
A WISE FATHER AND HIS FOOLISH SON

Rnam rgyal རྣམ་རྒྱལ།

Everybody respected Pha skyong rgan a bo for his wisdom and he was often asked for advice. Many believed that he had come to this world specially to help people with Buddha's teachings. However, as if to balance his great store of wisdom, he had a foolish son who was the cause of many problems among the villagers.

The father, however, never gave up on his son and often gave him suggestions and advice.

One day, Pha skyong rgan a bo heard that a deer had drowned in a flood in an area between two villages. Pha skyong rgan a bo called his son and said, "Go and solve this problem. Two villages are close to fighting over a deer that has died on the common ground between the villages. The people need you to help negotiate who owns the deer."

"How am I to solve the problem?" asked the son.

"Go there and confidently cut the deer up into an upper part, a lower part, and a middle part. Say that the upper part belongs to the upper village, the lower part belongs to the lower part, and the middle part belongs to you for settling the conflict."

Blun gti rog was very glad to hear this advice and went directly to where the villagers were angrily arguing.

"You need not fight over a dead deer," said Blun gti rog.

The villagers turned to Blun gti rog in surprise. Someone in the group said, "What do you know about any of this?"

Blun gti rog introduced himself as the son of his well-known father. Everybody calmed down at once upon hearing the name of the great Pha skyong rgan a bo.

Blun gti rog took out his knife, cut the deer up into three parts, and said, "The upper part belongs to the upper village, the rear part

to the lower village, and the middle part belongs to me, the negotiator."

The villagers were satisfied with Blun gti rog's solution and praised him, saying a wise man must surely have a wise son. When Blun gti rog got home with the middle part of the deer, his father also praised him and added that a clever man should think carefully before attempting to handle a problem.

Exactly one year later, the corpse of a leper was found in the same place between the two villages and the people argued over who should remove and bury the corpse. When Blun gti rog heard about this he went to the village and asked, "Why are you arguing?"

"This corpse has floated from the upper part of the river so the upper villagers should take it away," said someone.

Blun gti rog immediately took out his knife and said, "I will cut the corpse into three parts. The upper part will belong to the upper village, the lower part will belong to the lower village, and the middle part will belong to me, the negotiator."

"If you'd rather, you can take the whole corpse. We don't really need it," someone said. Blun gti rog then went home with the entire corpse, disappointing his father.

Meanwhile, the villagers laughed and said, "A wise father and his foolish son."

NON-ENGLISH TERMS

blun gti rog ལུན་གཏི་རོག
 pha skyong rgan a bo ཕ་སྐོང་རྒྱལ་ཨ་བོ།
 rnam rgyal རྣམ་རྒྱལ།
 rta khra shel gyi nyi ma རྟ་ཁ་ཤེལ་གྱི་ཉི་མ།