

THE PHRALAK PHRALAM or THE LAO RAMAYANA EPISODE 2

"The Golden Deer and the Abduction of Sida"

Characters: Thotsakhan (King of the Giants); Malit (Thotsakan's younger brother); Phralak, Phralam, and Nang Sida; the Golden Deer (Malit disguised); a hermit (Thotsakan disguised); and Sadayou (the Blue Bird).

Thotsakan expresses to his younger brother Malit his desire to possess Nang Sida, for he plans to kidnap Sida in the forest near the palace of Phralam, where she is living.

When he sees Phralam, Phralak, and Sida, Malit turns into a beautiful golden deer that prances happily before them. Sida is fascinated by the beauty of this deer and begs Phralam to capture it for her.

Phralam then tries repeatedly to catch it, but is lured deeper and deeper into the vast forest. It is then that Phralak and Sida, remaining behind, hear a long cry of distress seeming to come from Phralam. Sida asks Phralak to fly to his rescue. Phralak who is suspicious of everything, draws a magic circle around her to protect her from danger. Before going to the rescue of his brother, he makes Sida promise never to leave the circle.

Nang Sida finally being alone, Thotsakan transforms himself into a hermit so that she will not be suspicious, and approaches her. Discreetly he tries to penetrate the circle but in vain. However, he begs Sida and, thanks to his subterfuge, convinces her to get him water from the nearby river. Unable to control himself any longer, the "hermit" reveals his true face, that of Thotsakan. Now out of her circle of protection, Sida finds herself ensnared in the arms of Thotsakan, who takes her to the kingdom of Longka Island (Lanka), his realm.

Sadayou (Phagna Khout), the Great Khout, who is flying not far away, hears the desperate cries of the young and beautiful Sida. The eagle drops into a vertiginous dive and makes a terrible attack. Thotsakan, surprised at this violent assault, lets go of his captive.

However, Thotsakan does not admit defeat. He knows that the ring Sida wears can make him invincible. It is then that he seizes it and throws it into the face of Sadayou who falls to the ground in a terrible crash. Injured, he will not recover. Thotsakan then is able to depart with his captive without further resistance.