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สำนักงานบริหารและพัฒนาองค์ความรู้  
(องค์การมหาชน)

Local Knowledge Book Series

# Sisaket

is  
Second

to  
None!



Story and Illustrations  
Preeda Punyachand

## Local Knowledge Book Series



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**Story and Illustrations** Preeda Punyachand

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# Preface

Thailand Knowledge Park (TK park) mission in society is to develop a love of reading and give people equal opportunities to experience modern learning centers which speak to their interests. TK park has been cooperating with local administrators in many regions of Thailand to build living libraries as a way to achieve its mission.

Bringing local knowledge to children, in a modern and fun way, is an important tool to inspire them to read and explore. The idea is to create books which reflect local wisdom, together with morality and ethics, for children aged 4-12.

The books in the Lower Isan Set were developed by TK park, scholars, and local writers. Children and adults will get to know about the Lower Isan region and be proud of the unique traditions found there. Moreover, the books also foster better understandings of and more tolerant attitudes toward others from different cultures and societies.

TK park hopes the books will be another learning tool to help encourage Thai people to read more and maximize their learning. TK park aims to make the books fun and easy to read. Readers can enjoy them and appreciate their own hometowns, regions, and country.

Thailand Knowledge Park

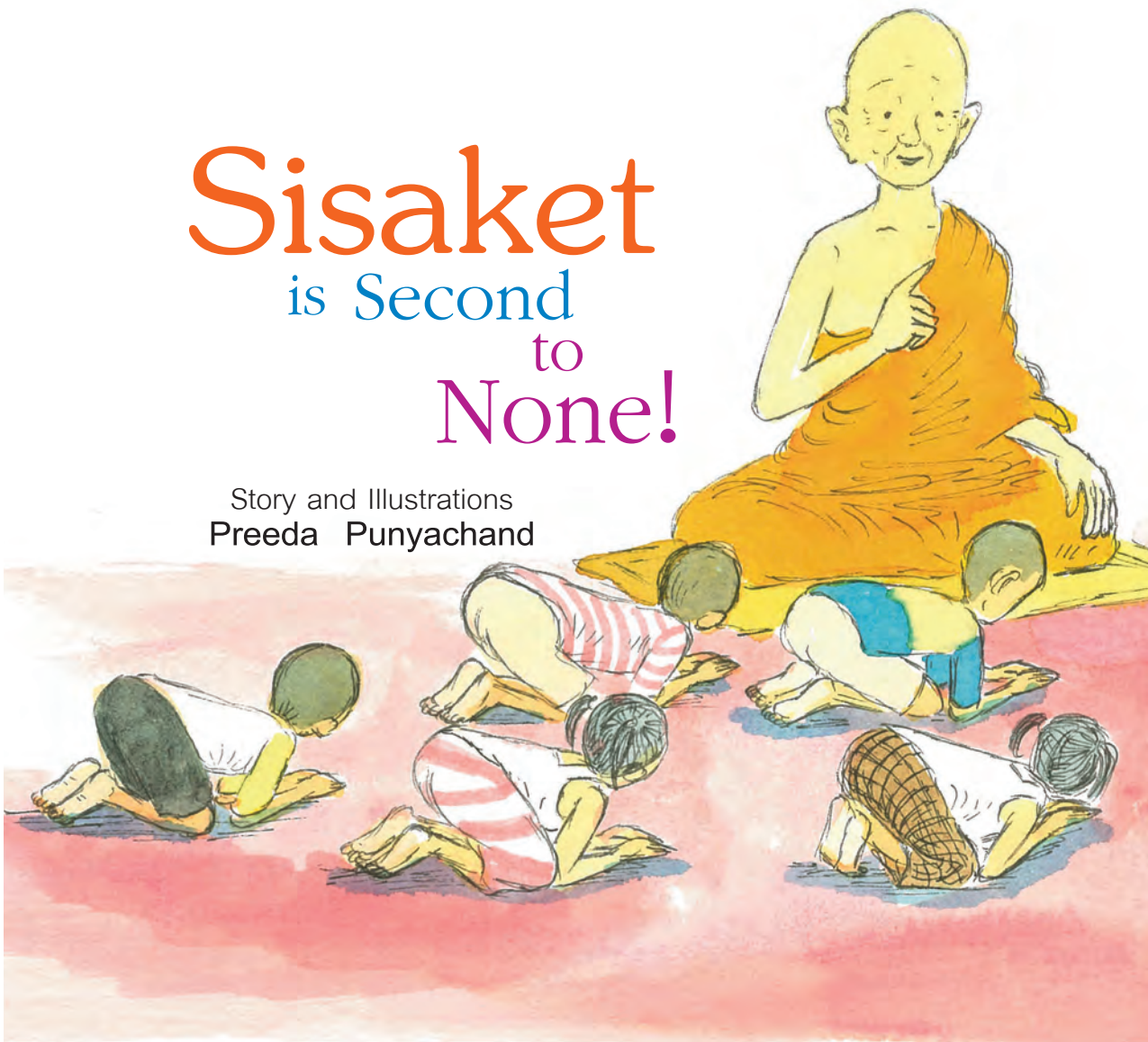


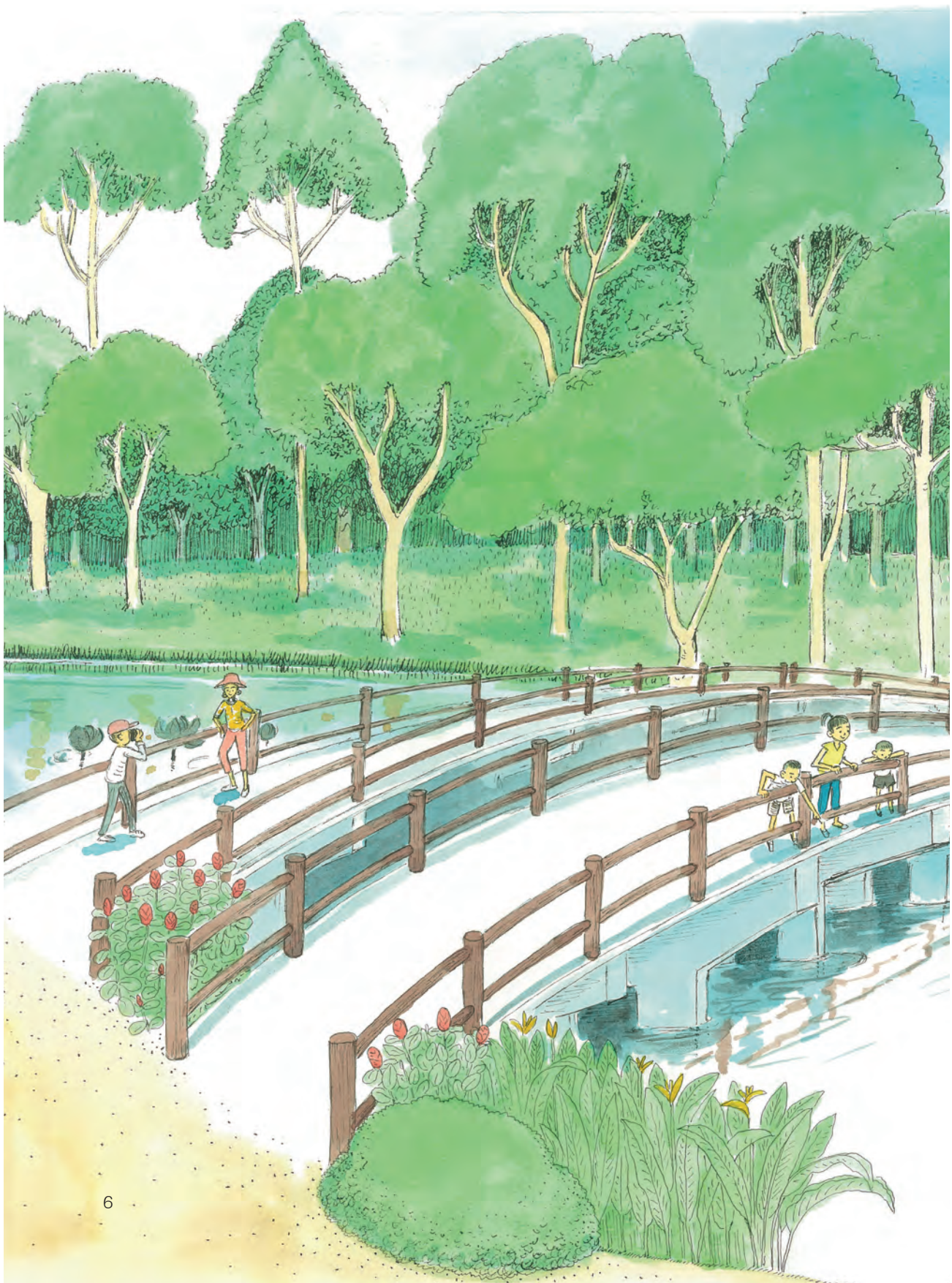




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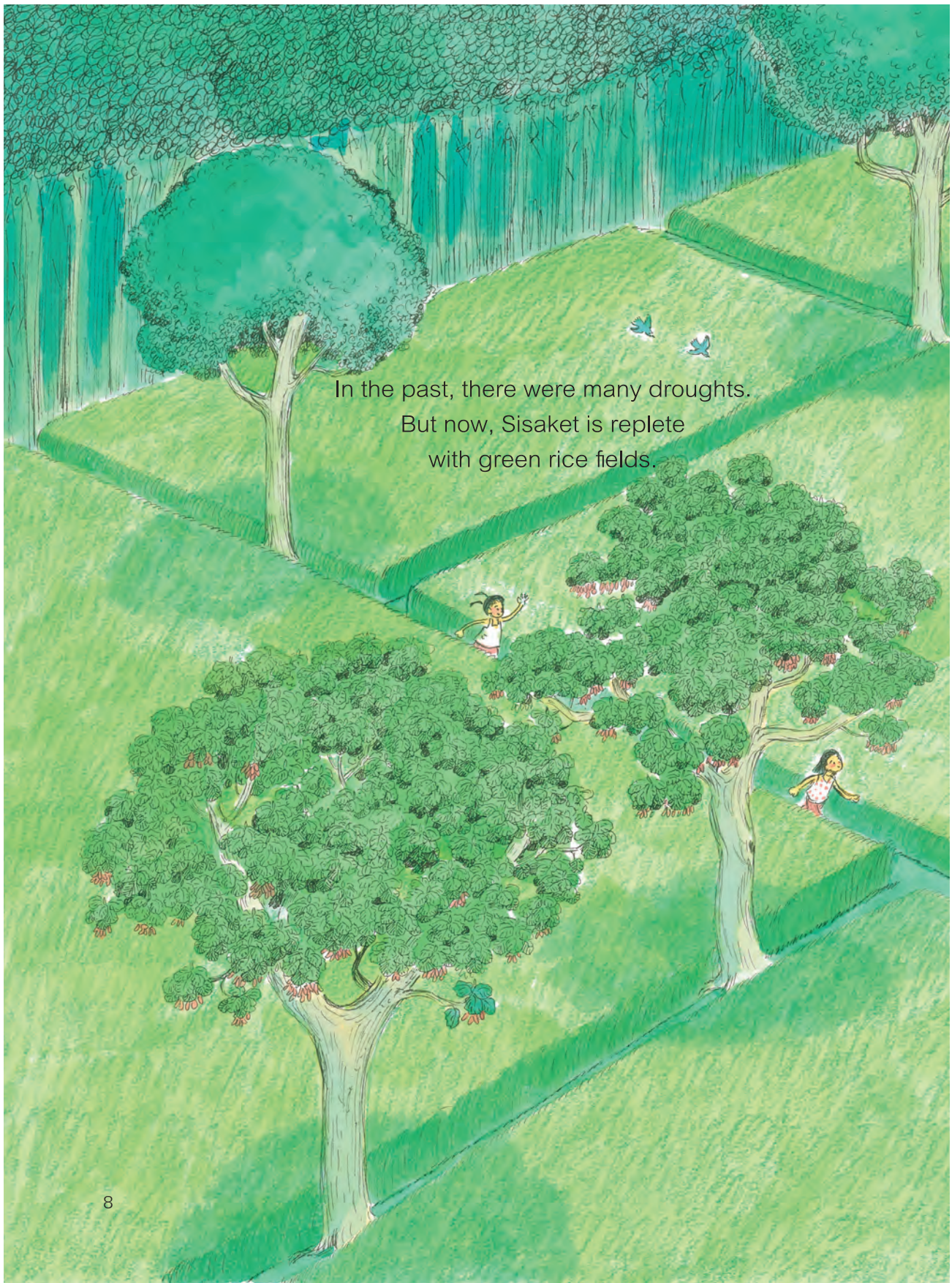
At Somdet Phra Si Nakharin Park



