for pleasure or is something wrong?
"Whatever may be troubling you, please tell me."
- 683 The messenger took out Teav's letter.
Tum looked at it stunned. He reached out his hand and grabbed it.
Opening the package, Tum saw the container of betel
And tobacco that his wife had sent.
- 684 "Oh, Teav! My sweetheart. What misery!
"I'm shocked again!
"My spirit is stifled! Shall I prepare
"To travel as I believe I should or do something else?
- 685 "Oh, Teav! You went back because you believed your mother was sick.
"You didn't know it would turn into a trick to wedge us apart.
"Oh, Teav! My sadness is overwhelming!
"I'm devastated as though a mountain had fallen upon me.
- 686 "Oh, Teav! You pitied me
"Truly in that moment when you dared to write
"This letter
"Informing me of what has happened.
- 687 "Oh, Teav! My sadness about that ordeal weighs heavy on me.

"It overwhelms and paralyzes me.
 "I fall silent as though an evil force
 "Confuses and empties my mind.

688 "Oh, Teav! If they keep you against your will,
 "While I remain free, I will not be stopped easily.
 "I will struggle to the death like a soldier
 "Who dies within his citadel under siege.

689 "Normally, a royal army general
 "Doesn't panic or retreat.
 "He shoots! He stabs! He kicks and tramples!
 "This is like the struggle of our interlocked lives.

690 "Although they will try to make me give up, I will never stop fighting.
 "Oh! Teav, my dear! If we die,
 "Our deaths will bring another life. This is
 "A battle like the Buddha's against Mea during that time."

691 Tum, sad faced, could only worry about Teav.
 Teav's suffering broke Tum apart. He fell silent.
 In their separation, Tum felt her absence and lost his spirit.
 He lay down rigid and motionless on the floor.

692 "The bed where we used to sleep is still here.
 "Teav, my dear, when it would be time to eat,
 "We would eat our food here. You left from here.
 "Lost! Gone so far away!

693 "I wish her mother great misfortune!
 "She took Teav away. Split us apart!
 "She plotted to kill our love and destroy us!
 "Teav! Here, everything seemed right! I can't understand how this could
 happen!"

694 Tum observed the things around him: the container of areca,
 The sarongs and scarves, the cushions and pillows,
 And wool mats in front of him. He was drained and weak.
 After looking at these things, he crept to his room and slouched over asleep.

695 Then Tum bolted up and grabbed a pillow with his outstretched hand
 And hugged it in his arms. He was frustrated
 And nauseous, upset and confused.
 Restless, he got up and shuffled away.

696 He descended the steps to the ground and observed the night sky,
 Clear and wide. His throat was dry.
 The quiet grew as the night deepened steadily,

And Tum recounted the sequence of events since that morning.

- 697 "Oh, wind! Deliver
"The clouds in groups to Teav. She may think
"Because she is separated from me, I have stopped thinking of her.
"Oh, Teav! I have been drinking water instead of eating rice since you left!
- 698 "My misery is like having the wind knocked out of me.
"My distress compares to a child and mother
"Who were separated and died without seeing one another.
"I am far away from you. We are separated from each other.
- 699 "You are gone from everything: our sleeping chamber,
"Our eating implements, writing tools, and our oil and wax.
"I'm devastated and can't imagine not seeing you again,
"Or that you could ever live with Nguon as your husband.
- 700 "If Teav has really been given to Nguon,
"I will struggle to the death because she is my wife!
"They keep trying to take her from me again and again!
"They have no idea of compassion or the slightest fear!"
- 701 Sir Tum fretted over his separation from Miss. Teav.
At dawn, he quickly filled his arms,
Grabbing this and grabbing that of his belongings.
Once the things were packed, he planned to go.
- 702 He made his way to the King's Palace.
Entering straight away, Tum had no fear of anyone.
Arriving at the King's chambers, he presented himself before the King
Of great power and virtue.
- 703 Tum raised his hands and bowed,
Readied himself and comported his head.
Tum said, "I beg to inform you, my wife
"Has gone. She has a completely new husband!
- 704 "Your Highness,
"There have been evil doings of all kinds and great misery.
"I ask of you, my Lord,
"To send word of your command
- 705 "To Governor Orh-Chhuon from the district of Tbong Khmom.
"He is in complete control.
"A letter arrived saying Teav's mother was sick and feverish.
"It instructed her child to return home.
- 706 "Teav went and they had arranged her marriage to Moeurn Nguon.

- "Miss. Teav, terrified, didn't dare object.
"She arranged to deliver a message to me to see if I could
"Request Your Majesty's help straightaway before it's too late."
- 707 The King listened to every word.
He issued his decree forthwith.
"That rascal thief Orh-Chhuon will break like a chicken egg!
"He is deluded to presume himself deserving of my support!
- 708 "He doesn't know wrong from right, rice from weeds!
"That thief is like a dog eating beef!
"He dares to challenge me! That is a crime for which he must be boiled
alive!
"I will haul him in then boil him alive in an iron skillet.
- 709 "That thief will hide in the forest watching out for my attack.
"He is used to being on the run like the kvaek bird.
"That monkey doesn't know my big stick will crack his skull!
"The rascal's head, tomorrow... tomorrow... will roll!"
- 710 Oh, time! At that time, King Rea-mea,
The all-powerful, was clearly furious.
He called out,
"Come! All Court Magistrates!"
- 711 The officials and high-ranking ministers,
Hearing the King's command, entered the hall and gathered to receive his
instructions.
In the presence of the King, they bowed their heads,
Kneeled and brought their clasped hands above their heads.
- 712 The King looked directly at the group
Of low and high ranking officials and ministers.
"Chief Ministers and advisors,
"Prepare a Royal Edict at once.
- 713 "I pity Sir Tum who has been separated from his wife.
"They were told Teav's mother was seriously ill. A messenger came to tell
her this.
"Teav went there and was entrapped.
"Orh-Chhuon has grabbed her in order to marry her
- 714 "To Moeurn Nguon, the scoundrel's own son.
"The rascal dares to do this, thinking he has no need to fear anyone!
"But I have married Sir Tum and Teav, because he said
"Teav was already his fiancé.
- 715 "As for Tum, once you have my letter, go there

“Quickly to put things right according to my orders.
“If the scoundrels don’t listen, you must turn back right away.
“I won’t have you confronting them.”

- 716 The officials heard the King’s command.
They raised their hands in salute all together,
Then retreated from the hall and arrived outside the Royal Palace.
Immediately, they stopped a group of royal scribes.
- 717 Conferring together, someone was sent to get a piece of paper
And a special quill made of silver.
When they finished writing the letter, they preceded to an office
And ordered someone to stamp the letter with a large handsome seal.
- 718 Stamped and folded tight,
And having already received approval, they wrapped the letter
In a special cloth.
Then Tum conferred with Pech.
- 719 “Oh, Pech! I’m very worried about all of this!
“My wife... they took to be married to another!
“Now, Pech! Make haste!
“Arrange for a wooden paddle boat,
- 720 “As well as all kinds of provisions, cases of areca nut,
“Scarves, silk sarongs, bottles of tea and drinking glasses.
“Ready the paddle boat,
“And call a team of paddlers. We must leave right away!”
- 721 Tum had already boarded the boat.
They rowed away and the boats swiftly headed up the river.
The wind blew against Tum, who sat blank-faced
In the boat, hot and upset.
- 722 Unable to endure it, Tum lay down.
He observed the stars near the moon as though in escort. Tum said,
“Oh, Heavenly Moon encircled by stars!
“Release me from this suffering.
- 723 “Holy Moon, aglow and resplendent,
“Like the color of Miss. Teav’s skin. One cannot see the future!”
Tum narrated his thoughts one by one while singing a melody.
“Look at the land. Look at the girls. Look at the fish and reeds.
- 724 “Oh trees in close rows, why should I
“Be separated from Teav my sweetheart and constantly worried?
“I’m not like the *tras* plant or *kraukoa* and *tbaeng* trees.
“Rather, I’m like strychnine that sprouts near fig trees and surely kills

them.”

