



រឿងអកង្គមាស

Agangamasor & His Magic Power

An Original Musical Retelling of a Classical Cambodian Myth

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|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. ចម្រៀងអកង្គមាសូរ | Chamreang Agangamasor (The Song of Agangamasor) |
| 2. ទេវតាធ្វើបាបអកង្គមាសូរ | Devoda Tver Bap Agangamasor (The Angels Tease Agangamasor) |
| 3. អកង្គមាសូរចង្កូលដៃពេជ្រ | Agangamasor Jong-ol Dai Pech (Agangamasor's Magic Diamond Finger) |
| A) ព្រះឥសូរនិងព្រះនាងឧមាភគវតី | Preah Eysor Noeung Preah Neang Umapheakavaktey (Shiva and Uma) |
| B) ព្រះឥសូរអាណិតអកង្គមាសូរ | Preah Eysor Aanet Agangamasor (Shiva Takes Pity on Agangamasor) |
| C) មហិទ្ធិវិទូចង្កូលដៃពេជ្រ | Mahethirith Jong Ol Dai Pech (The Power of the Magic Diamond Finger) |
| 4. ទេវតានិងអកង្គមាសូរ | Devoda Neung Agangamasor (Agangamasor Banishes the Angels) |
| 5. ព្រះឥសូរកើតទុក្ខ | Preah Eysor Keut Tuk (Shiva Becomes Worried) |
| 6. មហិទ្ធិវិទូព្រះនាគយណ៍ | Mahethirith Preah Noreay (Vishnu's Premonition) |
| 7. ទេពអប្សរក្រសាលសួន | Tepapsar Krasal Suon (Heavenly Dancers Play in the Garden) |
| 8. ព្រះនាគយណ៍និងអកង្គមាសូរ | Preah Noreay Neung Agangamasor (Vishnu in Disguise and Agangamasor) |

All songs composed by Sara Say (lyrics) and Chum Ngeek (music)



Scene from "Heavenly Dancers Play in the Garden." Celestial dancers from left to right: Rachny Chhay, Kethmanida Sam, Danita Mani, Vathana Say, Limsothea Sam, Evelyn Thao, and Thida Riel. Photo by Stephane Janin.



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The Recording & Project

JOANNA PECORE

This recording preserves music created for the original 2009 production of *Agangamasor & His Magic Power* by the dancers and musicians of the Cambodian Buddhist Society Cultural Group in Silver Spring, Maryland. *Agangamasor & His Magic Power* is the prequel to the Reamker, a uniquely Khmer adaptation of the Indian Ramayana.

Much of Khmer classical dance-drama is based upon great Cambodian literature, especially the Reamker. Like the Indian Ramayana, the Reamker is the story of the hero, Preah Ream (Prince Rama), who is the earthly incarnation of Vishnu (Preah Noreay in Khmer), the guardian of the universe.

The whole Reamker narrative, comprised of nearly 200 episodes, requires several days and nights to perform. Traditionally, this was done for ritual and entertainment purposes. Today, however, episodes are presented individually within public performances, or the story is abridged. Created for performance, much of what is known of this ancient text has been preserved over generations through the memories of musicians, dancers, and other artists.

Agangamasor & His Magic Power conveys the mythological world as it was prior to the birth of Preah Ream. While this part of the Reamker is known among older Cambodians, until this production, it has never been retold on stage. Thanks to the dedication of the artists of the Cambodian Buddhist Society, Inc. (CBSI)—especially Sara Say (producer & lyricist), Chum Ngek (composer), and Masady Mani (choreographer)—we can now enjoy this prelude to the Reamker story.

Both the Reamker as we know it today and Khmer classical music and dance-drama can be traced to the Angkor Empire (802–1432), a time in history when Cambodia was vast and powerful. Distinctive Khmer arts and culture flourished during this period.

In traditional Cambodia, music and dance were always respected as offerings to gods, spirits, ancestors, and teachers. They could also connect the human world with the supernatural world. As embodiments of sacred sound and movement, Khmer music and dance maintain and nurture relationships that keep heaven and earth in equilibrium. Many contemporary artists feel strong connections to their roles in this process, remarking that their arts have saved them from seemingly inescapable misfortune and death. ♦

Masady Mani plays the role of Preah Noreay.
Photo by Stephane Janin



The Story of Agangamasor & His Magic Power

RETELLING BY SARA SAY

Long ago in a celestial kingdom, a group of male angels (*devada*) made daily visits to Preah Eysor (Shiva), the God of Life, who protects and cares for all the beings of the world. Every morning, on their way to paying respects to Preah Eysor, they saw the palace guard, Agangamasor, standing by the gate. Joking and laughing with one another, each angel gave the guard a friendly ruffle or knock on the head as they passed by. This teasing had been going on for eternity, and as the angels knocked his head so often in their comings and goings, Agangamasor had grown quite bald! Nearly all his hair had fallen out. Over time, Agangamasor came to see this playful jesting by the angels as personal humiliation. He became angry and resentful towards the mischievous angels.