This is the place for Sisaket kids to rest, play, and learn about nature. There seems to be an infinity of Lamduan flowers. The park has the highest concentration of Lamduan flowers in Thailand.

In March, the park is filled with the sweet scent of the trees. 7



A vibrant illustration of a lush green landscape. In the foreground, two large, leafy trees with clusters of red fruit stand on a grassy slope. A young girl in a white shirt and red skirt is running towards the left, and another girl in a red and white patterned shirt is walking towards the right. The middle ground shows terraced rice fields with a small stream flowing through them. In the background, more green hills and trees are visible under a bright sky with a few birds flying. The overall scene is bright and cheerful, representing a healthy, green environment.

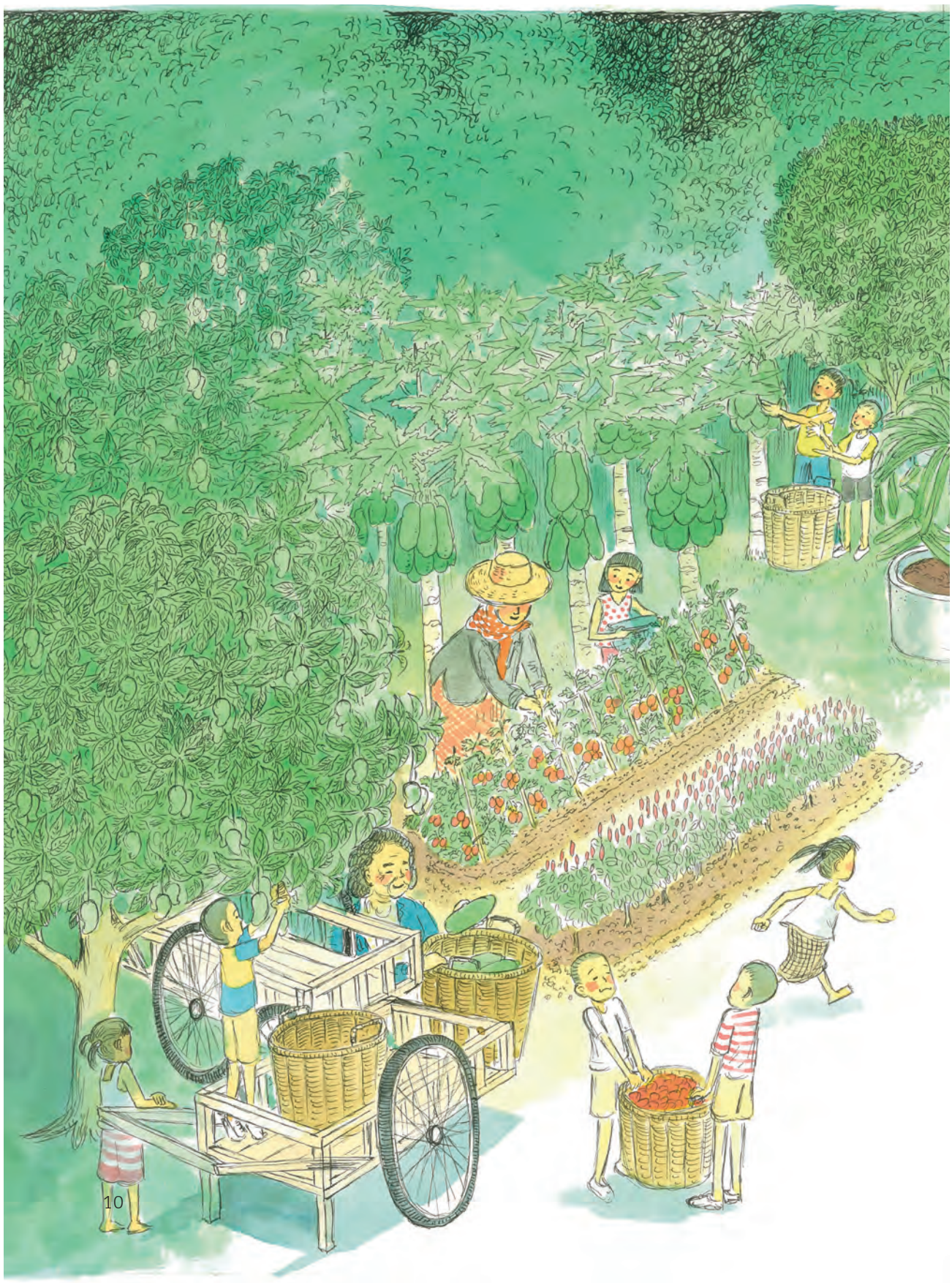
In the past, there were many droughts.  
But now, Sisaket is replete  
with green rice fields.





