

Wan Loi Krathong

Scene 1 - Introduction to Loi Krathong's day.

Setting: Walking along Wat Pra Kaew.

Action: Kongsorn walking along Wat Pra kaew while the narrator introducing the Loi Krathong's Day.

Dialogue:

Narrator 1: Loi krathong is one of the most important festival in Thailand. When people heard about this festival, most of people must be thinking about floating krathong which can imply that we are floating our bad things out and starting a better day. Some might be thinking of Narng Noppamas Contest where many beautiful women or girls compete in this contest. The special things about this festival is it's significantly represent of Thailand's tradition which is very interesting to people including Thais and Foreigners.

So, Today, our group is going to present about the history, the legend, the beliefs, the changes, the material uses, the traditional and the places of Loi Krathong's Day.

Scene 2 - The History of Loi Krathong's Day.

Setting: Wat pra kaew

Action: Angkana meets Kongsorn at wat pra kaew. Kongsorn asking her about the history of this festival.

Dialogue:

Angkana : Hi! Krit.

Kongsorn : Hi! Jell. Now it is nearly Loi Krathong's day. Do you know anything about the history of Loi Krathong?

Angkana: Of course!

The history of loi krathong day is very obscure. Most of the people believe that the first kratong was created in Sukhothai by Nang Noppamas but some people don't believe, they think that the origin of loi krathong was being celebrate at the end of Ayutthaya era and the Nang Noppamas story was just a make up story by King Rama the third to advocate women on role model of a good wife. The purpose of loi krathong is to pay respect to the goddess of water and ask for forgiveness for making pollution. Also many people refer loi kratong to flying away the misfortune and asking for good luck in the future.

In the past up in the north of Thailand the lanna kingdom, instead of using krathong to show respect to the goddess of water they use hot air balloon.

Kongsorn : Is it called "Yee Peng" ?

Angkana : yeahh.

Kongsorn : Umm. You can still find this type of tradition in Chiang Mai in the northern part of Thailand. We can also find this tradition which is similar to loi krathong in our neighboring countries. Such as Laos which they float Pratipe which is similar to our krathong and they do it to respect the goddess of water. In Cambodia they also float pratips to worship the moon in the night of fullmoon. And in Burma they also have this similar tradition which they will float krathong to worship buddha. Also in Vietnam Korea and Japan they have this festival where they apologize to the water and float away the bad luck.

Scene 3 - The legendary and the belief in Loi Krathong's day.

Setting: Taking a ferry boat at Tha Prachun Pier to Tha Rodfai Pier

Action: Nasirat and Chinnaree are talking about the legend of Loi Krathong days while they're taking a ferry boat.

Dialogue:

Nasirat: Sawasdee ka. I'm Nasirat Sukasame.

Chinnaree: Sawasdee ka. I'm Chinnaree Leenabunjong.

Nasirat: (Nasirat asking Chinnaree) Have you ever heard about the legend of Loi Krathong day? I think it's quite interesting.

Chinnaree: I've never heard about it but I know the purpose of doing it.

Loi Krathong is believed to be a moral precept believed by farmers that need water in their agricultural activities. They believed that floating Krathong down into rivers is a way to apologize to Pra Mae Kong Kar, the god of river for doing all bad things throughout the year both intentionally and unintentionally.

There are many beliefs that make people participating in Loi Krathong day

Nasirat: So, let me tell you about the legend of Loi Krathong day.

There are many different myths about Loi Krathong but they're all lay in the similar aspect. Different people in different part of Thailand believed in a slightly different myths. The legendary story of Loi Krathong took place around 700 years ago during the Sukhothai era when Naang, a gorgeous Royal woman, made krathong and put it into a river near the Royal Court and also when Narnng Noppamas, wife of king Sukhothai, made Krathong and gave it to the king with the reason that lotus was a beautiful flower that used for respecting Buddha. The king put the candle on the Krathong and the floated the Krathong down the river. From then on, the King ordered that Kings of Siam must float lotus Krathong for Buddha in every full moon ceremony (Promsuk, 2012). That was where Loi Krathong started. Afterwards, the story of Noppamas has appeared until the present days when the entertainment during the night has occurred every year such as Noppamas contests, the competition between beautiful and clever ladies who are qualified to be Noppamas like the original one, besides floating Krathong.

Scene 4 - Loi Krathong in today's era.

Setting: Along the Chao Praya River At Thammasart University

Action: Nasirat and Chinnaree are talking about Loi Krathong in today's era

Dialogue:

Nasirat: How about Loi Krathong in present day?
Do you think it celebrated differently from the past?

Chinnaree: As Loi Krathong has become one of the most important festivals in Thailand that inherited from generation to generation. Thai people in every part of the country have still preserved this festival that has been set up on the full moon of the twelfth month every year in order to pay respect to the Goddess of the river, known as Pra Mae Khongkha and request for the wishes and luck.