One day, after the angels left, Agangamasor went to see Preah Eysor and told him of his suffering and indignity. Preah Eysor listened compassionately to Agangamasor's tale of misery and woe and was moved to help him. The god provided Agangamasor with a magic diamond finger to defend against the angels' harassment. Preah Eysor told Agangamasor that when the angels attempt to knock him on the head again, he should point his magic diamond finger at them. This magic finger would blast them with great force and send them flying to the edge of the universe.

Soon after Preah Eysor gave Agangamasor the magic finger, one of the angels approached the gate. Agangamasor pointed his diamond finger at the angel, knocking him completely out

of sight. As the rest of the angels approached, Agangamasor used his finger to blast them beyond the horizon. The heavens became quiet and deserted.

By the next day, the angels had become fearful of the vengeful guard. They refrained from visiting Preah Eysor to pay their daily respects and report on developments in the world. Looking at his empty court, Preah Eysor realized that giving such power to Agangamasor was a serious mistake. Pride and fear of losing face for making a bad decision prevented him from confronting Agangamasor directly. Only Preah Noreay (Vishnu), the God of Justice who restores balance in heaven and the world, would be powerful enough to accomplish the task.

To keep peace in the palace and to prevent further destruction by Agangamasor, Preah Eysor and his wife, Umaphakavatey, decided to flee.

Preah Eysor's worst suspicions came true. Not long after they left the palace, Agangamasor arrived. As he gazed around the court, he noted the empty throne and the vacant seats usually full of noisy male and female court attendants. He realized that the kingdom was his to take. Consumed by power and greed, he climbed up the steps to sit on Preah Eysor's royal throne.



Puthyrith Sek plays the role of Agangamasor.
Photo by Stephane Janin

Preah Noreay had a premonition of the troubles brewing in heaven. Sensing the imbalance in the powers of heaven and earth, he knew it was his duty to set things right again. Since Agangamasor's power had grown to such a dangerous level,

Preah Noreay decided to transform himself into a beautiful *tepapsar*, a female heavenly dancer, in order to get closer to him. Using his powers, he created a heavenly dance troupe to assist him in deceiving Agangamasor.

Preah Noreay disguised as a *tepapsar* and his celestial dancers lured Agangamasor to the heavenly garden. Agangamasor quickly became infatuated with the *tepapsar*. While he flirted and danced with the beautiful heavenly dancer, she tricked him into pointing his powerful magic finger at his own leg, and he was knocked down by the power of his own magic. Preah Noreay removed the guard's magic powers and restored peace and balance between heaven and earth.

Agangamasor indignantly accepted his death and admitted defeat by the Great Preah Noreay only because he is

the God of Justice with immense supernatural powers. However, he appealed to Preah Noreay to be reincarnated in perpetuity as a powerful demon with 100 heads and 1,000 arms (Reapanasor aka Krong Reap, or Ravana) who will seek revenge.

Preah Noreay accepted the challenge and granted Agangamasor's wish. He countered that he would reincarnate only as a human, Preah Ream (Prince Rama), who would still be able to defeat Agangamasor (Reapanasor aka Krong Reap, or Ravana). And so the struggle between Agangamasor (Reapanasor aka Krong Reap, or Ravana) and Preah Noreay (Preah Ream, Prince Rama) continued through subsequent chapters of the great Reamker story. ♦

Artist Information

Chum Ngek is one of the few living Khmer music masters worldwide who possesses a vast repertoire and command of multiple instruments across various genres. He is the 2004 recipient of the Bess Lomax Hawes Award, the NEA National Heritage Fellowship conferred upon one individual who has significantly benefited his or her tradition through teaching and preserving important repertoires.



Photo by Robin S. Kent

Chum has also received honors from The Maryland State Arts Council and Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County, Maryland. Born in Battambang Province, Cambodia, Chum first formally studied the repertoire and instruments of the major Khmer musical genres—*pin peat*, *mohori*, and *phleng kar*—at the age of ten under his grandfather. Although Chum's grandfather did not want him to become a professional musician, his talent and love for music could not be denied. Consequently, Chum's grandfather set up private apprenticeships for him with the province's best musicians. By the time he was 18, Chum began to perform professionally and lead ensembles. In 1974, Chum was selected as his region's representative for a national music contest and artist residency held at the Royal University of Fine Arts (RUFA) in Phnom Penh. Since arriving in the United States in 1982, Chum has been active advising, teaching, and performing across the country.