- 725 Tum counted the trees as he went along.
Gazing into the deep waters he saw schools of fish.
The fresh-water *changva* and the *photong* leapt up suddenly.
“You must be breaking out of the water
- 726 “To go look for your husbands.
“There are similar schools of fish in ponds
“Which won’t leave their mates or run away.
“Everyone in their school is content and happy.”
- 727 Looking at the land, Tum tried to distract himself by making rhymes.
Along the eastern shore were scattered
Villages and fields of sugar cane alongside mango groves.
Tum, distraught, cried into a water pot.
- 728 Come the dead of the night,
The wind blew very cold.
Tum pulled out a cloth and covered his head to block the wind.
Startled, he sprang up, thinking incessantly.
- 729 His vertigo would not lessen.
Distraught, he wanted only to lie down spread out.
He screamed into the dark. “Teav, my dear! Your spirit
“Leaves your body, and silently goes to me.
- 730 “I have reached this distant land.
“Oh, Teav! Are you his or still mine?
“I would do anything to know right now.
“If I had wings, I would fly to get there at once!”
- 731 The oars cut through the water as though in accordance with Tum’s wish to
fly.
Tum concentrated, trying to hear
The sound of the wind and waves. The boat nearly turned over.
Tum recited verses to his sweetheart. “Oh, Karma!
- 732 “One is born doomed. Death becomes
“Life. Misery is inevitable.
“As with the taking away of lovely Miss. Teav,
“Our separation brings sorrow.”
- 733 Tum described the villages along the river.
His words flowed, carefully arranged. “Oh, fig trees!
“Inclined and hanging, harmoniously bent in search of each other.
“Trees know the right connections so not to be separated.

- 734 "Knowing so much they can entwine themselves
"Like blood relatives or village neighbors.
"The roka tree finds ways to stay together.
"Trees and Nature know better than anyone!
- 735 "Not like Orh-Chhuon who is human.
"Because he has had a high rank for a long time,
"He doesn't think he could be brought down.
"His desire for permanence will not endure."
- 736 Tum finished reciting and turned his attention to rowing.
He looked at the water still and deep,
Then looked at the northern bank of Tranung Sdau,
And veered towards Pitea Kandal.
- 737 From the back side of the marsh's end, Tum strove hard
And came up alongside Russei Srok. Overjoyed to see him,
Old and young acted comically together.
Happily, they greeted him and politely
- 738 Said, "You there! Paddling the boat in such a hurry!
"Dear man of graceful form! Try to row up here!
"It seems as though you are racing the wind!
"Whatever it is that you covet so badly, tell us too!"
- 739 The people who questioned him were polite, but Tum did not reply
Because he was pushing himself too frantically.
For one thing, he was trying to row fast enough to cross the marsh
And get to Port Chikong as he intended.
- 740 Tum rowed past Kok Island and Sotin.
Rice was cooked, and he stopped the boat. Tum was pensive.
Having set up a pole to which to tie the boat, he went ashore and stopped
quietly.
He watched the sun going down.
- 741 Gone was the light of the sun.
Tum was exhausted. It was the middle of the night.
He finished eating and was frustrated still
And became cold. The tide was falling.
- 742 Tum exclaimed, "Oh, wind which blows!
"Oh, Teav! Taken away! The scent of your perfume!
"I can hold only the wafts of fragrance!
"Teav! The greedy thieves took you from me!
- 743 "They left you and me all alone!
"Teav does not Miss. me! Beware of the heart of a woman!

- “A charming heart without consideration or pity!
 “Having Nguon to be her husband, she drops Tum.
- 744 “Oh! Teav! My sorrow is extraordinary!
 “I will get to Tbong Khmom tomorrow.
 “It is certain Orh-Chhuon will seek revenge
 “And call the guests to gang up and kill me.”
- 745 Let’s digress a moment from Tum’s situation,
 And take up a portrayal of fallen Teav.
 Being distraught and confused in turns,
 Teav prayed only for her dear man to come to her.
- 746 “Love of my life! My sweetheart!
 “Now, they plan openly
 “To tear us apart. From the day
 “We were separated, live or die, I will always be your wife!
- 747 “My dear! Are you on your way or not? I continue
 “To watch the road for your arrival, but it is quiet and empty.
 “I think of Mother giving me away
 “Without considering my feelings at all.
- 748 “She boasts that she’s giving me to someone who has status,
 “Fine possessions, gold, silver and wealth.
 “Oh, Tum! She says that you are poor and without possessions.
 “It seems like you don’t dare to steal me back.
- 749 “As soon as you were gone from me, I fell completely silent.
 “My misery is as big as a mountain. I cry myself sick when I get up
 “To go somewhere. Before I arrive, I become so confused, I must take
 shelter.
 “I still think about you all the time!
- 750 “What can I do to know if your arrival will be long or soon?
 “There isn’t anyone at all to go and tell you to hurry.
 “When will we meet and see each other face to face?
 “My misery is so distressing.
- 751 “At this very moment, they are planning to come and quickly
 “Prepare the materials and select the wedding food.
 “People are already gathering. They have even
 “Rented a large area which has been sealed off and set aside for the
 ceremony.”

Part 10 (752-884)

The Wedding and Death of Tum and Teav

The rush to prepare for the wedding before Tum's arrival; the engagement ceremony; the wedding; Tum and Pech's arrival; Tum's intoxication and reunion with Teav; Tum's execution by Orh-Chhuon's strongmen; Teav and Nor's suicides; the burying of the bodies)

- 752 We digress here from presenting
Teav in her grief all alone and without comfort,
And continue by describing
Teav's worried mother.
- 753 She was worried because everything was taking a long time.
Anxious and unable to relax,
She decided to leave the house and walked straight to see Orh-Chhuon.
Arriving, she went up to the estate.
- 754 At Orh-Chhuon's house, she met his wife and son.
Teav's mother, indefatigable, addressed them,
Raising her joined hands appropriately.
"If you please, I have come here because
- 755 "Teav doesn't think of future shame,
"Or whether she appears idiotic.
"I want to inform the Governor without leaving anything out."
Orh-Chhuon's wife and son were taken by surprise at that time.
- 756 "Before the day of the wedding...
"Already Tum clearly understands our plan... It seems to me that
"He is already on his way. I'm worried. Get ready,
"Governor. Hurry while there is still hope.
- 757 "Find out which month and day
"The meeting of the parents should be held as is proper.
"The wedding must be carefully planned,
"Because delays cannot be allowed.
- 758 "Whatever sorrow Tum may be feeling, he will set off
"In anger, because Teav is his wife.
"I bid you goodbye as I should return at once.
"Think of how to prepare the wedding as soon as possible for fear of losing
later on."
- 759 At that time, Orh-Chhuon
Bowed happily. Trying to relax,

- He admonished his wife and son not to let
Themselves be careless or imprudent.
- 760 He told the Lieutenant-Governor to order the district chief
To find wild boar, heron, beef, chicken, duck,
Carts, earthenware vases, garlic, pepper, sweet potatoes,
Cooking stock of arrowroot, *ptee* and French mint,
- 761 Imported cooking stock, and cooking stock for every kind of vegetable.
He assigned knowledgeable people to buy strong wine,
Sausage made of dried meats, grilled mutton,
Ray fish, bamboo shoots, watercress, snails,
- 762 Every kind of chili pepper, lemon grass, ginger, horseradish,
Selected lotus seeds and shoots,
Cabbage heads, greens, large red ants,
Bangkong birds, and beef shins in jack fruit, papaya,
- 763 And sliced vegetables. He ordered to have these items found
Then brought back, spread in baskets and dried to keep.
When they were nicely dried, they should be gathered up and stuffed into
sacks.
He ordered them not to delay and that they should act quickly.
- 764 Some were told to deliver wood, bamboo and rattan,
Knives, jars, covered pots, chisels and pliers
And take them to make a storage shed to be ready quickly.
He ordered that neighbors and relatives living far away
- 765 In numerous provinces be informed of the wedding as well.
Because Orh-Chhuon explained
That they must prepare for the marriage between Nguon and lovely Teav,
Everyone acted quickly to complete the tasks on time.
- 766 He gave orders to find a wiseman to treat Nguon and Teav's teeth with
castor oil,
And an astrologer to determine a wedding day that would be propitious
And glorious, and to gather cushions and have them put away for safe
keeping.
After meeting together for a long time,
- 767 Everyone set off in a loud commotion, anxious and helter-skelter,
To buy or confiscate all the materials needed for the wedding.
When they had finished, they quickly put everything in place,
As Orh-Chhuon had instructed them.
- 768 Running up to his residence, the Lieutenant-Governor informed him, "Sir,
don't

