

Hō-i k̄āu
water-snail white

¹ Kūn hō-k̄ām gār nāng Ma-hā-de-vī gār ka yū
(1) king they (two) lady queen they (two) not had

dē kwōn dē vā; ² gār lōh s̄ōk-tē dē kū sōn
their little one their (2) they (two) went to fast selves in garden

ō-yēn. Gār dā rīn-dā blō. ³ Pūr s̄a-ngī gār lōh
garden. they (two) wore clothes white. seven days they (two) went

s̄ōk-tē, ⁴ gār hmān dē kwōn dē vā.
to fast they (two) asked their child their (2).

⁵ Bōn tōt s̄a-ngī. Rōt ra-hmō gār it. ⁶ Nāng rīn-pō
got six days. arrived night they (two) slept. lady dreamed

kūn pī lēh, dēh ān hōm plē brī shīn, lēh
spirit came down gave her eat fruit jungle ripe came down
or
mangoes (round)

dēh ān hōm mak-mōn k̄ām.
gave her eat (long) mangoes gold.

⁷ Nāng ra-s̄ōh, nāng yū grāi ta kūn hō-k̄ām, nāng
lady awoke lady rose up said to (1) king lady

dāh, ⁸ ' Ō ka tōm rīn-pō hlāi ū lōh, k̄a-nyā ō,
said O not ever dreamed even one time ruler O

⁹ āi lōh s̄ōk-tē hā ō. P'ā-dīn nō lā pūr s̄a-ngī,
we (two) came to fast place this. to-day is full good. seven days

¹⁰ ō rīn-pō kūn pī lēh dēh ō hōm mak-mōn
I dreamed (1) spirit came down gave me eat mangoes (long)

k̄ām ngām hnyo hnyō.
gold sweet very.

¹¹ Hō-k̄ām grāi ta nāng, ' Kyā hnyo hnyō, p̄an
king said to lady excellent very that which

rīn-pō mī nāng ō, ¹² āi dī yū āi kwōn āi vā,
dreamed thou lady O we (two) shall have our child our (2)

(1) Kūn is used as a prefix before hō-k̄ām king, and pī spirit. It may be translated as Lord or Great.

(2) vā little brother or little sister kwōn . . . vā child or children.

The White Water-Snail

¹ The great king and his queen had not any children, so ² they went to keep a religious fast in their garden (1). They wore white clothes and ³ they fasted for seven days, and ⁴ prayed for a child.

⁵ After seven days, at night when they were asleep, ⁶ the queen dreamed that the great spirit (2) came down and gave her ripe round mangoes and long mangoes of gold to eat.

⁷ The queen awoke and said to the king, ⁸ 'O ruler! I have never had such a dream [since] ⁹ we two came to fast in this place seven days ago. ¹⁰ I dreamed that the great spirit came down and gave me long mangoes of gold to eat. They were very sweet.

¹¹ The king said to the queen, 'How excellent is that which thou hast dreamed, O queen! ¹² We shall have a little child.

(1) It is understood that there was a pagoda, with a 'rest-house', attached, in the garden.

(2) Sakya.

¹³ mōh ān tu-ōt, ān ma-ri-ñt lēh tēk dē
be he precious he wonderful comes down to be conceived self
 ta mī nāng ō.
to thee lady O.

¹⁴ Nō pūr śa-ngī gār vēng ta hō. Gār vēng
were full seven days they (two) returned to palace. they (two) returned
 gwāi ta hō. Nāng tēk pa-dik-sān-tē.
stay at palace lady conceived conceived.

¹⁵ Būn kōr kyār hō-kām dēh bī fō vār kīrīr ū
got ten months king gave people tie rope gold one
 or
 chain

nyōng, vār rūn ū nyōng ¹⁶ ōr hā hō ra-gwāi
 (1) rope silver one (1) from place palace dwelling
 or
 chain

nāng mō hā hō ra-gwāi kūn hō-kām. ¹⁷ Kūn
lady till place palace dwelling (2) king. (2)

hō-kām dah dē tām ā-pyō-dō nāng hō-kām, ¹⁸ 'Vā
king said he ordered maids of honour lady king child
 or
 queen