Sisaket is covered in alternating rows of rice paddies, rubber farms, and orchards. These fields are the backdrop for the adventures of Tong and his friends.









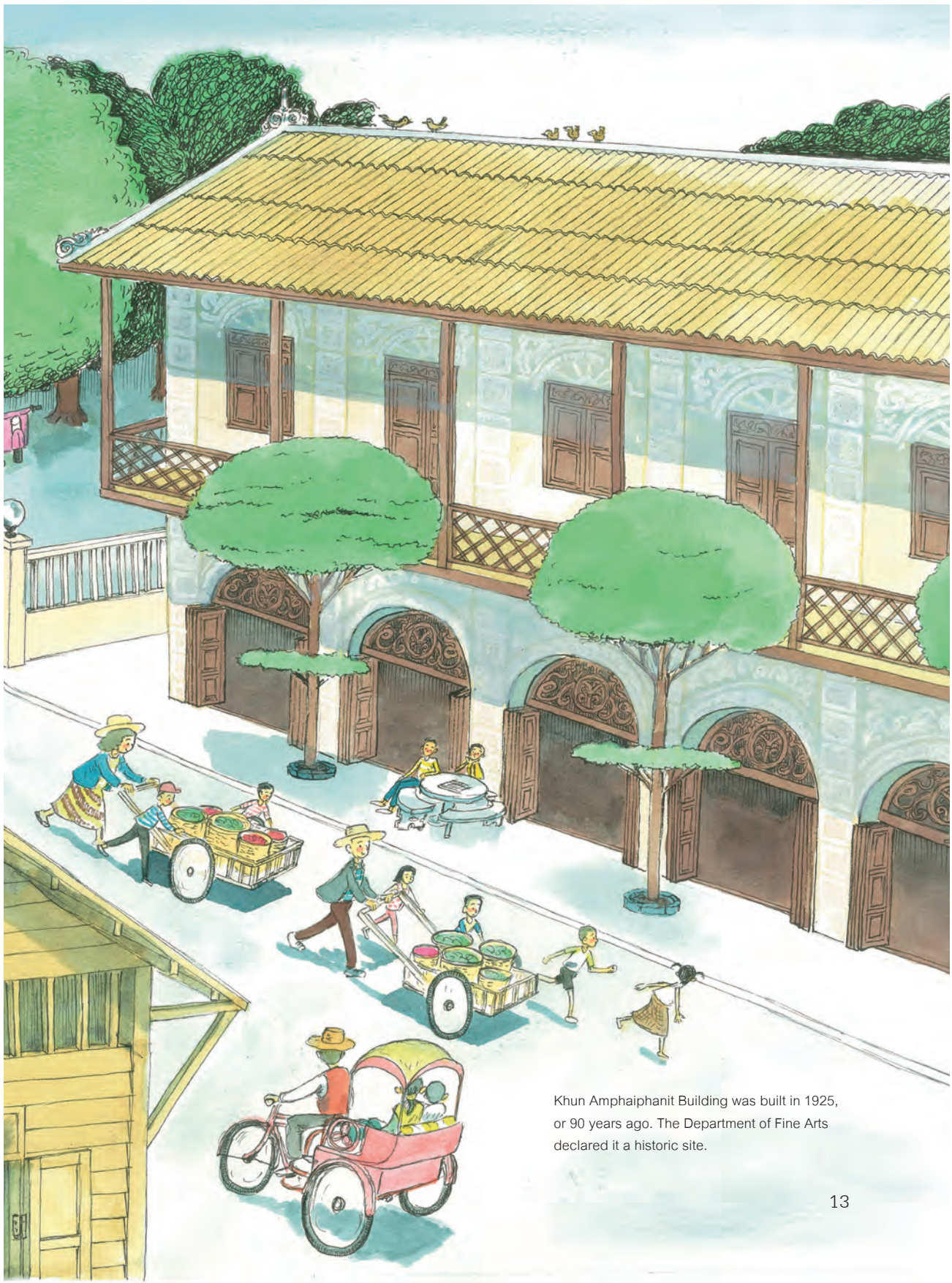
Auntie Daeng has a small orchard full of fruits. She said, “My orchard used to be the site of an ancient volcano called Din Daeng Mountain. This is why the soil is very fertile and whatever I plant will thrive here, from rambutan to durian.”



