

# LAO PROVERBS

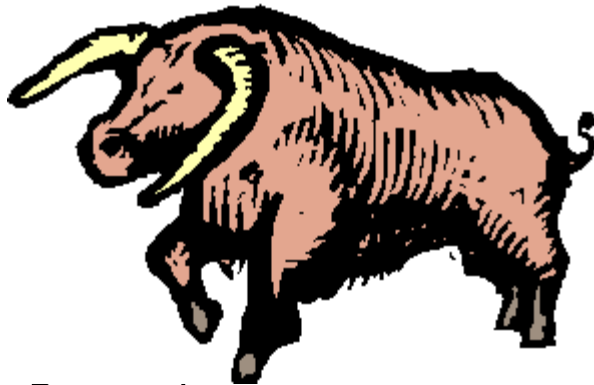
## ສຸພາສິດລາວ

Explained by Into Champon, Esq., C.C.I.M.

### ຄວາຍຊົນຄວາຍແພ້ຫຍ່າແພດ

*-When buffaloes collide, the grass is also damaged*

This Lao proverb was used to analogize when small countries were adversely affected by larger warring neighbors. For example, during the Vietnam War, Laos was greatly affected by the involvement of the U.S. and Soviet Union fighting proxy through South and North Vietnam. Sometimes the proverb was used to depict the suffering of children when parents divorced.



### ຄັນວ່າເປັນເສືອແລ້ວ, ລາຍບໍ່ລາຍເຂົ້າກໍຕູ ແໜ່ງສູ່ເອົາມິ່ນໝໍ້ ມາແຕ້ມໃຫ້ ຕື່ມລາຍ

*-If you are a tiger, you would be accused of having stripes even if you do not have stripes. You may as well paint yourself with more stripes*

This Lao proverb, which rhymes beautifully in Lao, means it is futile to try to be somebody else.

ດຣ.ອິນ ໂຕຈຳພັນ(ພາບອະດີດ)ເມື່ອຕອນຍັງ  
ນ້ອຍໄດ້ອຸບປະສົມບົດເຂົ້າບວດເປັນຈົວນ້ອຍເພື່ອ  
ສຶກສາຫ້ມມະແລະຮຽນຮູ້ເຖິງສິ່ງທີ່ຈິບງາມແລະ  
ສົມທຽບກ່ຽວກັບຝ່າຍຫ້ມແລະທາງໂລກແລະໃຫ້  
ເກີດຄວາມໂປ່ງໃສພາຍໃນກາຍໃຈດ້ວຍການທີ່  
ແທນພຣະຄຸນອັນລິ້ນເກົ້າຂອງບິດາມານດາທີ່ໄດ້  
ລ້ຽງດູມາຈົນໃຫຍ່...



ຢອກໝາ ໝາເລັຮປາກ ຢອກສາກ ສາກຟາດຫົວ  
ຢອກຜົວ ຜົວສີ່ຊ້າ

*-Tease a dog and the dog will bite you; Tease a pestle, the pestle will hit your head; Tease your spouse, and your spouse will have sex with you!*

This Lao proverb, which also rhymes beautifully in Lao, addressed someone who deserved what they got, usually in a disdainful manner. (A pestle is a grinding and mashing implement – such as for grains.)



ໝາກໄມ້ ບໍ່ລົ່ມໄກຕົ້ນ

*-Fruits do not fall far from their tree*

This Lao proverb is a near verbatim equivalent to the common American/English proverb: “The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree,” and can similarly mean “Like father, like son” or “Like mother like daughter.”

