



# Thailand Folktales and Thai Superstitions and Taboos

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(Ice)

# *Dao Lookgai Pleiades*

Once upon a time , there was an old couple living in a small cottage at the edge of their rice field. The old man and the old woman had been raising a hen that had seven little chicks. The old couple had never thought of killing them.

One day, a monk came to the old couple's cottage. The old couple thought that there would be no breakfast for the monk the next day. (to have no food to offer to a monk, would be considered a most disrespectful thing)

“What should we cook for his breakfast?” the old man asked. “Why don't we kill the hen and raise seven little chicks for breeding? The old woman replied.



**They didn't know that the little family heard what they were talking about. The hen and seven little chicks burst into tears. They felt very sad. After that, they ran away into a forest. The hen felt terribly sad and she said to the little chicks before she died " If I die, you should be good chicks and repay the kindness of the old couple."**

**The next morning, the hen and seven little chicks came back to the cottage. The old couple had a fire ready and when the pot was hot the old woman caught the hen and prepared to put her in the pot. When the little chicks saw this, they ran together towards the fire.**

**By their merit, the seven little chicks were reborn as seven little stars. This was their reward for their gratitude and devotion to their mother. Now If you look up the sky at night, you can see these seven little chicks stars. We call these stars “Dao Lookgai”..**

**The end..**

**Moral : As you make your bed, so you must lie on it.**

# Thai Superstitions and Taboos

All Thais grow up hearing all sorts of taboos and superstitions. Some are still believed to be true, and some are now used to tease friends and family. Being Thai myself, I have grown up hearing a handful of superstitions and taboos worth sharing with the English speaking world



1. **Do not wear black when visiting people in the hospital.** Ancient Thai people consider black as the colour of pain and sadness used for mourning, so it must not be worn on festive occasions, especially when visiting friends or family in hospital. The custom of not wearing black to visit hospitalized sick people is still considered hospital etiquette today.
2. **To single ladies do not sing while cooking, or you will end up with an old husband!** A long time ago, rice cookers didn't exist, and people had to use coal as the only source of making heat. This taboo or superstition came from the fact that the rice might be burnt or you would accidentally cut yourself with a kitchen knife if you didn't pay attention while cooking. This taboo was used to scare maids who worked in the kitchen, as maids of those times commonly feared getting an old husband.

3. To men: you will get an eye style if you peep at ladies taking a bath. The truth is that a long time ago, houses were made entirely of wood planks, which may have had many holes in them. It all started with a man, whose eye got infected from the dust on the wood planks while peeping at a lady who was taking a bath. Ever since, this has become a famous taboo that is joked about all over Thailand.

4. To get a haircut on Wednesdays brings bad luck - in the ancient times people believed that Wednesday was the day of growth and development, it was also considered an auspicious time. The members of the royal family and noblemen preferred to get their hair cut on Wednesdays, therefore it was prohibited to commoners to do that on the same day. Having your hair cut on a Wednesday was then considered inappropriate and inauspicious, as if one tried to compare one's own prestige to that of the royal family's.

The background is a stunning cosmic scene featuring a multi-colored nebula with shades of purple, pink, orange, and blue. Numerous bright stars are scattered throughout the field, and a thin crescent moon is visible in the upper right quadrant. The overall atmosphere is ethereal and awe-inspiring.

**THANK YOU 😊**