Auntie Daeng, Tum, Tong, and friends are on their way to the market with some fruit from Auntie Daeng's orchard. The three siblings are walking behind the others and they spot a beautiful building.

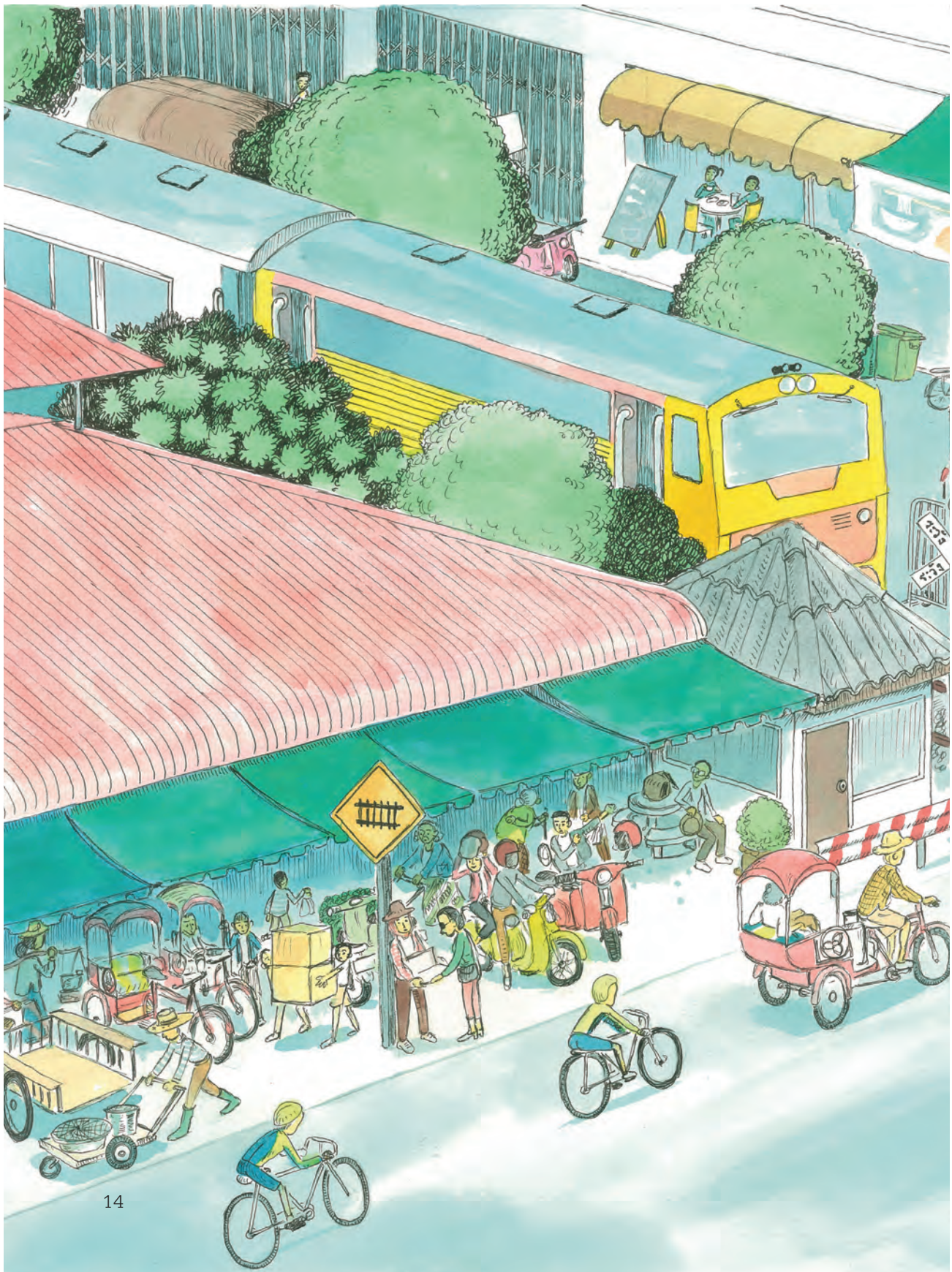




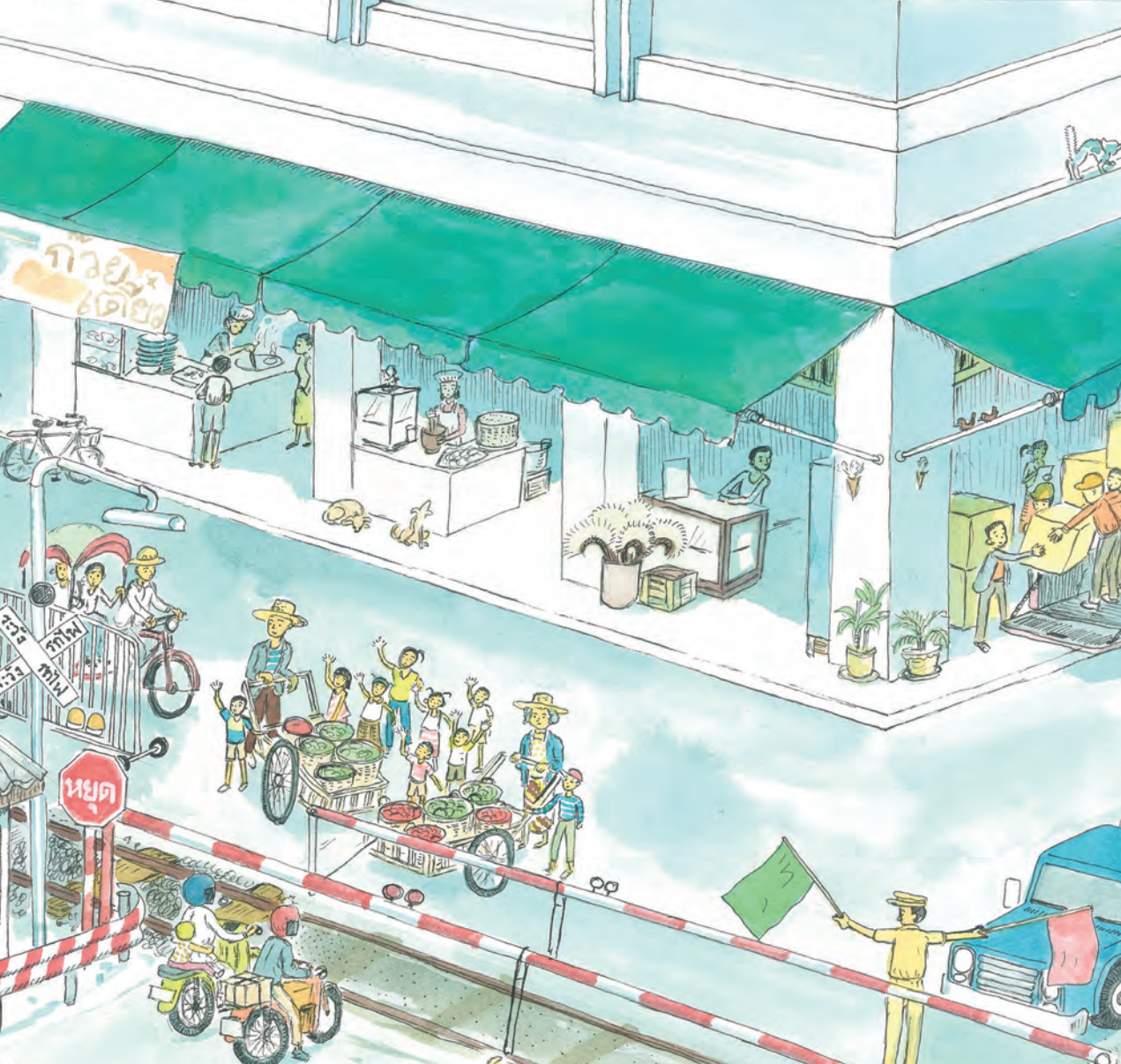


Khun Amphaiphani Building was built in 1925, or 90 years ago. The Department of Fine Arts declared it a historic site.