- “Blame us. High standards were met without negligence.
 “I have ordered my men, each group through its leader
 “And according to his task, to plan together and transport
- 769 “The foodstuffs and take them to the cooking shed,
 “To use whatever materials to decorate the hall,
 “To wrap the areca in handkerchiefs,
 “And to organize the dancers and musicians.”
- 770 They brought forth all the materials for every aspect of the ceremony,
 And distributed them carefully
 In a hall adequately big, strong and spacious.
 Twenty-five homes were decorated with torches.
- 771 They lit all the torches and lanterns.
 The parents, relatives and beloved friends
 Entered and gathered together.
 During that time, there was surely no worry of lack.
- 772 As soon as the guests had gathered together, they entered a new hall
 Where the boys and girls, young and old enjoyed themselves.
 They ate cakes. They ate rice. They ate soup.
 They ate *kau*. They ate *kau*-shaped rolls, and drank wine.
- 773 The elders conversed with one another.
 “We must discuss which day and time to hold the wedding.”
 They stood up and approached the wisemen.
 When he finished eating, he instructed them.
- 774 The great wiseman was a deep thinker.
 Examining the situation, he said, “We will consider
 “The wedding date tomorrow.” After preparing the astrological table,
 Wisemen arrived to determine the exact point in time for the ceremony.
- 775 With the preparations complete, they deliberated together.
 The wisemen debated the issue shrewdly.
 The parents of the boy were not to delay at all.
 They had to gather the wedding pillows for whatever day the scholars
 determined.
- 776 The wiseman representing the groom’s side,
 At that time, he spoke,
 “Have all the decorations prepared
 “To transform the hall according to custom. Don’t delay.
- 777 “The wedding site should have
 “*Beisei*, sacred areca, five mouthfuls of areca,
 “Attendants wearing *sompot* cloth, sitting on the left and right, waiting to

bow.

"Be careful of making mistakes which people will remember."

- 778 At this point, the wiseman said it was time
To go up to the Governor's residence as required by custom.
The wiseman soaked an afterbirth with castor-oil,
And ordered someone to look for a clay pot in which to put this medicine.
- 779 He said that it was necessary to have a woven basket.
As for the materials for doing the teeth, he had someone get
White and red sandalwood and white bark
That were mixed together with the pith of various kinds of wood.
- 780 They pounded and packaged rice,
Then stuffed it into bamboo containers. They made soup and corked it.
From inside the clay pot, they dug out the afterbirth,
Turned it face up and placed it on the stove.
- 781 With the building materials, they made a fence around the wedding area.
Umbrellas and flags were set up in sufficient numbers.
Beisei and food offerings were put on tables in plates.
When everything was arranged, they stopped a while.
- 782 At this moment, we must turn from
Speaking of the matter of the wedding and continue with
The description of Tum who is burying his frustration
In his aching chest. He calls Pech,
- 783 "Oh, Pech! I have been trying to listen.
"I hear something like the sound of drums. They have married
"Teav and Nguon already! Where can we stop?
"Prepare to dock the boats! Throw the anchor!"
- 784 Tum and Pech disembarked and followed the sound of the drums.
There arose in Tum a paralyzing sorrow that didn't abate at all.
Tears trickled down his face. He kept longing for Teav.
He said, "Oh, I'm getting numb!"
- 785 With no idea what to do, Tum's will was waning, almost broken.
"Oh, me! Tomorrow looks to be my end!
"I will lose my life and lovely Teav!
"Teav will have no regret I came so close!
- 786 "This sorrow doesn't relent! I've reached the end of my rope!"
Tum said, "My dear!" and took out the package Teav had given him.
"Enough already, Pech! What shall we do?
"We must take risks according to the task and my Karma."

- 787 Tum opened the package and took out the *sampot*.
He got dressed in fear. Finally, he screamed and cried.
He pounded his chest and was bruised everywhere from the blows.
He was pale. His separation from Teav made him suffer from regret.
- 788 Pech told him, "Tum! Don't carry on like this!
"Come on, brother! Try to get up and show them we are brave!
"Get dressed!
"Hurry! Don't delay!"
- 789 Tum heard Pech tell him this and grabbed the *sampot*
That was long and pleated. Tum looked closer
And noticed the turban, the black silk *pha-hom*
And sampot that the King had presented to him.
- 790 Tum put on the garment that was embroidered in three layers
With a "chicken body" design using silk thread and gold braids.
He dressed in a green shirt, then meditated deeply on his objective.
He stepped forward and turned around to speak.
- 791 "Pech, my brother! Prepare your things!
"Make it quick!" Pech took his flute
And took the ring that Tum recently bought new.
Tum adorned his fingers with sun-stones.
- 792 Pech put on his sampot and went to grab a green shirt.
Fully dressed, the two of them strutted back and forth.
They walked for a long time,
And arrived at the cemetery after a while.
- 793 At that time of day, it was exactly approaching
The scheduled time to eat. Mats were spread on the ground
And people were drinking and eating, rolling around
And swimming. Then everyone ran to hide in the forest.
- 794 Completely senseless, they suspended people from trees and chopped
Their bodies close to death without a thought of fear.
Busy eating and drinking, people fell to the ground one by one.
Some would quickly run to grab a leg of beef.
- 795 The various people preparing the food for the great wedding
Were happy one and all and laughing uproariously.
They prepared raw meats of chicken and duck by quickly dipping them
In boiling water and cleaning out all the gizzards, livers and lungs.
- 796 Tum and Pech emerged from the jungle.
Without fear, they entered the wedding area furtively.
Mixing with the large crowd, they moved right in front of people.

They were not worried or afraid.

- 797 But there were evil deeds in store for Tum.
Oh, people! Listen and remember well!
Keeping himself hidden, Tum went towards Teav,
Weaving through the crowd. In his happiness, he didn't see the misery that
awaited.
- 798 We should take the Dhamma as our foundation.
The guidance of the precepts is a bridge for going forward.
It enables us to avert wrongdoing and extinguish evil.
Don't succumb to temptation or naive stupidity.
- 799 Don't take Pech and Tum as models.
In Tbong Khmom, the people were obsessed with pleasure.
They played with the fortune of good Teav, and made her
Sink into oblivion.
- 800 At that time, Tum and Pech
Had entered the wedding hall for some time.
The sun had set. Around them
The guests were gathering together. Tum went quietly up to
- 801 The house and politely greeted
The elder parents pleasingly, without being rude or disdainful.
Tum had become very drunk and acted impudently.
He behaved as though he were greater than his teacher.
- 802 Greater than everything! He expounded
In song, "The Teav over here has no thought of her husband.
"She avoids him. She hates Tum. Ducks for cover when he approaches.
"Her husband has been here a long time already, but she does not recognize
him!"
- 803 Teav was crestfallen and tense.
She answered back directly.
"Sweetheart, I am drained and weak.
"You arrive and criticize me. My love,
- 804 "You have no reason at all to think this way. I have missed you every
"Moment, day and night! Oh, Tum! Don't
"Distrust your sweetheart! Venerable, you may
"Beat me to death!"
- 805 Tum said, "Oh, Teav! My love!
"Your virtue is gone! You are sullied like a formerly polished stone!
"I arrived a long time ago. You should have shown your love for me!
"Dear Teav hid herself! Where could you hide?"

- 806 Teav answered saying, "Why are you so quick to criticize, my dear?
"Your wife has been in agony.
"I rolled cigarettes and prepared areca for you!
"I ladled alcohol for you to drink,
- 807 " And sent it to my dear man. I ask your consideration a moment."
Teav responded eloquently.
She sat close beside Tum, sobbing.
Tum understood and forgave his beloved.
- 808 Teav, weeping with regret, threw her body on the ground.
She recounted the original promise they had made to each other.
"Oh, my dear! There is no other like you!
"I love you truly! Why do you argue?"
- 809 Tum, crying, answered, "Oh, my precious!
"You wrecked our plans by coming to have another husband!
"Your virtue left you instantly!
"Come close to me, so I can hold my beloved girl."
- 810 Tum moved close to Teav, and they embraced one another.
Having hugged and kissed, Tum said, "Teav!
"Depend on me, your husband! Don't worry!
"Don't fear they will stab or shoot me! Or that we will lose to anyone!"
- 811 Tum continued, "My dear, pour some wine for me.
"I'll drink then take you
"To the city to have an audience with the King.
"He will rectify this sorry ordeal."
- 812 Teav listened to the words Tum spoke.
She handed him an areca cigarette, which Tum smoked,
And ladled wine for him to drink. Teav looked at Tum's face.
He looked nauseated and dazed.
- 813 Teav went into the hall
And lay down sad and confused.
She rolled over against the wall.
Someone slid the curtain closed tightly.
- 814 Teav's mother could not contain her anger.
Ignorance blinded her.
A violent rage possessed her.
She could not think clearly or overcome her anger.
- 815 She screamed, "Orh-Chhuon! You have power.
"We had better think of something quick!
"Grab that rascal Tum! That impudent thief!

