

**THE PHRALAK PHRALAM or THE LAO RAMAYANA**  
**EPISODE 8**

**"Princess Sida's Ordeal"**

**Characters:** Phralak and Phralam; Nang Sida; Hanuman; Sukhib (one of Hanuman's generals); Phipet (Thotsakan's younger brother, who joined the cause of Phralam); the army of the monkeys (accompanied by their wives); the army of the giants (accompanied by their wives); Phahyin, Phahpeung, and Phaphay (the three sages).

Hanuman defends Sida, but Phralam, overcome by jealousy, remains angry and refuses to hear more. Sida then begs Phralam's brother, Phralak, to plead in her favor. As nothing comes of this, she offers to submit to the ordeal by fire to prove her innocence.

Phralak then addresses Phralam in the name of the young woman, and he agrees to call on the three sages, Phahyin, Phahpeung, and Phaphay, to witness this trial by fire. The three sages come, and Phralam asks Hanuman to bring the sacred fire.

Sida presents her regards to the three sages, to Phralam, and to Phralak, then to the four directions and enters the sacred fire. The women of monkeys and giants bewail Sida's uncertain fate, and all express their sadness by shouting and turning their faces away from the sacred fire.

The three sages approach the sacred fire to learn Sida's condition. They discover her unharmed and take her from the flames. They proclaim to the whole court that the young woman is innocent and virtuous. Phralam then approaches Sida, kneels before her, and invites her to her rightful place on the throne beside him. A great relief and a great happiness surges across the courtyard, and Phipet invites all the assembly to celebrate this reunion at the palace of Phralam. Phralam, Sida, and Phralak lead the court to the palace in great jubilation.