Masady Mani is a 1987 graduate and performing arts professor of the Royal University of Fine Arts (RUFA), the premier art institution for Royal classical ballet and folk arts in Cambodia. Since 1991, she has been Art Director at the Cambodian Buddhist Society, Inc. (CBSI) in Silver Spring, Maryland. In this role, she has created many unique performing pieces that have been presented throughout Maryland and surrounding states.



Photo by Stephane Janin

As a master dancer, Mani earned the coveted role of Preah Ream (Prince Rama) and taught at RUFA from 1987 to 1990. While she was in Cambodia, she performed for foreign dignitaries and at other prestigious events to represent the traditions and fine arts of Cambodia. She also toured extensively throughout Cambodia and abroad, including the Soviet Union, India, North and South Vietnam. In 1990, she toured the United States with RUFA, on the first westward tour since the fall of the Khmer Rouge. As a dance student, Mani studied performing styles for different leading roles, singing, poetry, and traditional song writing. In addition, due to her natural singing voice and talent, she was officially trained as a vocalist at RUFA. These skills are considered essential for an effective performer in this art form, as in combination they invoke spirit, emotions, and connection. Mani's technical training combined with her natural singing voice continues to be a gift to CBSI.

Sara Say began singing when he was in high school in Cambodia, in a Khmer “modern music” band. He loved Khmer traditional music but had no chance to study until he came to the United States and joined the Khmer Classical Arts Association, Inc. (KCAA) as their lead male vocalist. KCAA was one of the first and few Khmer classical ballet dance troupes to perform outside of Cambodia at that time, touring throughout the United States and Canada to share Cambodia’s journey of loss during the Khmer Rouge and of hope and resilience after its fall. He has continued to perform Khmer classical and traditional music ever since. Also an avid reader and researcher of Khmer legends and folklore, Say is passionate about preserving and retelling those stories. It was in high school that he started officially studying the legends of the Ramayana and its various Khmer texts. However, Say’s love for oral tradition and storytelling of folk stories and legends such as the Reamker was prevalent throughout his youth, as he listened intently to elders, teachers, religious leaders, etc., and it endures to today. He perfected his poetry writing skills as he created and contributed to performances at the Cambodian Buddhist Temple’s arts and culture program. With these refined skills, he created this unique piece, *Agangamasor and His Magic Power*.



Photo by Stephane Janin

Cambodian Buddhist Society Cultural Committee

The Cambodian Buddhist Society, Inc. (CBSI) is a religious, educational, and community-based organization that works to ensure the wellbeing of Cambodians and Cambodian Americans in the Washington, DC, area.

The Cambodian Buddhist Society Cultural Committee (CBSCC), an initiative of the CBSI, is tasked with preserving and sharing Cambodian culture and traditions within the Washington, DC, metropolitan area and broader Cambodian community. Since its inception, the arts and cultural programs have been a platform for Cambodian American dialogue and serve an especially important role in providing space for Americans of Cambodian heritage to explore identity, familial roots, and a sense of belonging. For decades, the committee has provided programs that not only highlight Cambodian art and culture but also strengthen family ties and invigorate bonds among communities. ♦

Lyrics & Retelling

BY SARA SAY

1.

ចម្រៀងអគង្គមាសូរ

Chamreang Agangamasor

(The Song of Agangamasor)

អី...អីយនេះនឹងថ្លាថ្លែង...អីង...អីយ...ពីអគង្គមាសូរ

Eur...euy nih noeung thlaa thlaeng...eurng...euy...pee
Akangamasor

Ooh...ooh. This is the legend...ooh...ooh...of Agangamasor

នៅយាម...ទ្វារព្រះភូមរ...ព្រះភូមរ...

Nuv yeam...tvear Preah Phuthoar...Preah Phuthoar ...

Standing guard at His Majesty's gate

អី...ឥសូរសិរិសា...។

Eur...Eysor sirisaa.

Ooh...resplendent Lord Shiva.

អី...អីយរែងព្រួយក្នុងចិត្ត...អី...ព្រោះដ្បិតទេវតា

Eur...euy raeng pruey knong jett...eur...prueh dbet devoda

Ooh...ooh. The angels constantly made Agangamasor anxious

អី...ពេលចូល...គាល់ឥសូរ...ប្រាថ្នា...អី...

Eur...pael jol...koal eysora...prahthnaa...eur...

Ooh...when they went to pay their respects to His Majesty

យាយីខាន...

Yeayih romkhaan.

They teased and pestered Agangamasor.

អី...អីយឡកលេងធ្វើបាប...អី...ឱយយីចិត្តឥតផ្អឹមបាន...

Eur...euy lawk leng twer bab...eur...oay chheu jett....eht
phtoem baan

Ooh...ooh. They heckled and taunted him...until he was
humiliated no end

ក្សត្រក្សាន្ត...អី...ឥសូរ

ksat ksaan...eur...Eysor

The serene king...ooh...Shiva...