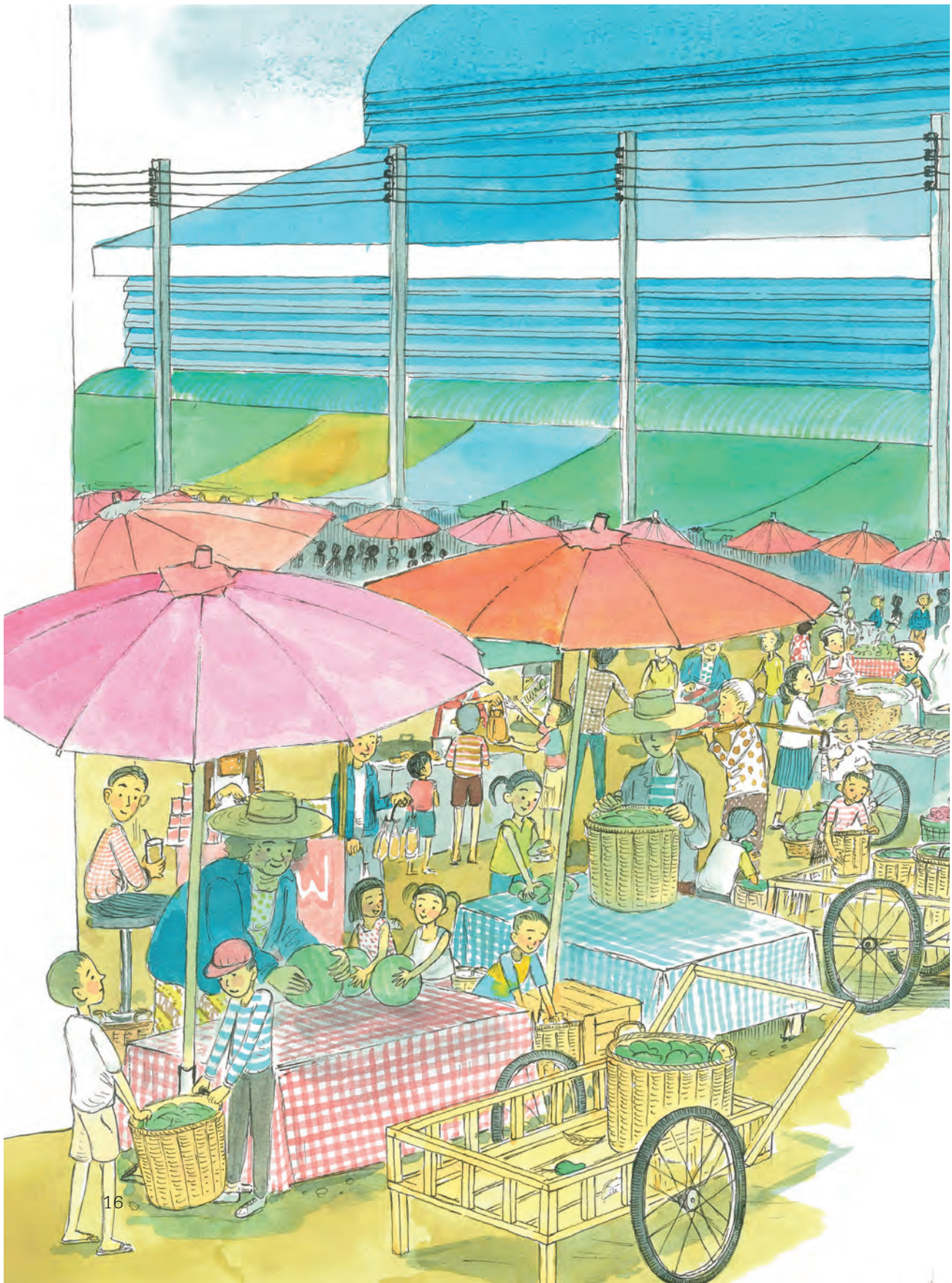




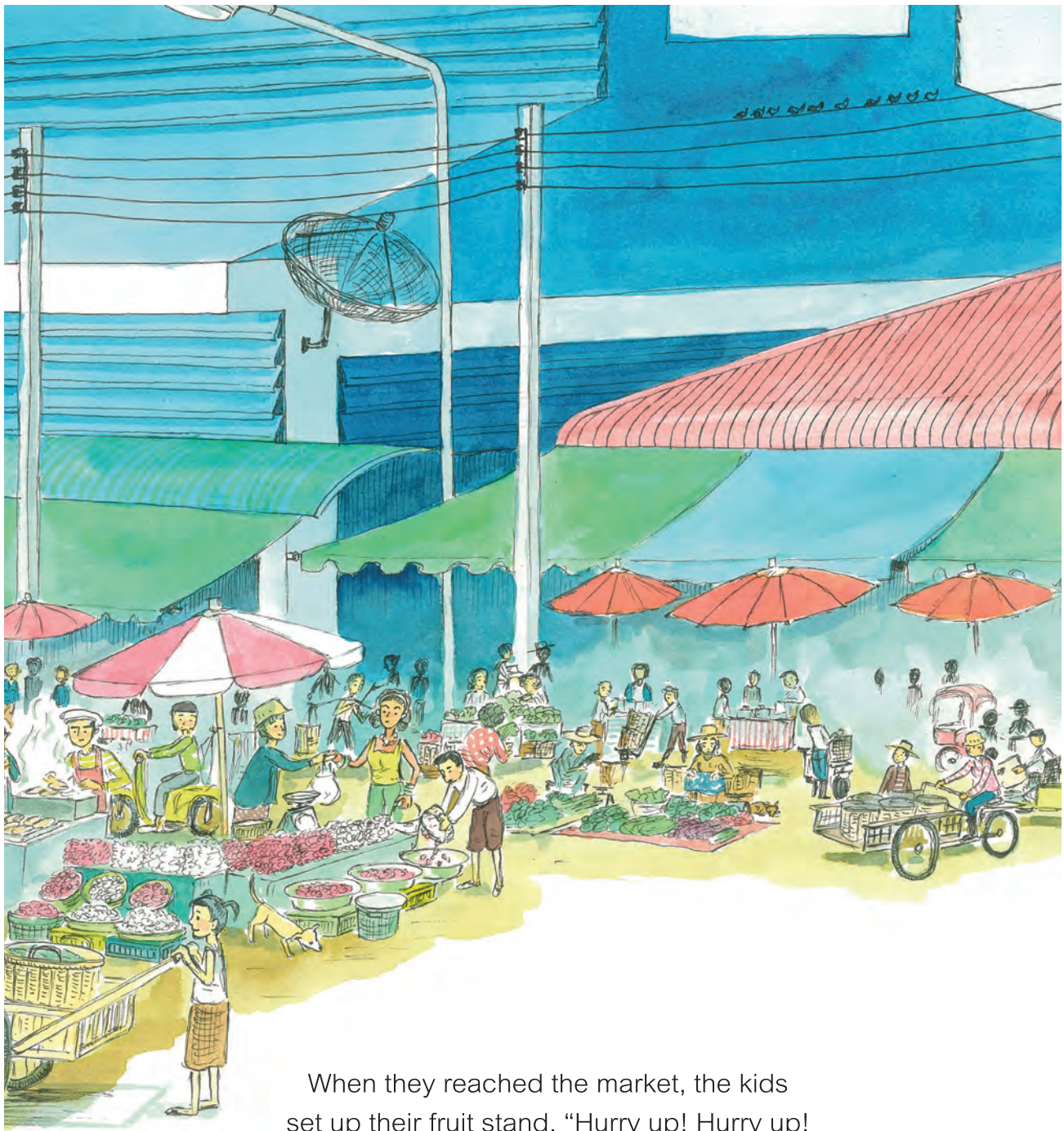


“Look! The train is going under the Black Bridge now!” Tong shouted as he was waving to greet the people on the train. Auntie Daeng laughed and started telling a story. “It’s believed, if a single-person comes or is assigned to work in Sisaket and goes under the Black Bridge along Huay Samran Stream, he or she will fall in love with someone from Sisaket and relocate there. This belief is called Ood Lord Sisaket.”









When they reached the market, the kids set up their fruit stand. “Hurry up! Hurry up!