- "Pull him from the house and drop him down!
- 816 "Call all your gang to take him away quickly!
"Stab and shoot him dead! Don't let him remain
"To weigh down the house, weigh down the earth with his hateful person!
"Teav's reputation has become a disgrace now already!
- 817 "He went too far with his sweet talking! The rascal's behavior
"Is fearless! Whatever he's up to, the rascal knows no end!
"He hugged my daughter and wouldn't let her go!
"He called Teav to answer him! He necked with her and teased her!
- 818 "He kissed her everywhere and squeezed her breasts!
"He had no thought of her reputation whatsoever! That scoundrel!
"His hugs and kisses provoked her! He made it into a game!
"He doesn't know how to respect anyone!"
- 819 Oh, time! At that time, Orh-Chhuon
And Moeurn Nguon, who was the son he planned to marry to Teav,
Gave rise to evil thoughts toward Tum.
They had no pity or compassion for Tum.
- 820 In their aversion and fury,
They drew their swords and banded together.
They grabbed Tum and stabbed and hacked at him without discussion.
They tied Tum very tightly, arms back like parrot wings.
- 821 Teav heard people say they had surrounded and seized her husband.
Distraught, Miss. Teav fretted.
Tum said, "Oh, Teav! It looks as though I am done for!
"I am leaving to go to sleep upon the earth!"
- 822 They grabbed Tum and beat his entire body to a pulp.
Blood flowed without end. They split open his head.
Clots of blood choked him as he tried to speak.
They told Miss. Teav that her husband was leaving her.
- 823 "Stay here my sweet beloved!
"They stabbed me. They shot me dead!
"My death bereft my mother of her child,
"And let our family name disappear! I am going to die!"
- 824 Hearing this, Teav pleaded with them saying,
"Please sirs, have pity on him!
"If you must tie him, don't tie him with rattan.
"Tie him with this black turban. Give me this one thing!"
- 825 They surrounded Tum and tied him with rope.

They stabbed at his face one after the other without compunction.
They did not have the slightest thought of showing compassion.
They committed sins of violence, even though Tum had done no wrong.

- 826 Tum, hurting, lay on his back, blacking out.
He vomited blood. He had hot flashes like being dipped in boiling water.
His thirst was so great, it practically cracked open his stomach.
His flesh was pierced through. It was separated from the blood vessels.
- 827 Exhausted and defeated, he sobbed loudly.
His weakness brought him to his knees. Gasping, he raised his hands.
With palms joined, he prayed to The Triple Gems
That sustain us every day and whose worth is so great.
- 828 "Oh, Master! If I am to die,
"Please, Master, help me to be an iron fortress of strength.
"Absolve me of my miserable sins, so they are not part of me.
"Please enable me to reach heaven."
- 829 The people who had abducted Tum were a clever group.
They had some sense of propriety as well. In their cruelty,
The scoundrels said, "Tum! Try meditating
"On the Buddha's teaching now!"
- 830 They brought Tum to an open space by the side of the road.
Near the base of a *bodhi* tree, he fell unconscious.
He lay next to the tree exhausted and dying.
He gasped his last breath as his body stretched out stiffly.
- 831 He was dead. Extinguished was his material existence.
Tum's body was impermanent like a pile of sand.
The large gathering that is the world of people
Encounters many pitiful schemes.
- 832 Tum's intimate love for Teav was without fault.
Tum's wrongful death here was because of a woman.
Lovers of the world!
Oh! You should avoid this fate!
- 833 The people who had taken Tum away to be killed,
Had already returned quickly
To the hall. At the house, they greeted Orh-Chhuon
And discussed what had happened at that time.
- 834 It was late at night,
And Teav was lying down with her head covered, sad and confused.
Miss. Nor, Teav's nanny, leaned toward Teav and said,
"Oh, Teav! While I was sleeping I eavesdropped

- 835 "And heard people murmuring noisily together.
"They said Tum had been taken away to be killed.
"At mealtime, they surrounded him and grabbed him,
"Then led him away quickly as planned."
- 836 Teav heard Nor say her husband was dead.
Teav immediately jumped up. She screamed and wept saying,
"Oh! The man I love with all my heart!
"Oh, husband! When will I see your face?"
- 837 "I'm sorry, dear husband! We loved each other so much!
"So much regret! I will never be able to close my eyes to sleep!
"At eating time, I will have no inclination but to mourn.
"Tum was tricked and drowned in boiling water until dead!"
- 838 "Oh, Tum! You used to respect me.
"You never hit me because you loved me.
"I will wait, watching the road for your arrival every day and month.
"I regret this so much, my dear! Disbelief comes over me!"
- 839 "As far as I'm concerned, Tum didn't give up
"Until losing his life. They took him away
"And threw him in the forest. Oh, sweetheart!
"Oh, Tum! Now you take your rest upon the ground!"
- 840 "You use the earth as a pillow!
"Oh, Tum! You take the quick clouds,
"Which block the sun, to be the roof of your forest cemetery
"And darken my soul!"
- 841 "Oh, Tum! Enough already! I have no will to live!
"It would be better to die along with you and let this life be done with!
"My mother has no pity for her child!
"She doesn't practice what she preaches!"
- 842 "Enough already, mother! You stay here!
"I live just for you to boss around!
"Now, your heart is like a pure Chinese!
"You become angry because I don't agree to marry Nguon!"
- 843 "You go ahead and marry him yourself,
"And take your plan to its end!
"What to do? I must take care lest I run into
"The guests coming in droves to see Nguon the groom."
- 844 "I must bid goodbye to this life today.
"Such is the consummate evil taking place here.
"That decided, I only wish to act quickly."

"Nor, don't regret this. Nor..."

- 845 Teav knelt down and composed herself quickly.
She raised joined hands to her head.
After bowing three times, she spoke,
"I offer homage to the Buddha,
- 846 "The Dhamma, and the Sangha.
"At this moment, I ask you for help,
"Supreme Indra, as well as that of your divine sons.
"Please help me to be fast and effective as I have vowed.
- 847 "I pray you will hide my body.
"I depend on you to put me out of sight. Please gods,
"Conceal me. Don't allow anyone
"To find me as is my wish.
- 848 "Nor! Please, sister Nor, pity me!
"Go get a knife and give it to me!"
Nor had the knife, and they both left.
Intending to go to Tum, they continued on.
- 849 Reaching the field, they entered the forest and searched for Tum.
They saw some children in a noisy group. They were playing while
Tending water buffalo, making sure they didn't eat the rice paddy.
Teav stood and yelled, calling them to come in a hurry.
- 850 Teav greeted them nicely then instructed them.
"Now, brothers and sisters, listen to what I have to tell you.
"Go to the house of the person who is my mother.
"Children, keep going until reaching the house of the wedding.
- 851 "People will still be eating. Some of them drinking
"Excitedly. Now, children, you must sing out,
'All elders! Listen to me!
'Wedding guests one and all! Teav has gone to kill herself!
- 852 'They have gathered together into one what were three bodies!
'She died in the cemetery where earlier in the day
'They had brought Tum to be put to death.
'His death beneath the *bodhi* tree is but a sacrifice to the Buddha!
- 853 "Remember children what I have told you! I must leave you now."
The children took the water buffaloes by the ring and led them forward.
Teav walked on until finding the exposed
Body of Tum. She called Nor to get the knife.
- 854 Teav lay down next to her husband and grasped his hand.

With the areca knife, she slashed at herself,
 Severing the column of her throat. In death,
 Their two bodies were entwined and overlapped in union.