ឥសូរ...ទ្រង់ពុំជ្រាបឡើយ...។

Eysor...trung pum chreap laey...

Beloved Shiva...was unaware of all of this.

2.

ទេវតាធ្វើបាបអគង្គមាសូរ

Devoda Tver Bab Agangamasor

(The Angels Tease Agangamasor)

ព្រឹកព្រោងភ្លឺស្វាងសូរិយា

Proeuk preang pleu svang soriya

When the brilliant morning sun appears

យើងទាំងអស់គ្នាវឹកវាយកន្លង

Yeung taeng ohs knea rik reay kan loang

We bustle about happily

ព្រឹកព្រោងភ្លឺស្វាងសូរិយា

Proeuk preang pleu svang soriya

When the brilliant morning sun appears

យើងទាំងអស់គ្នារីករាយកន្លង

Yeung taeng ohs knea rik reay kan loang
We bustle about happily

បានមកជួបភ័ក្ត្រអគង្គមាបង

Baan maok juop pheak Agangamea bang
We come to visit you, brother Agangamasor

បានមកជួបភ័ក្ត្រអគង្គមាបង

Baan maok juop pheak Agangamea bang
We come to visit you, brother Agangamasor

សូមឆ្លើយឆ្លាស់ឆ្លងបងជាប្អូនអ្វី?

Som chloeuy chlas chlong bang jea reu avey?
Let's chitchat. Are you doing well, brother?

ម្តេចពើនៅធ្វើកន្តើយ?

Mdech peur nauw theur kanteuy?
Why do you stand still and ignore us?

អគង្គមាអើយយើងនឹកពេកក្រៃ

Agangamea euy yeung neuk paek kray
Ooh, Agangamasor, we missed you so very much

ម្តេចពើនៅធ្វើកន្តើយ?

Mdech peur nauw theur kanteuy?
Why do you stand still and ignore us?

អគង្គមាអើយយើងនឹកពេកក្រៃ

Agangamea euy yeung neuk paek kray
Ooh, Agangamasor, we missed you so very much

បន់ឱយភ្លឺឆាប់ប្រញាប់ហ្មោតឱ្យ

Boan oay pleu chhab pra nhab khmeat khmey
We can't wait for the morning to come

បន់ឱយភ្លឺឆាប់ប្រញាប់ហ្មោតឱ្យ

Boan oay pleu chhab pra nhab khmeat khmey
We can't wait for the morning to come

មកជួបជាថ្មីបានលេងកំសាន្ត។

Maok juop jea tmei baan laeng kamsaan.
So we can come again to enjoy spending time with you.

3.

អគង្គមាសូរចង្អុលដៃពេជ្រ

Agangamasor Jong-ol Dai Pech

(Agangamasor's Magic Diamond Finger)

3a.

ព្រះឥសូរនិងព្រះនាងឧមាភគវតី

Preah Eysor Noeung Preah Neang Umapheakavakthey

(Shiva and Uma)

អើយ...អង្គព្រះឥសូរនិងមហេសី

Euy...Ang Preah Eysor noeung mohaesey
Ooh...Shiva and his queen

ព្រះនាងឧមាភគវតី

Preah Neang Umapheakavakthey
Her Majesty, Queen Uma

អី...អី...អើយ...លើសស្រីផង

Eur... eur...euy...leus srey phong
Ooh...ooh...ooh... She is the fairest of them all

អើយ...ក្សត្រពីរអង្គាឥតមានហ្មង

Euy...ksaat pih ang kea et mean mong
Ooh...the two monarchs have no troubles

អើយ...គ្រប់គ្រងស្តេចឋាន...អី...អើយ

Euy...krub kroang suor thaan...eur...euy
Ooh...ruling heaven...ooh...ooh

អី...អី...អីយ...បានសុខា។

Eur... eur... euy...baan sokhaa.

Ooh...ooh...ooh...with peace.

3b.

ព្រះឥសូរអាណិតអគង្គមាសូរ

Preah Eysor Aanet Agangamasor

(Shiva Takes Pity on Agangamasor)

បពិត្យត្រច័យអង្គឧត្តមទូលបង្គំរងគ្រោះព្រោះទេវតា

Barpit Ksat tlai ong oddam tul bongkum rong kruos pruos devoda

Your Majesty, I have suffered at the hands of the angels

រំលោភបំពានគ្មានមេត្តាខោកត្បកសិរិសារៀងរាល់ថ្ងៃ

Rumlop bompean kmean metta khok tbok serasa reang rol tngai

They take advantage of me, without pity, knocking on my head everyday

នេះនៃព្រះអង្គទ្រង់ទតចុះសក់ច្រុះគ្មានសល់មួយសរសៃ

Nis nae preah-ong trung tot joss sork chrus kmean sol muy sorsai

Look here, Your Majesty. Let me show you. My hair has fallen out, not one strand remains

ចោមកពមេត្តាប្រោសវិនិច្ឆ័យប្រណីអាសូរខ្ញុំព្រះអង្គឥត។

Chomphup metta pross vinichhai pronei ahsa kynom preah-ong phong.

