

THE PHRALAK PHRALAM or THE LAO RAMAYANA EPISODE 3

"The Showing of the Ring to Princess Sida"

Characters: Hanuman Chief of Staff of the Army of Monkeys; Nang Samouthone; Ongkhot and Somphuphanh (Hanuman's generals); Nang Sida (Phralam's wife); Nang Samouthone; and Thotsakan king of the giants, and his servants.

Hanuman gathers all his staff and states that it is only he who can enter the Kingdom of Longka (Sri Lanka) to help Princess Sida and to present with her the ring Phralam had trusted to him. While Angkhot and Somphuphanh with their huge army remain in camp awaiting his return, Hanouman flies to Longka.

When he lands on the island of Phixay Longka, Nang Samouthone, the guardian of the sea, sees him and throws herself upon him like a Fury. A terrible fight occurs, and the guardian loses two arms and several other parts of her body are maimed.

Hanuman reaches the mainland and is able to enter Longka Palace in the middle of the night.

For the past few days Thotsakan has redoubled his attentions to Sida trying to lure her to his apartments. But Sida refuses to submit in any way. He leaves, angry and filled with rage.

More and more, Sida laments her sad fate, fearing that she might not be able to maintain her chastity much longer. She concludes that the only solution would be to commit suicide; her tears are no longer not enough to protect her.

Hanuman appears to Nang Sida, because, hidden in the walls of the palace, he could observe her anguish. Thotsakan having left, Hanuman reveals himself but has to convince Sida, who does not know him. He explains to her that he is one of the generals of the army of the two princes; that they are coming to her aid; and they were at that moment on the other side of the sea, ready to combat Thotsakan's army of giants. As for Nang Sida, he offers to rescue her immediately and has brought her the proof of his good faith, showing her the ring that Phralam had entrusted to him. He invites her to sit in the palm of his hand so he could bring her back to her husband. Sida refuses, but she entrusts him with this message: "Let my husband come and get me--I'll wait for him here."

The message reaches Phralam to come to Sida's rescue with his valiant army and Hanuman's great army of monkeys.