- 855 All three, the two women and the man, together in death.
 The corpse of Tum, whom they slaughtered without discussion,
 As well as the corpses of the women, dead because of Tum.
 They went to meet him by slitting their own throats.
- 856 To speak now of the children who still remembered clearly
 The words of the excellent Teav. Remembering without
 Forgetting at all, they went up to the house and barged into the wedding
 party.
 They dared to sit down among them, and spoke at risk.
- 857 They sang out shrilly, and everyone turned their heads.
 Sitting in the middle of the circle of the wedding ensemble,
 They bellowed sadly, calling the parents.
 "All ye grandfathers and grandmothers!
- 858 "Listen! Men and women! This thing
 "Should be considered carefully! You should stop what you're doing!
 "Wedding guests one and all, Teav has disappeared.
 "She sent me to tell you they have died all together!"
- 859 The parents didn't hear clearly what they said.
 They dropped their plates and stood up awkwardly.
 "Shhh... Don't speak! Let's hear them out."
 They got up and went hurriedly to the children making unpleasant faces.
- 860 Orh-Chhuon questioned them. "Children, sing that once more!
 "This time, my children without mincing your words.
 "When you get it clear, you can eat!
 "Don't worry about telling the truth, children!"
- 861 The children sang once again slurring their words together.
 Hearing them grumble, the children changed around their evasive reply.
 "Oh, sir! Tum and Teav are dead on their backs!
 "Dead as well is Miss. Nor, Teav's servant!
- 862 "We are thirsty for rice wine! Please, grandfather, get some for us!
 "Please bring us a tray of rice and food
 "With pork meat, venison, chicken, duck and fish!"
 The children ate the food and stopped speaking completely.
- 863 Everyone hurried to go
 Search the house. They bent over every corner calling out.
 They looked for Teav and Nor everywhere.

They had not lost hope, not believing what the children had said.

- 864 The old woman who was Teav's mother was frustrated.
She was unnerved as though a cooking fire burned under her.
She trembled. Her head shook.
She was deathly pale, unable to accept or understand what was happening.
- 865 She was sad-faced, pale and tense with anger,
Enraged and frantic.
She cursed Teav's servants unchecked. "Do you know
"Anything about keeping a close eye on her?"
- 866 "None of you thought
"That you had better attend to her all together!
"That perverted thief was allowed to snatch her away fearlessly
"And cut up her head into seven pieces!"
- 867 "You fools dared to let my child disappear!
"You were not careful! You have only words!
"You're only good for telling lies, eating and shitting!"
Turning around, they saw Tum's body. They jumped in terror.
- 868 They didn't know at all what to make of it. The young toughs
Saw him and became more and more ecstatic.
People bunched together trying to get a look at them.
Teav's servants gawked in confusion. "They look like chickens and ducks!"
- 869 The head servant joined them.
She answered directly, "They are powerful! Don't try to get too close!
"We are all people, not ghosts!
"Teav, who is her daughter, truly said
- 870 "She was going down there to defecate.
"We tried to dissuade her in every way,
"But she refused to listen. Why, grandmother and grandfather,
"Is it normal for people to be at odds with others?"
- 871 "As for the other older women who took time to see to Teav,
"Normally, impetuous people don't know how to think about what they're
doing.
"Very angry, they proceed in ways that are bad. Neither did the parents
"Sternly guide her. They called her only to say this or that.
- 872 "They didn't know how to take anyone's words into consideration.
"Other elders as well knew the situation.
"This Teav very clearly had a husband.
"Why they forced her into the marriage with Nguon, I don't know."

- 873 Teav's mother listened closely. She was nearly out of her mind.
 "Oh, Teav! From the beginning, your temperament was different.
 "You were very different from me like a bone!
 "I was stern with you because of this, and so I talked to you that way!
- 874 "I said I would give you to Orh-Chhuon!
 "It's too much! Tum cursed you! He cut you up!
 "He shot you! He threw you away! He cut out your insides!
 "To kill you again, they scorn you in death!
- 875 "What wrongdoing have I committed?
 "I only gave you life and arranged your marriage,
 "So that Orh-Chhuon would spread his wealth.
 "Rings and gold belts, I wished to give you,
- 876 "To let you wear them.
 "His possessions would be your dowry.
 "Now, my precious dear is gone forever!
 "Teav, my child! You were everything to me!"
- 877 At that time, Teav's mother suffered alone.
 Delirious, her mind spun ceaselessly.
 She stumbled along, mixing up day and night.
 Thinking about everything at once, she walked on, calling out to people.
- 878 At that time, all of the wedding guests
 Threw away their plates, bottles, and baskets of rice.
 They threw away the pots. They threw away the frying pans and stomped
 on them.
 Some carried away the already boiled beef.
- 879 Fearing for their lives, they hid or ran, calling for help.
 The grandchildren went home immediately.
 Entering the forest, they kept a close eye out, afraid someone would grab
 them
 And kill them like Tum and add them to the group.
- 880 The royal official Orh-Chhuon and Nguon, his son,
 Were very angry. Trying to control themselves, they got up hurriedly.
 They left and went to the forest until recognizing the bodies of
 Tum, Teav and Nor. They were truly dead.
- 881 Approaching them, they pulled Tum's corpse that was still tied up.
 They decided to take him away to bury close by.
 They loosened and took the *pha-hom*. Looking closely,
 They saw blood drip down. Despite themselves, they became spooked.
- 882 Extending their hands, they quickly grabbed the body away.

Recognizing the top of Teav's beautiful head,
Orh-Chhuon became frightened. He raised joined hands
And prayed to the gods.

- 883 After burying the corpses, Orh-Chhuon returned to the house.
Wanting revenge, he called Teav's mother to blame her.
"You old perverted thief! You opened your mouth
"Once too often for your own good!
- 884 "Seeing I have wealth that is quite satisfactory,
"You talked rot! You fraud!
"Your plan, old lady, very clearly was
"To add my slaves to yours!"

Part 11 (885-1044)

The Punishment of Orh-Chhuon and Teav's Mother

(Pech's flight back to the Palace; the King's rage at hearing of Tum's death; the King's vow to punish Orh-Chhuon; the King's journey to Tbong Khmom; Orh-Chhuon's fear of the King after receiving word of his arrival; the King's rejection of Orh-Chhuon's appeal for mercy; the judgment of the Ministers; the punishment; the King's return to the Palace)

- 885 This scene, if told, would go on and on,
So we will digress and not present any more of it.
Instead, we will continue by taking this opportunity to describe
Venerable Pech, who has emerged from hiding in the forest.
- 886 He had hid nearby, fearful of the power of Orh-Chhuon.
Nguon, his son, was planning
To destroy Tum's life. Tum's plan to steal Teav from him
Brought fear to everyone involved.
- 887 When Pech had realized this, he went alone
Into the hilly forest of reeds and *tbaeng* trees near the braziers
And *teal* trees and short trees in the cemetery.
He boarded a boat and lay flat and motionless.
- 888 He was worried and tense.
He was nearly scared to death.
Well into dusk, it had become completely silent.
Pech was anxious about being separated from Tum.
- 889 Pech was unable to focus his thoughts.
He was unable to sleep. His face was pale.

- He laid his arm over his forehead and burst into tears.
"Oh, Tum! You have abandoned me! I am distraught!
- 890 "I loved you truly! Now, you've left me!
"Oh, Tum! Your Pech is left all alone!
"Your little brother lies upon the ground of a wild glade.
"The calls of the crows and kites blend together.
- 891 "I accompanied you both day and night.
"We never stopped to rest.
"Since we lived at the Grand Palace,
"We resided together with never a problem.
- 892 "We never left the Palace.
"When the King called for us,
"Oh, Tum! We went to have an audience with his Highness
"And surpassed everyone else with our abilities!
- 893 "The King showed mercy on you.
"He bestowed Miss. Teav upon you whom he admired.
"His compassion for you and I would not endure.
"Because of Nguon, you lost the glory that was yours for years to come."
- 894 Venerable Pech hid his face. In sorrow, he cried.
He raised his hands and saluted.
"Oh, spirit of Tum! Your little brother now,
"On this day, for good or bad I ask to take leave.
- 895 "Tum, you must remain, my dear brother.
"Now Tum, don't hold a grudge against me.
"Go up to partake in the happiness of heaven.
"Let's pray to meet together again in the next life."
- 896 This will tell of Pech's journey.
He planned to slip out unseen.
We will tell of Pech constrained by worry,
As he tried to give orders expediently to the others
- 897 Who were his comrades to hurry.
Pech told them, "Untie the boat quickly!
"Store the oars and mooring post so we can leave!
"Don't delay! Let's get going!"
- 898 Pech's comrades had simultaneously scrambled into the boat.
The chopping of the oars panicked the fish that darted away.
Some dove and some swam for cover in the grass.
The oars drove deep through the water. Absorbed, they rowed