Your Highness, please consider my case and take pity on me.

យើងបានត្រងត្រាប់

Yeung baan trorng trab

I have listened and thought carefully

សំព្វទូលថ្វាយ

Sap tul tvai

About what you said

ហឫទ័យខ្វល់ខ្វាយមេត្តាប្រោស

Hareu tei kval kvai metaa proas

Our hearts ache. Let us ease your worries

អគង្គមាសូរចូលមកចុះយើងសង្គ្រោះទៅ

Agangamasor joal maok joh yeung sang kruorh jao

Come forward, Agangamasor. We shall rescue you

ឱយមានជ័យ។

Aoy mean chey.

So you can overcome this.

3c.

មហិទ្ធិវិទ្ធិចង្កុលដៃពេជ្រ

Mahethirith Jong Ol Dai Pech

(The Power of the Magic Diamond Finger)

ចង្កុលដៃពេជ្រវិទ្ធិក្រៃ

Jongal dai pech rithi kra

This extremely powerful diamond finger

មិនមានរបស់អ្វីប្រៀបធៀបបាន

Min mean roboas avey preap ptum baan

Has no equal

បើពួកទេវតាមករំខាន

Boer pouk devoda maok romkhaan

If those angels bother you

ឯងចង្កុលប្រាណកុំសង្ស័យ។

Aeng jong-ol praan kom songsai.

Don't hesitate to point at them.

ដោយឥទ្ធិពលពិតវិទ្ធិអង្គុលីគេនឹងខ្ចាតពីស្នូតដៃយើង

Dauy ehthipol pit rith ang kulee keh noeung kteat pee sour kea lai

For the power of his finger will eject them from heaven

អណ្តែតទៅកណ្តាប់ចក្រវាឡត្រាយមិនអាចប៉ះកាយទៅទៀតឡើយ។

Andaet tov kandab jakraval chhngaay min aach paas kaay jao teart leuy.

They will drift to the middle of the universe, and they won't be able to touch you.

អគង្គមាសូរចេញទៅចុះបាលែងមានគ្រោះធំទៀតហើយ

Agangamasor jeng tov joh baa leng mean kruih thom teat heuy.

Agangamasor, my child, take leave. There's no more threat or danger to you

គ្មាននរណាប្រៀបចៅបានឡើយបាអើយនឹងសុខឥតសៅហ្មង។

Khmean norna preab jao ban leuy baa euy noeung sok eht sao mong.

Now no one can compare with you, My Child. You will be safe and your sadness will disappear.

4.

ទេវតានិងអគង្គមាសូរ

Devoda Neung Agangamasor

(Agangamasor Banishes the Angels)

5.

ព្រះឥសូរកើតទុក្ខ

Preah Eysor Keut Tuk

(Shiva Becomes Worried)

អើយ...ព្រួយ...អើយ...ព្រួយចិត្ត...អើយ...ដ្បិតគិតខុស

Euy...pruoy...euy...pruoy jett...euy...dbett kit khos

Ooh...I am worried...ooh...very anxious...ooh...because I made a bad decision

អើយ...មិនស្មាន...អើយ...ថាចិត្តនោះ...អើយ...វាដល់ម្លឹង។

Euy...min smaan...euy thaa jett noah...euy...vea dal mlung.

Ooh...I didn't think...ooh...that he felt this way.

វាធ្វើឱ្យឋាន...អី...ស្ងួតស្ងួតឈឹង...អើយបើតាម...

Vea tveur aoy thaam...euy...suor sngaatt cheung...euy buer taam...

He has upset our realm...ooh...our heaven is desolate...ooh...

អើយ...រំពឹង...អើយ...វានឹងបែង...អើយ...។

Euy...rumpeung...euy...vea neung poang...euy...

Ooh...I suspect he has plans...ooh...

ដណ្តើមបល្ល័ង្ក...ទីធ្លាប់គ្រង...អើយ...

Doan-deum balaing...tee tloap kroang...euy...

To take the throne...that we have ruled...ooh...

អើយ...មានតែ...អើយ...ភៀសកាយជាម្តង...អើយ...ទើបបានសុខអើយ...

Euy...mean tae...euy...pheas kaay jea mdong...euy...teub baan sok euy...

Ooh...we must flee immediately for safety...ooh...

