

Thailand's Forgotten Nursery Rhymes



Collected by Peter Jaggs

THAILAND'S FORGOTTEN NURSERY RHYMES

E-book, 1st edition 2012

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eISBN 978-616-222-129-3

Published by www.booksmango.com

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Artwork by Barbara Jaggs

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Thank you for respecting the hard work of this author.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

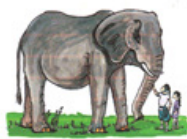
These nursery rhymes and chants were collected by myself over many years in Thailand.

With the help of Thai friends I have translated them as best as I am able to and although at times this has been difficult due to the huge differences in the two languages, I feel that the English versions are about as accurate as is possible.

Many of these rhymes and chants have been around for many centuries and have changed through the course of time (as well as possessing regional variations), so I cannot attest to their complete accuracy.

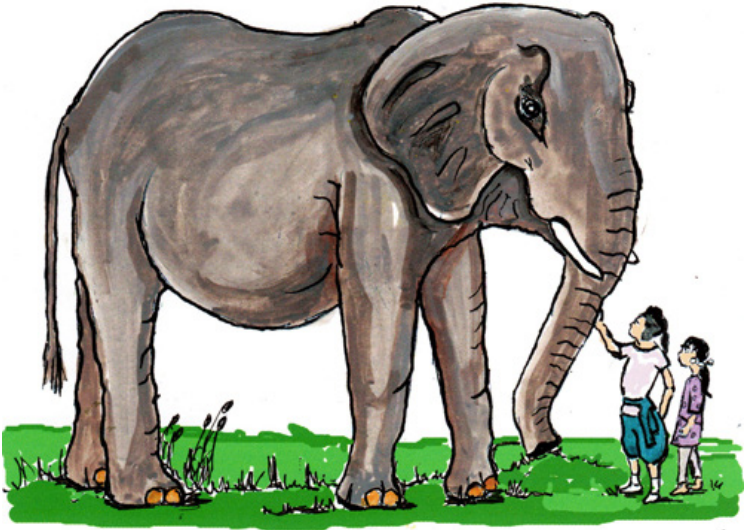
However, as most of them were taught to me in the fields of Isaan by Thai children I feel this makes them genuine enough in itself and is certainly good enough for me and the purposes of this book.

Peter Jaggs, Cha-am, 2012



Illustrations by Barbara Jaggs

Elephant



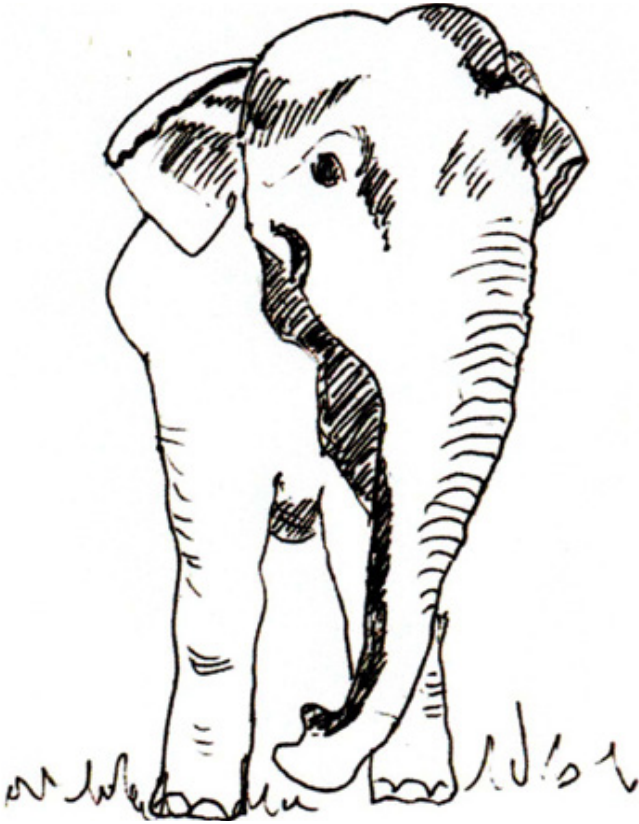
Elephant! Elephant! Elephant!
Have you seen an elephant before?

The elephant is the most massive animal.

A very long nose called a trunk
And tusks beside this trunk called ivory.

He has ears, he has eyes
And a long tail.

Chang



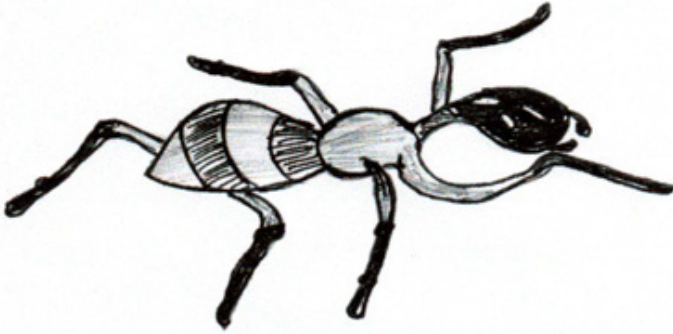
Chang! Chang! Chang!
Nu khoei hen chang reuplao?
Chang man tua toh mai taw.
Jamook yaw yaw liak war nguang.
Mee kiew tai nguang liak war ngar.
Mee hu, me tar
Hang yaw.

Red Ants



Red ants on my legs and arms,
In my shirt and in my clothes.
Make me dance! dance! dance!

Mot Daeng



Mot daeng koh khaen koh ka,
Koh sua koh pha,
Ilong dung cheng!
Dung cheng! Dung cheng! Dung cheng!

It is common practice in rural Thailand for friends to embark on an ants' egg hunt together. A bucket is affixed to a strap on a long sharpened bamboo pole, which is thrust into an ant's nest in order to catch the falling eggs. The effects of the angry ants on the hunters is akin to a dance and all part of the fun.