- 899 A long distance until emerging at the head of Svay Island.
The sun was setting in the distance. They turned closer to the disk.
Directly westward, it hung on the horizon.
Then the sun disappeared behind a mountain range.
- 900 They tried to row faster in order to reach the Palace,
Then stopped the boat to rest in the water.
They paddled to the shore intending to eat.
Pech kept thinking of poor Tum.
- 901 Pech was not thirsty or hungry. He didn't eat at all.
He missed Tum more and more.
Remembering Tum, he cried, unable to restrain himself.
"Oh, Tum! Where have you gone?"
- 902 "I don't see you anymore! Tum, you are truly my soul mate.
"My marvelous brother has gone away. Heavy loads were divided between us.
"You are no longer among the living. You didn't even say goodbye.
"Tum has left his fiancé. There is no doubt.
- 903 "They did away with your life without discussion.
"They cut short your years to the point of death.
"Without a thought, they dragged you to an open grave,
"All because of unfortunate Teav, whose mother insisted she marry Nguon.
- 904 "Evil has taken over everything!
"You couldn't restrain yourself. Why didn't you remember
"The Abbot's prediction that there would be bad consequences?
"His words should have been taken as a medicine to prevent this.
- 905 "To put it another way, evil is like an iron bludgeon.
"When it beats on someone, that person will die a certain death.
"It won't spare your life like the son of a noble family.
"This is according to the teachings which the Buddha spoke."
- 906 At dawn, the sun shone.
Pech was frustrated and alone.
He told everyone, "We must forge ahead
"As fast as possible! I fear we'll never arrive!
- 907 The oarsmen would not stop until reaching the Palace.
As evening approached, a stillness
Overshadowed the world
Edging out the daylight.
- 908 They gathered up the equipment and oars and carried them over their shoulders

And made their way to the Palace immediately.
Some broke off from the group to go home. The women greeted their
husbands,
And they exchanged news since their separation.

- 909 Soon all of the people from here had gathered to hear the news.
“When you went to Tbong Khmom, was everything all right?”
Some of the men told the people that Tum had died.
Then they left to meet the King.
- 910 Coming before the King, Pech positioned himself carefully. His hands
Were raised over his head as he bowed to salute him.
He addressed the King, “Your Highness dispatched me to Tbong Khmom
“To give notice to your subjects regarding the marriage of Tum and Teav.
- 911 “As your humble servant, I must report that
“Orh-Chhuon has executed Tum.
“Your Highness, show pity on me! I fear your anger!
“Spare me! Let me live!
- 912 “Tum died along with the two others, making it three persons in all.
“He guessed that Teav and Nor would continue to live.
“He didn’t know then what his actions would lead to.
“Now, Teav and Nor are dead also.”
- 913 The King listened to Pech describe the situation.
He became frightfully angry. He spoke, “You!
“Tell the Infantry
“And the Royal Servants to assemble quickly!
- 914 “Go call the Royal Ministers
“To perform religious offerings. Have them hurry!
“Make ready the Royal Seat for
“Foot gear and water this morning!
- 915 “Tell the commanding officer of the Army
“Not to delay a minute!
“Go grab that home wrecker whose wrongdoing knows no end!
“For what he’s dared to do, he’ll be reduced to ashes!
- 916 “The scoundrel dared to oppose me!
“For that crime, he will be chopped up, boiled, harrowed over, and buried
alive!
“His dead body will be pounded into the earth!
“Don’t doubt me for one second, Orh-Chhuon!
- 917 “He dared to tear and burn up my command!
“For his crime, tie up and shoot that Nguon, his son!

"Make every last one of them suffer for their crimes!
"His brothers and sisters who joined in his work!"

- 918 At that time, the court officials and Royal Ministers listened to
The King's orders. They bowed and crept away,
And withdrew from the Palace to go to their homes to meet together.
Being rushed, they did not wait to take action.
- 919 They sped up to meet the deadline.
The King gave orders to make preparations for the journey to Tbong
Khmom.
Orders were given for equipment to be made ready.
All kinds of meats were quickly wrapped up and sacks of rice and plates
were prepared.
- 920 They packed the provisions in containers,
Along with various kinds of spices.
When they finished preparing, they entered the Palace to inform the King
directly.
The King ordered them to prepare his things.
- 921 His entire regalia was pure gold.
The resplendent and divinely beautiful jeweled crown.
The glorious King carefully
Put on the gold adornments and bathed his face.
- 922 The King had already ensconced himself.
He called the young Queen
And said, "Sweet beloved,
"You and our oldest son
- 923 "Must stay behind, sweetheart.
"Don't be concerned for me.
"You must protect and represent
"The Palace. It is the Royal Army's turn
- 924 "To alert the people everywhere of this matter,
"And warn them of the necessary consequences.
"The King's reputation must remain spotless.
"We must assume the responsibility to protect it against wrongdoing.
- 925 "I won't be gone for very long.
"I will return quickly, too. Don't doubt this.
"Since I am the reigning King,
"You must remain here as the august First Queen."
- 926 After instructing the Queen, King Rea-mea,
Who had power over the land

And domain of Indra and Vishnu,
Started off and departed.

- 927 They marched around the Palace together three times.
All the infantry troops displayed aloft
The King's regalia as they paraded along the road
Almost to the royal vessel in the village.
- 928 Exactly in synch, the army fired their weapons,
As the King boarded the vessel.
Into the royal vessel intended for his Majesty,
The troops boarded and joined together to back-paddle the boat to leave.
- 929 The fancy, curved boats pulled away in formation.
Straight ahead, they surged forward one after the other.
Keeping close to the royal vessel, the oarsmen proceeded straight ahead,
And the laiñ fish churned through
- 930 The river. Aboard the King's vessel,
The Army Orchestra prepared
To entertain the handsome King.
The clever singers broke into song.
- 931 "Oh, *sakavh!* Great Siva,
"Who is the refuge in every direction of the world!
"King Rea-mea is strong and brave!
"His power is incomparable!
- 932 "*Sakavh!* Noble Wind, scudding the clouds!
"They hover and come to block the sunlight.
"It is cool as though someone fanned our bodies.
"The King relaxes. Nothing worries him.
- 933 "*Sakavh!* We are young.
"Our voices are not developed, Master!"
Since it was night, the King was sleepy. It was pitch dark.
Laying down his head, the King got comfortable.
- 934 The King began to fall sleep.
He reclined quietly, unable to relax. Thoughts turned in his mind.
The thoughts would not subside. He was choked with emotion
He stirred and bolted up.
- 935 Troubled, the King thought about Tum.
His death tore him away from the Monarch.
Feeling abandoned, the King fell silent.
Fixedly, he kept thinking about Tum.

- 936 The air was getting cool.
The sun eclipsed the moon.
The sky turned almost dark as people waved to greet the King.
They saluted him, raising their hands extended together.
- 937 They respectfully asked the King to dine with them.
A number of the wedding party gathered together along the shore.
A mother pushed eight young girls so to be seen by the King.
Despite all the commotion, the King slept the entire time.
- 938 Seeking an audience with the Monarch,
The All-Powerful and Supreme One,
The people approached him with their hands carefully joined.
The voices of the attractive young girls called out.
- 939 "*Sakavh!* We ask to have an audience!
"We ask to come near Your Grace!"
But the King seemed distant.
He was beside himself with regret for Tum.
- 940 The King was regretful, distant and unhappy.
He lay down but could not sleep. His face looked sad.
He continuously thought of Tum. He nearly collapsed.
It was not right that Tum lost his life without reason.
- 941 Horrible remorse beset him.
Then the King recovered and tried to be brave.
The various army troops that had to work
Tried to contain their worries, for they were in the service of the King.
- 942 They rowed the royal vessel while calling out to one another.
Announcing they were not far from their destination, the boats quickly
spread out.
One after the other, they formed a line.
Through the shallow water, they sped and reached some islands.
- 943 They arranged the boats in a neat row and informed the King,
Who was the protector of the world. He greatly missed Tum.
Each of the commanding officers then counted off all of the islands
To the best of his knowledge.
- 944 The King asked, "This island, what is its name?"
"Pardon me, I don't know. As I remember,
"The River Ta Ek, the River Ta Em
"And Roka follow converging directions."
- 945 The King questioned the official politely. "What else?"
The official, hearing the question, moved closer and answered quickly.

Bowing, he informed the King that the shore to the north had been subdued
By the army a long time ago.