ឥសូរចាញ់បូទិយើងហើយណា

Eysor janh rith yeung heuy naa

Eysor has been overcome by my power

មិនអាចហានក្លាជួបមុខយើងបាន

Min aach haan kla juop muk yeung baan

He is not brave enough to confront me

តែប៉ុណ្ណោះរាជសម្បត្តិទាំងអម្បាលម៉ាន

Tae poneh reach sambatt taeng ambaal maan

Now, all the royal treasures will be mine

តែប៉ុណ្ណោះរាជសម្បត្តិទាំងអម្បាលម៉ាន

Trouv baan yeung kroub kroang reak saa.

To control and rule

ក្នុងដែនពិភពមានតែម្នាក់

Knong phaen peephoup mean tae mneak

The span of the singular universe

ច្តុំថ្លើងរៀងជាក់ដ្បិតហត្ថា

Thkom thkeung jeang jak dbet hathaa

Because of my glorious hand

ចង្កុលដៃពេជ្រវិទ្ធិក្លា

Jong-ol dai pech rithi klaa

And supremely powerful diamond finger

គ្មាននរណាយកឈ្នះយើងបានឡើយ។

Kmean norna yoak chneh yeung baan leuy.
No one can defeat me.

អស់ទេពអប្សរនៅឯណា

Oss tep apsar neuv ae naa
Oh, celestial nymphs, where are all of you?

ទេវតាក៏ពួននៅព្រងើយ

Devoda kaw puon neuv praw ngoeuy
The angels are still hiding nonchalantly

ម្តេចមិននាំគ្នាចូលមកឲ្យហើយ

Mdech min noam knea joal maok aoy heuy
Why have they not yet come

ក្រាបថ្វាយវន្ទាបង្គំគាល់យើង ?

Krap tvaay von tea bawngkum koal yeung?
To pay their respects to me?

6.

មហិទ្ធិបូទិព្រះនារាយណ៍

Mahethirith Preah Noreay

(Vishnu's Premonition)

អី...អី...អីយ...កាលអើយ...អី...អី...អីយ...កាលនោះ

Eur... eur... euy...kaal euy... eur...eur... euy...kaal noah
Ooh...ooh...ooh...once upon a time...

អី...អី...អីយ...ព្រះនារាយណ៍...អី...អី...អីយ...រឿងរ៉ាវ

Eur... eur... euy...Preah Noreay... eur... eur...euy...reourng rong
Ooh...ooh...ooh...here is a story...ooh...ooh...ooh...about Lord Vishnu

អី...អី...អីយ...ទ្រង់ជ្រាបហេតុការណ៍

Eur... eur... euy...trong chreap het kar
Ooh...ooh...ooh...had a premonition about problems in the heavens...

អី...អី...អីយ...ថាអគង្គមាសូរ...អី...អី...អីយ...ចិត្តឫស្សា

Eur... eur... euy...Tha Agangamasor...eur ... eur... euy...jett reusyaa

Ooh...ooh...ooh...Agangamasor...ooh...ooh...ooh...with his evil heart

ហ៊ានជ្រែក...អី...អីយ...រាជរដ្ឋា...អី...អីយ...ត្រូវតែប្រល័យ

Hean jraek... eur... euy...reach rathaa...eur... euy...treuv tae prawlai

He dares to take over the kingdom...ooh...ooh...ooh...so now I...ooh...ooh...must destroy him

ត្រាស់ស្រេចស្តេចប្លែងកាយ...អីយ...

Tras srach sdach phlaeng kaay...euy...

Once the Lord finalized his strategy, he transforms himself... ooh...

ជាទេពអប្សរ...អីយ...រូបឆោម...អីយ...បរវ...អីយ

Jea tep apsar...euy...ruub chhoam...borvor...euy

Into a celestial dancer...ooh... of the utmost beauty and charm ...ooh...

អីយ...គួរពិសម័យ...អីយ...

Euy...kuor pisamai...euy...

Ooh...like one surely from a dream...ooh...

7.

ទេពអប្សរក្រសាលសួន

Tepapsar Krasal Suon

(Heavenly Dancers Play in the Garden)

កណ្តាលឧទ្យាន...អីយ...ឋានសួគ៌...អីយ...បុប្ផាន...អីយ...នា...
អីយ...ស្រស់ផ្លុំផង...អីយ

Kawndal utyeam...euy...thaansuorkea...euy...bopha nea...euy...nea...euy...sras phor phang...euy

In the flower garden...ooh...in heaven...ooh...among the flowers...pure and fresh ...ooh

មើលក្នុងស្រះស្រី...អីយ...ផ្ការីករហង់...អីយ...

Merl knong sras srey...euy...phka rik rohong...euy

Behold the pond...ooh...flowers bloom alluringly...