Nasirat: On the one hand, this tradition represented the life of farmers and laborers who could take rest during the end of cultivation period by celebrating and showing their thankfulness to Mae Kongka with the belief that this Goddess gave them the plentiful crops yearly. Furthermore, the bad things including disasters that happened would be redeemed and replaced by new achievement in the future.

Scene 5 - All about “ Krathong ” and “ Loi krathong’s day ”

Setting: Thammasat University and Tha Prachan Pier.

Action: 2 narrators sitting on the bench and continue explaining about the materials use in making Krathong.

Dialogue:

Natthaporn : Sawasdee ka.

Jakshalat : Sawasdee kub.

Jakshalat : I’m Jaksharat Musiriwat.

Natthaporn : I’m Natthaporn Klongsilpachai.

Jakshalat : Have you ever been to Loi krathong festival.

Natthaporn : Yes,of course.

Jakshalat : and have you ever wonder how the Krathong was made.

Natthaporn : Yes,so we gonna let’s check it out.

Jakshalat : Oh, Yeah.

Insert a video clip that Nasirat and Chinnaree are making the Krathong

Narrator 2 : Mostly, Kratong made from banana leaves which has banana trunk for krathong’s base and use other leaves or flowers set into a round base. As time changed, Krathong in the modern days differs from the former times, people are careless about the process of making Krathong so they choose to use an inferior material other than banana leaves. Foam is a good choice for them because it is easier to find and also easier to use. Because of this, it tends to destroy the environment, ozone level and cause the global warming as well. Government try to deduct Krathong that produce from foam in order to diminish this pollution problem. After the government deduct the use of foam, bread are use spreadly in making Krathong because people nowadays tend to focus on environment, so they believe that bread Krathongs will turn to be food for fish in the rivers that will not be cleaned up later. Moreover, Some Province in Thailand use their local product to made their own Kratong, for example, Nongkai, province of Thailand, use coconut shell in Loi Krathong

festival day and put candles in the Krathong. After all, the making of Krathong is depend on people's satisfaction and the limited sources. Eventhough banana leaves are only material uses to make krathong in the past, we can use other things such as bread or coconut shell to make kratong nowadays.

Narrator 2 : Krathong is a floating lights.This activity is where the name "Loi Krathong" came from. People believed that their bad fortunes could be taken away by floating with Krathong, Some people usually put a coin or clipped nails inside Krathong before they float it away with the hope that it will take all bad fortunes away and it is another method to make merit following their personal believes.

Narrator 3: Illuminated lantern is a lantern made of paper outside and bamboo as a stand stick inside. There are many kind of lanterns. Some kind of Lanterns, people carry it and hanging lantern to decorate temple. Sometime it used for paying respect to Buddha also representing the twelve signs of the horoscope. It's usually placed in front of the temple's gates. Lantern that most of people use is called "Khom Loi", which is the floating lantern. Khom Loi is the most common kind of lanterns in Thailand. As people believe that a floating lantern will take away their bad fortunes by floating aways.

Narrator 2: Noppamas queen is an activity seeking for the most beautiful girl in that area, in this contest they're not only seeking for the beautiful woman but also a kind,smart one and good manner as well.The each participant will be asked a question and the judge will then make a decision base on the answer they gave.

Narrator 1: There are plenty of places in Thailand where you can enjoy this festival.People have just started releasing Krathong with lanterns in Bangkok. At the Loi Krathong's night, we can meet at many popularity place, for example Chao Praya river, Rama IIV bridge, Benjasiri park, Benjakiti park or downtown where the view are stunning under a fullmoon. But this is only a small part of places in this festival. For the full Loi Krathong experiance, such as Chiang Mai for " Yee Peng " festival,it is Lanna style.The famous place to Loi Krathong there is Ping river, Thaphae gate and Lanna folklife musuem.

For Phuket, We can release Krathong in the sea, so we can see the delightful on the wave. All of Phuket major beach take part in Loi Krathong festival, especially at Nai Harn lake and Patong beach, we can join many activities with local people.

Sukhothai, one of the most important place to join the festival, there is fire burning candles which is the identity of Loi Krathong festival in Sukhothai. This is called dawn of happiness city. Moreover, there are chandelier lamp parades, fireworks, traditional dance performance, local recreation games and handicraft market. From the world heritage site, there is the temple ruined in Sukhothai. It is not illumination, so making it a very impressive place.

The other renowned place is Ayutthaya. Loi Krathong Tam Prathip is very traditional. We can see the candid light on the floating market as a backdrop.

Furthermore, Ayutthaya is the old city of Thailand. There are many historical place where very properly to visit.

As you can see, there are many beautiful places in Thailand that set up this festival. Although each part of the country may not have the same traditions, the value of this festival is still the same. Loi Krathong festival occurs so long long times ago and it still keeps going on. We're all, as the new generation, should keep this tradition to be with our country as long as possible to have some valuable things left behind to the next generations.

Insert a video clip that we went to Loi krathong night.

END.

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