- 946 They conversed until the head of the army answered.
“Dear, Sir!” He prostrated himself before the King.
Bowing, he spoke making comparisons
And associations relating to the names of the places.
- 947 He addressed the King politely, going on at risk
Of exile. “That is the River Kuy, Your Excellency.
“We will go beyond there, without deviating from our course.
“Straight ahead now is
- 948 “A place called Srok Tlok Chrow. After a while,
“We will come to Port Chi.” The army officer informed the King
completely,
Listing the places ahead without reluctance.
“The next region is Taer Chi Hai. Then,
- 949 “Further on, we will soon reach Port Pkay M’raech.”
Just then, the King got up from his bed feeling relieved.
He thoroughly washed himself. Not long afterwards,
He questioned Pech, who responded in turn.
- 950 Pech turned toward the King whose face seemed angry.
He crept straight up to him and bowed.
“Forgive my hesitancy. Have mercy on me.”
In a while it would be evening, and they would not be able to travel.
- 951 Then all the troops of the King’s army assembled.
Attendants prepared the food and white, polished plates.
They polished the glasses and various utensils.
They set out the things at bathing time, then the King sat to eat.
- 952 They summoned the young *pinpeat* orchestra
And selected an attractive person to be brought
To join the group.
Sitting comfortably, she projected her voice to accompany the music.
- 953 “*Sakavh!* August and all-powerful Rea-mea!
“Over your life, there are disturbed feelings.
“Give us to understand your feelings. Make us current with them.
“Your beauty and grace are perpetual.
- 954 “*Sakavh!* Oh, the flower of the wild *kravan* tree!
“The afternoon arrives, and it is fragrant still.
“The fragrant smells waft deep into the night.
“Now, Your Highness wants to move on.

- 955 "Oh, Master! You have tremendous merit!
"Your journey will proceed tomorrow at dawn.
"The sun will shine through the intermittent rain.
"Your body is trim, fit and attractive.
- 956 "You could be confused with a god descended
"From Heaven and just come here."
Then the King spoke to his advisers. "If we
"Consider carefully and quickly,
- 957 "Which course of action shall we take here?"
The advisers stopped to think, then described their strategy in detail.
"If you please, don't rush this.
"Your Highness should adjourn to the Royal Pavilion.
- 958 "Wait as official word is dispatched,
"And the people inform each other of your arrival.
"A royal envoy has departed with utmost speed
"To the home of Orh-Chhuon already."
- 959 "Mobilize all the troops and people
"To build a roadway quickly.
"If anyone refuses to cooperate, we will take him away
"To be killed without giving him a chance."
- 960 The King listened as all the military advisers
Addressed him. Then he spoke,
"Ah, dispatch a message to Orh-Chhuon quickly. Don't worry.
"Organize it as soon as possible."
- 961 The team of advisers raised joined hands
To salute the King. They wrote the message
Then stamped it with the Royal Seal and gave orders that it be delivered
Straightaway by royal decree.
- 962 The messenger delivered the missive to its destination.
He personally climbed the stairs up to the house and spoke forth.
"Orh-Chhuon! A prepared letter
"Stamped with the Royal Seal of His Excellency!"
- 963 Governor Orh-Chhuon, his son and wife,
Heard the messenger. They were nearly feverish as they shook head to toe.
Terrified, their mouths trembled. They were scared to death.
They had ghostly expressions, charred black.
- 964 Orh-Chhuon's wife and son roused themselves and hurried inside the
house.
They took out a *taok* table and waited.

- Keeping still, they endured all five senses,
Remembering with fear the King's power.
- 965 They raised joined hands in salute.
They prostrated themselves on the ground while positioning their hands,
Putting them above their heads.
Then they prayed keeping themselves prostrate.
- 966 Orh-Chhuon carefully listened to the message.
It told them to have a road built.
It told them to make the road elevated and appropriate for
The King to travel along and view the village.
- 967 The servant who delivered the King's message
To Orh-Chhuon finished and turned back directly.
We will stop and digress
To describe Orh-Chhuon upon knowing the situation.
- 968 Obsessive thoughts turned inside him.
His guess was that the King would not pity him.
Being upset, he swooned.
"Oh, me! It seems the end has come!"
- 969 He spoke to his son and wife.
"Oh, child! Your father is bitterly angry!
"It seems we will die all together!
"Misery will beset us soon!
- 970 "It seems His Highness
"Will sentence me to death since he
"Had given a letter to Tum as well
"Saying I am not devoted to the Monarch."
- 971 Orh-Chhuon feared the Monarch's power.
The King would punish not only him.
He consulted his family. Although he thought they should hide
From the King, there was no hiding place.
- 972 Orh-Chhuon was in fear for his life.
With mounting worries, he gave orders to start
Making the elevated road to his armed forces
Who began shoveling, cutting and clearing the land.
- 973 After giving orders, Orh-Chhuon led his son to walk
Among the soldiers while giving commands. There wasn't anyone
Who dared refuse to comply with the Royal Edict,
For fear of the mighty King.

- 974 Nearly everyone held a hatchet, reaping hook or knife
To dig and pry out every last stick of bamboo.
Anyone without a son summoned their daughter
To lug earth upon her head or shoulders or in sacks with a raek-saeng.
- 975 Intimidated by the power of Orh-Chhuon's high rank,
The people listened to him, trembling with fear and respect.
Orh-Chhuon returned home
And decorated everyone, then went to greet
- 976 And prostrate himself before the King.
He was careful to prepare offerings of every type,
Including sugar palm, coconuts, betel nut, bananas, pineapple, jackfruit and
mango.
He scrambled to find every type of animal, such as white ibis,
- 977 Peacocks, turtledoves, pigeons and wild deer.
The meat, tendons and blood vessels were used as a base for soup.
He killed and took the horn of a rhinoceros as a lucky charm.
He fought off his worries and did not take a break.
- 978 Having found the offerings, he displayed them upon tables.
The smoked meats and grilled meats and deer jerky
Were arranged according to type. He divided everything among the
attendants,
And called for the village chiefs and their wives.
- 979 Gathering together the women and men of the delegation, Orh-Chhuon
Cautioned them to take care. For good results they were not
To bring their children along in case they cried
While the King was sleeping. This would not be tolerated.
- 980 After they arranged everything, they didn't stop to rest.
The men and women crowded around to load the offerings on their heads
and shoulders
Or use raek saing to carry them in baskets and trays.
An ox cart transported the seeds of the *beng* tree
- 981 To offer all the attendants of the First Queen.
Preparing and rolling cigarettes, the young girls
Boasted shamelessly and stupidly about gambling.
Everyone bustled together and divided the cigarettes among themselves.
- 982 They left the house and arrived at the King's camp.
The King was in the Royal Pavilion.
Various dignitaries and a team of advisors
Were having an audience with King Rea-mea who was the Supreme Leader.

- 983 In attendance were the Royal Ministers
Of the glorious Sovereign. It was a bad time for Orh-Chhuon to meet
The powerful and Great One,
Who governed victoriously over the four branches of the Army.
- 984 Governor Orh-Chhuon led the delegation,
Along with his son and wife, to present themselves before the King.
Coming closer, he saw His Grace,
The King, was meeting with his advisors.
- 985 The chief ministers and advisors
Were gathered before the King in close ranks.
Orh-Chhuon delivered the offerings,
Supposing that the King would show mercy on him.
- 986 After he presented all the offerings,
Orh-Chhuon raised his hands in salute over his head
And kept them properly positioned. During the meeting,
The King had no pity or respect for Orh-Chhuon.
- 987 King Rea-mea, the powerful and meritorious,
Who protected the people and was the overseer
Of all places and villages, including the Buddha's remains,
Listened, rumbling, ready to smash the offerings at any moment.
- 988 The Monarch glared at him, clearly displeased.
Unnerved, Orh-Chhuon's tears flowed, staining his face.
Seething with anger,
The King's intentions were still
- 989 Twisted and black. He was uneasy. He felt unclean.
He didn't want to let Orh-Chhuon go back.
He could not abate his anger.
He summoned The Royal Armed Forces.
- 990 "Now, all ministers! Gather to consider this crime!
"See that you do not show pity on this enemy thief!
"The ghostly derelict came here with his bundles of grilled meats!
"Take up the books and record his detainment."
- 991 The King told his advisers
And army commanders to confer.
The various ministers came to meet,
Prostrating themselves under the Monarch's gaze.
- 992 The King said, "All advisers,
"Confer and seek judgment according to your function.
"Whoever is guilty will be shackled and chained.