ព្រលឹកលំចង់...អើយ...ចោមបទុមា...អើយ...។

Prawlit lomjong...euy...joam batuma ...euy.

The lilies surround the lotus...ooh...they have a delightful fragrance...ooh.

ស្រស់ស្រីអប្សរ...អើយ...បវរកញ្ញា...អើយ...ក្រសាល

Sras srey apsar...euy...bovorkanhaa...euy...krasal

The heavenly dancer...ooh...sublime beauty...ooh...enjoys

សួនផ្កា...អើយ...សោមនស្សក្រៃ...អើយ...។

Suon phka ...euy...somonas krai...euy...

The flower garden...ooh...extremely happy...ooh...

រីករាយមនោរម្យ...អើយ...ក្នុងដួងហឫទ័យ...អើយ...

Rik reay monorum...euy...knong duong hareutey...euy...

Blossoming with happiness...ooh...from the heart...ooh....

ចរណៃក្សេមក្សាន្ត...អើយ...នាហ៍សូត៍...អើយ...

Jawronai ksem ksaan...euy...nea thaansuor...euy...

Pleasantly serene and peaceful...ooh...in heaven...ooh...

8.

ព្រះនារាយណ៍និងអគ្គមាសូរ

Preah Noreay Neung Agangamasor

(Vishnu in Disguise and Agangamasor)

ឱស្រស់កន្ទិដ្ឋានេះគឺព្រេងវាសនាបានជួបជីវា

Oh sras kanitha niis keuh preng veasna baan juop jiva

Oh, Beautiful Beloved. How fateful it is to meet you, darling.

រៀមសូមស្មគ្រមេត្រីឱណាំកែវមាសបងអើយ

Ream som smak metrey oh na keov meas bong euy

I love you...oh...My Precious...ooh

បងសែនស្រឡាញ់បងសែនស្រឡាញ់

Bong saen srawlanh. Bong saen srawlanh

I really love you. I really love you

កែវកុំទោម្មេញក្នុងចិន្តា

Keov kom tomninh knong chenda

Don't doubt me, dear.

រៀមស្មគ្ររៀមស្មោះរៀមស្មគ្ររៀមស្មោះនឹងជីវា

Ream smak ream smoah. Ream smak ream smoah neung jiva

I am committed. I am loyal. I am committed. I am loyal to you, my love.

សូមកែវកន្ទិដ្ឋាស្នេហាបងទៅ

Som keov kanitha snaeha bang touv

Please love me, my treasure.

រៀមស្មគ្ររៀមស្មោះរៀមស្មគ្ររៀមស្មោះនឹងជីវា

Ream smak ream smoah. Ream smak ream smoah neung jiva

I am committed. I am loyal. I am committed. I am loyal to you, my love.

សូមកែវកន្ទិដ្ឋាស្នេហាបងទៅ

Som keov kanitha snaeha bong touv

Please love me, my treasure.

ប្បពិត្រជេដ្ឋាខ្ញុំម្ចាស់នេះណាមិនអាចរួមស្នេហាជាគូមេត្រី ឱណាំម្ចាស់បងអើយ

Borpit jetha knyom mchas neh naa min aach ruom snaeha jea kou metrey oh naa mchas bong euy

Oh, Your Royal Highness, I cannot be your love, your soul mate...ooh

ព្រោះទេពអប្សរជាស្រីចាំគូនឹងអ្នករាំជាមួយគ្នា

Prouh tepapsar jea srey robam kou noeung nak roam jea muoy knea

Because I am a tepapsar, a dancer, who needs to be with another dancer

បើសិនជាបងបើសិនជាបងបងស្នេហាតើប្រុសជីវារៀនរាំបានទេ ?

Beuh soen jea bong beuh soen jea bong poang snaeha teur pros jiva rean roam baan teh?

If you...if you want to love me, will you learn to dance?

បើសិនជាបងបើសិនជាបងបងស្នេហាតើប្រុសជីវារៀនរាំបានទេ ?

Beuh soen jea bong bueh soen jea bong poang snaeha teur pros jiva rean roam baan teh?

If you...if you want to love me, will you learn to dance?

**កុំព្រួយពិស្តីគ្រាន់តែរាំមិនថ្លើមបងមិនស្រដីជំទាស់ឡើយណាឱណារាំរាំ
មាសបងអើយ**

Kom pruiy pisey kroan tae roam min tvei bang min srordey
juntas luey naa oh naa keov meas bang euy
Don't worry, Beautiful. If it is just dancing, I won't refuse you,
Sweetheart.

បើដូចចិត្តខ្ញុំម្ចាស់ប្រាថ្នាប្អូនមិនសង្កាក្នុងចិត្តឡើយ

Beur doch chenda knyom mchas prathna paaun min sangkaa
knong jett leuy
Well then, if you abide by my wishes, I will not distress.