ē kan mōh ī-mē pē dōh vār kīrīr, ¹⁹ kan mōh
our if is male you strike rope gold if is
 or
 chain

ī-pān dōh vār rūn.
female strike rope silver.
 or
 chain

²⁰ Rōt śa-ngī pwō, nāng yū mōh hō-i. ²¹ Bī ka
arrived day birth lady (3) was water-snail. people not

ñap dē dōh vār. ²² Bī loh grāi ta hō-kām. ²³ 'Bī
know they strike rope people went tell to king. people
 or
 chain

dāh ka-nyā ō, nāng hwō-i pwō, vār kīrīr yē ka
say ruler O lady finished birth rope gold we not
 or
 chain

(1) See N. 196.

(2) See note on page 146.

(3) See N. 216.

¹³ He will be precious and wonderful, when he comes down to be conceived in thee.

¹⁴ When seven days were past they returned to the palace. They returned and remained at the palace, and the queen conceived.

¹⁵ When ten months (1) were past, the king ordered people to tie a gold chain and a silver chain ¹⁶ from the part of the palace where dwelt the queen, to the part where he lived.

¹⁷ He gave orders to the maids-of-honour of the queen, ¹⁸ 'If our little one is a boy, strike the golden chain, ¹⁹ if a girl strike the chain of silver.'

²⁰ There came a day when the queen gave birth to a water-snail. ²¹ The people did not know which chain to strike.

²² They went and said to the king, ²³ 'They say, O ruler! that

(1) Lunar months.

nấp yē dōh, ²⁴ vār rŭn yē ka nấp yē dōh, ²⁵ kwōn
know we strike rope silver we not know we strike child
 or
chain

nāng mōh hō-i a-myō. ²⁶ Bī yŭ dē kwōn hō-i
lady is water-snail kind. people have their children water-snail
 or
person has her child

kūn ān mōh lā-gā, ān ka kūn bī mōng-kōn, ān
father its is dragon he not father people world of men he
 or
naga

kūn lā-gā, ²⁷ ka-shē lō-i bī fāng ān.
father dragon ashamed all people on account of it.
 or
naga

²⁸ Kūn hō-kām dāh dē grāi ta gē, 'Hwō-i lă! ka
 (1) *king said he spoke to them finished good not*

nấp kŭ-i nyā; ²⁹ ō dī dēh bī rōr pōng, ō dī
know as to do I shall give people make raft I shall
 dēh bī lōng pēt ān jōm ōm.
give people float finish it follow water.

³⁰ Hwō-i nyā kŭ-i dīn. Bōn ār kyār u-āi kyār
finished done as that. got two months three months
 hō-kām grāi ta bī, 'Lōng pēt hō-i kŭ jōm
king told to people float finish water-snail white follow

ōm.' ³¹ Ra-gwāi hwō-i rōr lă lă. Hō-kām lōh grāi
water. dwelling finished made well. king went told

ta nāng, hō-kām dāh, ³² 'Nāng ō kwōn āi ō dēh
to lady king said lady O child our this give

bī lōng pēt ān jōm ōm, ka-shē bī fāng
people float finish it follow water are ashamed people on account of

ān, bī dāh, 'kūn ān lā-gā, ka-shē bī.'
it people say father its dragon are ashamed people.
 or
naga

³³ Nāng dāh ta hō-kām, 'ka nấp kŭ-i nyā, bō-e
lady said to king not know as to do though

the queen has given birth, ²⁴ but we do not know whether to strike the golden chain or the silver. ²⁵ The baby of the queen is a kind of water-snail. ²⁶ One who has a water-snail for a child, its father is a Naga. ²⁷ All the people are ashamed on account of it.'

²⁸ The king said to them, 'It is good, but I do not know what to do! ²⁹ I shall order men to make a raft and shall tell them to float it [the water-snail and the raft], down stream.'

³⁰ It was done in this manner. After two or three months the king said to the people, 'Float the white water-snail down stream.' ³¹ Its dwelling-place was well prepared. The king went and said to the queen, ³² 'O queen! Give this our child so that the people may float it down stream. The people are ashamed because of it, they say, "Its father is a Naga". They are ashamed.'

³³ The queen said to the king, 'I do not know what to do!