- "He must be put in a dark prison to think about his crime.
- 993 "Don't have mercy! Use the women and men of Tbong Khmom
"To go forth to chop and drag
"The bamboo and wood. Have them cut, shovel and sweep the area
"Bare. Have them clean it up completely!
- 994 "The area will be used to dig a pit,
" A large hole. Then take a wide, long container
" And pound it into crossed lines bent backwards
"So it conforms to the shape of the pit."
- 995 The chief ministers listened to the King tell them
Angrily and loudly not to be too long in their deliberations.
The military commanders responded,
But the King could not relax or assuage his torment.
- 996 One advisor who had a brilliance
For understanding every kind of legal matter said,
"The corps of city guards should be divided up for a surprise attack
"And shackle or detain the provincial legal chief."
- 997 A minister responded,
"The jurisdiction of Orh-Chhuon is not legitimate any longer.
"This rascal secretly plotted against the King.
"The scoundrel dared to arrange the marriage of his son against the King's
orders."
- 998 Another military chief responded,
"Oh, dear sirs! Hold on, my brothers!
"Something else is true also, not for nothing
"Is the saying from our great-great grandparents' generation,
- 999 "There are hind legs because of the front legs.'
"The crime had to have been spread among his associates.
"Orh-Chhuon, Teav's mother, as well as their nephews and uncles,
"Their entire families are all implicated in this crime."
- 1000 The ministers conferred according to their function.
They made judgments using their understanding of good behavior
And the exact requirements of all laws. They stopped deliberating
And discussing in fine detail their thoughts.
- 1001 The legal advisors had not yet come to an agreement.
One responded saying, "We've had enough for now.
"No one should give judgment if we are not in complete
"Agreement with each other over the crime of each individual."

- 1002 The Army Chief concluded,
"Tomorrow, we must meet until making
"A decision." They assembled to debate the case back at the hall.
"Sirs, don't make calculations based on opinion."
- 1003 An advisor took everything into consideration without any restraint,
"Sirs, don't be surprised by any of these crimes.
"As for the people who came and contributed to the unrest,
"They came following the scheme of Orh-Chhuon himself.
- 1004 "They could not refuse for fear of his power.
"He beat them. He cursed them. He harassed them.
"For the crimes of all those people, I say
"To arrange for their inclusion as hereditary slaves.
- 1005 "As for the crime of Orh-Chhuon, his son and wife,
"And all the wealth of the entire family line,
"The brothers, sisters and grandparents of that scoundrel,
"Along with Teav's mother, they were all of one mind.
- 1006 "For their crime, they must be harrowed or plowed over!
"They must be boiled alive in a frying pan and left to dissolve
"Away to nothing!" The ministers
Rendered judgment quickly and went to tell the King at once.
- 1007 They documented the time, day and month of their judgment,
And passed the word along to the others.
Then they called everyone to gather together
To inform the King.
- 1008 They raised their hands holding the judgment of the Assembly.
They placed it in small metal trays held above their heads.
"On behalf of all of us,
"I, Your Majesty, have rendered judgment."
- 1009 The august King glanced at the judgment approvingly.
He replied immediately.
"Ah! Quite correct, ministers.
"The truth was not lost on you."
- 1010 The King told them, "Hurry!
"Tomorrow at dawn, do not delay.
"Select an elephant that is docile,
"Because the children and women will want to parade along with me."
- 1011 The ministers of the Royal Court understood the situation.
The Minister of War of the Supreme Commander,
The Sovereign, did not sit still.

He called the groups of Royal Escorts to assemble.

- 1012 When they had gathered together, he told them to greet
The people's beloved Monarch.
"The procession will begin now. We must get in formation."
They fastened the howdah and positioned the mounting ladder.
- 1013 They sheathed the ivory tusks in front of the howdah,
And fastened the howdah frame to the elephant's tail.
They piled pillows inside and wrapped rugs around it to block the wind,
Then prepared a place for the Buddha image.
- 1014 They prepared the Royal Vehicle and decorated it
With an elegant motif.
Into the Royal Vehicle was placed the Buddha image before all else,
Decorated according to the traditional style.
- 1015 At that time, as for the august
Rea-mea – powerful and aesthetic, beloved
And awe inspiring – the King boarded the Royal Vehicle
As army troops followed in step, their hands holding weapons.
- 1016 The Royal Servants spread out in order.
Before and after, the forces were braced for action.
The King rode the elephant glowing with adornments.
The effulgence inspired fear and awe.
- 1017 The entire harem of concubines
Rode elephants gloriously decorated.
They rode behind the King in all his splendor,
Beaming confidence and fearing no one.
- 1018 The Chief Ministers and Royal Troops
Then mounted their elephants to escort the King.
Some rode white horses and galloped vigorously
Holding precious items, crossbows and firearms.
- 1019 The escort blocked the sun with parasols joyously.
They spread out in a neat circle gloriously happy.
The invading army proudly
Paraded up along the road to the Royal Pavillion.
- 1020 Having arrived, the troops formed close ranks to escort the King.
In departing,
The King looked around at the village and people
Forbidding anyone to remain.
- 1021 The Army's commanding officers

Had arranged themselves by rank and were waiting for
The ministers' wives and children to fall in line.
They were told to bow to receive the King.

- 1022 The orchestra played a tune exactly in step with the procession.
It was impressive how they kept the beat.
The musicians answered each other with exclamations and pauses,
Adroitly following the voices of the women.
- 1023 *"Sakavh!* Oh, sorrowful heart!
"Our faces can't help but show our pity.
"Our Master has traveled here with a troubled mind.
"Out of love for them, he is distracted.
- 1024 *"He has closely viewed the world on the way to Tbong Khmom.*
"He deeply mourns the loss of Tum.
"Tum used to please completely the powerful King.
"One should regret a life so incomprehensible.
- 1025 *"Sakavh!* Oh, wild komphleng flower!
"Quiet is the august Monarch.
"Although he has indomitable strength,
"He is confused, distant and extremely melancholy.
- 1026 *"Sakavh!* Oh, frangipani flower.
"The Sovereign stumbles out of worry.
"He strives to get there. What act separated them?
"Everyone here is so worried.
- 1027 *"Oh, loss! Your Highness, have mercy on us!*
"We beseech you, Master, to go away!
"Seek relief awhile as it is stifling hot!
"Then call everyone to carry you away."
- 1028 The august and supreme King did not relax.
He ordered to have the music stopped.
As for the group of young women singers,
The King said to have them leave.
- 1029 In an intimidating voice, he issued a decree,
Stating that only Satan could correct the situation.
He conferred with the ministers to get the punishment right,
Then called the Royal Guards directly.
- 1030 The Guards, compelled by the King,
Were told to go immediately and prepare for carrying out the punishment.
In accordance with their evil wrongdoing,
The guilty were gathered around the pit.

- 1031 The guards dug into the earth deep and wide,
Just neck-high. After, they summoned
Seven families, pushing aside the children.
Their relatives were overcome with misery.
- 1032 The guards then took the water buffaloes and yoked them to a metal
harrow.
They led them to rake over the guilty one pass.
The guards split open their heads without hesitation.
With that malicious act, the shoulders of the prisoners had disappeared.
- 1033 The guards assembled the big offenders,
And brought them forth without delay
To be boiled alive. "Now, guilty ones,
Don't you have anything to say for yourselves?"
- 1034 The guards lit a fire to bring the huge vat of water to a boil.
They piled the wood up high.
When the fire lowered, and the tongues of flame ceased in the furnace,
They threw in the bodies, and in an instant, they were consumed.
- 1035 They went up in smoke.
How pitiful! Who could help them now!
Their lives were reduced to ashes, one after the other!
This misery was because of acts that led them astray!
- 1036 We turn perplexed in the wheel of rebirth.
Every being, whether old or young,
Should accept misery and compose his thoughts.
That uncertainty, you cannot control.
- 1037 Because the Doctrine of Non-Self says, there is only void.
If we don't learn the Shore and Island, we will pass away in misery.
Anyone who commits sin inevitably
Falls deep down into hell.
- 1038 Now, all people! Women and men!
We are born as people in the world.
You have seen and heard this new composition.
Now, take heed and learn.
- 1039 Establish a direction. Don't guess when it comes to knowledge.
You must meditate on the causes of a problem.
Get to know everything until you are no longer confused.
Don't let anything stop you.
- 1040 Let's speak about the great Monarch.
Finished with his task, the King started back quickly

To return to the Royal Capital.
The officials of every group assembled together

1041 And escorted the King down from the Royal Carriage.
The soldiers all rowed their boats
Vigorously in formation, without faltering.
Everyone was excited upon arriving.

1042 His Majesty entered the Royal Palace
To the home where he normally stayed
In happiness and comfort.
The fortunate Sovereign was well pleased.

1043 The story of Tum Teav ends here.
Now, people, reflect on the story's plot
And every event. Don't shy away.
If you are confused about something, don't keep it to yourself.

1044 This story, the Venerable,
Who resides at the temple in Kamprau,
Has composed and given to future generations
To let all young people know.