**ចាប់ផ្តើមរាំទៅចាប់ផ្តើមរាំទៅ ពៅត្រាណាត្រើយរៀមរាំតាមហើយកុំឡើយ
សង្ស័យ**

Jab pdoeum roam touv jab pdoeum roam touv, pouv
traantrey ream roam taam heuy kom luey sang saiy
Let's dance, then. Let's dance. And don't have any doubts.

**ចាប់ផ្តើមរាំទៅចាប់ផ្តើមរាំទៅ ពៅត្រាណាត្រើយរៀមរាំតាមហើយកុំឡើយ
សង្ស័យ**

Jab pdoeum roam touv jab pdoeum roam touv, pouv
traantrey ream roam taam heuy kom luey sang saiy
Let's dance, then. Let's dance. And don't have any doubts.

អគង្គមាសរ...អើយ...ជាតិទុរជន

Agangamasor...euy...jeat turajun
Agangamasor...ooh...you evil demon

ឯងហ៊ានមកប្លន់បណ្តឹងឥសូរនរបតី

Aeng hean maok phloann ballang eysor noroubadey
You dare to take the throne of Preah Eysor

យើងនឹងពិយាដ...អើយ...ឯង ឱយក្ស័យ...អើយ...ទុកនៅធ្វើអ្វី

Yeung noeung pikheat...euy...aeng aoy ksai...euy...tuk nouv
tveur avei
I will kill you...ooh...why should I let you live?

អើយ...ចោរចិត្តបូស្សា។

Euy...jaor jett reusyaa.
You are a dishonest cheat.

នរាយណ៍រឿងរង្គ...អើយ...ទ្រង់សិស្សសិទ្ធ

Noreay reoung rong...euy...trong selsith
Vishnu...ooh...you are great indeed

យើងចាញ់កលពិត...អើយ...ព្រោះប្អូនចៃស្តា

Yeung jaanh kal pett...euy...pruh rith jehsdaa
You have defeated me...ooh...because you are powerful

មិនថ្វីស្លាប់...អើយ...ចាកលោកា...អើយ...

Min tvey suu slabb...euy...jaak loakaa...euy...
I'd rather die...ooh...but when I depart from the world...ooh...

កើតជាតិណាណាប្រាថ្នាសងសឹក ឱយបាន។

Keut jeat naa naa praatna sawng seuk aoy baan.
I will be reborn, and get my revenge

ប្អូនខ្លាំងក្រៃ...អើយ...ល្មោះល្បីល្បាស់

Rithy khlung krai...euy...chmoah lbey leu lorn
I will be extremely strong...ooh...and famous

ហត្ថមួយពាន់សិរិសាមួយរយកុំខាន

Hathaa muoy poan serisaa muoy roy kom khaan
With a thousand arms and a hundred heads, I cannot fail

ចូរឯងបានសម្រេច...អើយ...ដូចកិច្ចអធិដ្ឋានឯរូបយើងវិញប្រែប្រាណ

Joh aeng baan somrach...euy...doch kech athithaan aer roob
yeung winh prae praan
I grant your wish...ooh...as for me, I will change

ទៅចាប់ជាតិជាមនុស្សក្បាលមួយដៃពីរ...អើយ...តាមប្រហារ

Touv jab jeat jea manussaa kbal muoy dai pee...euy...taam
prawhar
Reincarnate as a simple human with one head and two arms...
ooh...I will follow and destroy you

ឯងវិញឱយសូន្យសង្ខារមិនឱយសេសសល់សោះឡើយ។

Aeng winh aoy sown sangkhaa min aoy sehs sal saws leuy.
You will have nothing and absolutely nothing will remain. ◆

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NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS



Credits

Produced by Joanna Pecore

Recorded, mixed, and mastered by Pete Reiniger

Concept and artistic direction by Sara Say and Chum Ngek

Song lyrics and retelling by Sara Say

Musical arrangements and instrumentals by Chum Ngek

Vocals by Sara Say and Masady Mani

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Front cover photo: Preah Noreay (played by Masady Mani, right) engages in battle with Agangamasor (played by Puthyrith Sek, left). Photo by Stephane Janin.

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Smithsonian Folkways Recordings is the nonprofit record label of the Smithsonian Institution, the national museum of the United States. Our mission is to document music, spoken word, instruction, and sounds from around the world. In this way, we continue the legacy of Moses Asch, who founded Folkways Records in 1948. The Smithsonian acquired Folkways from the Asch estate in 1987, and Smithsonian Folkways Recordings has continued the Folkways tradition by supporting the work of traditional artists and expressing a commitment to cultural diversity, education, and increased understanding among peoples through the production, documentation, preservation, and dissemination of sound.



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