The faster we finish, the sooner we can have treats!”, Auntie Daeng told the kids. “Here we are! Let’s set up the fruit stand. “You see that shop? They sell crushed ice confections!”, Tum said and pointed at the shop.





Luang Por Tho Temple or Maha Buddha Ram Temple is a historic temple in Sisaket and it is not far from the market. The kids finished their treats. Auntie Daeng told them that the temple fair was about to start, so the kids rushed to the temple.



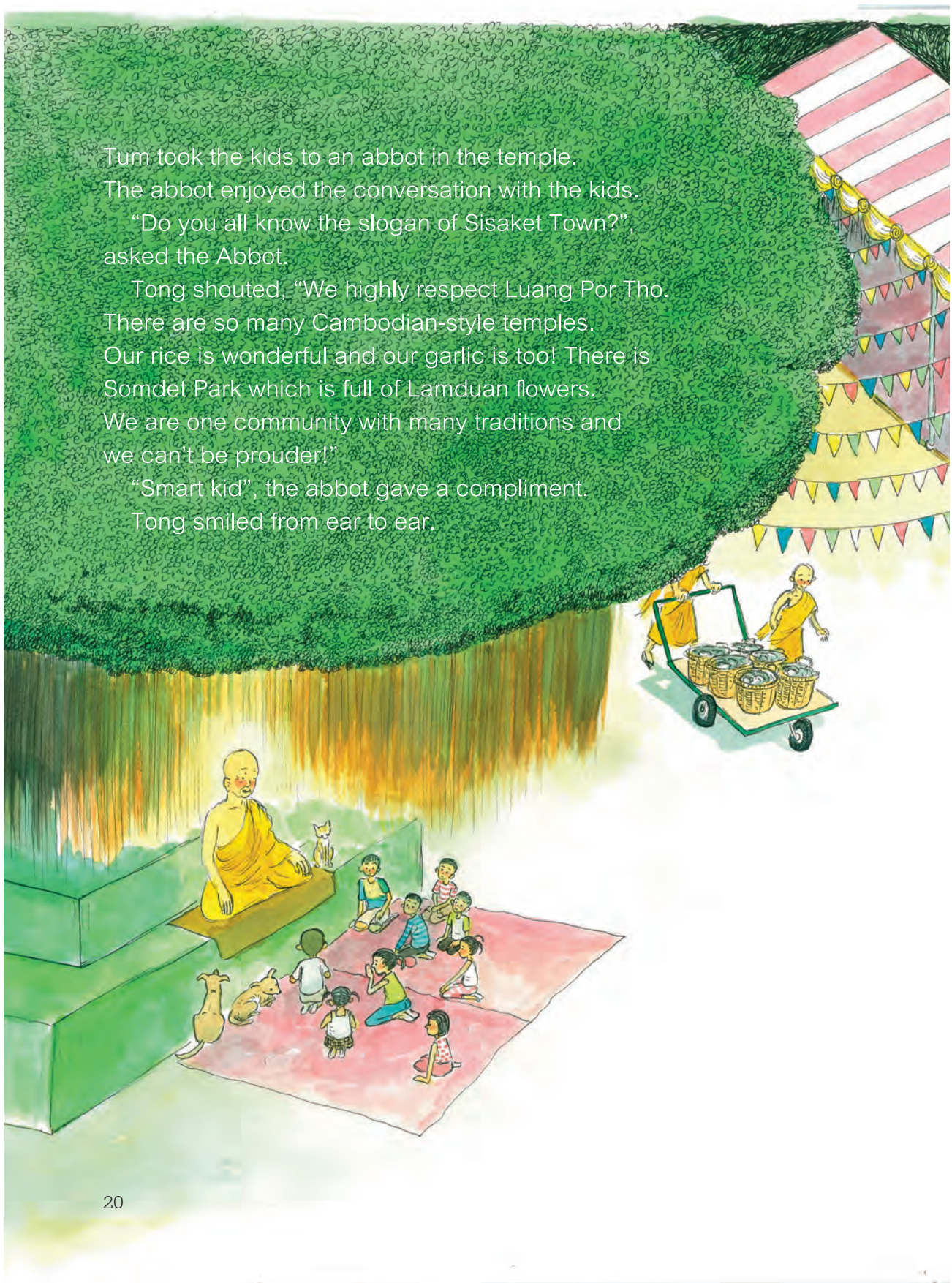




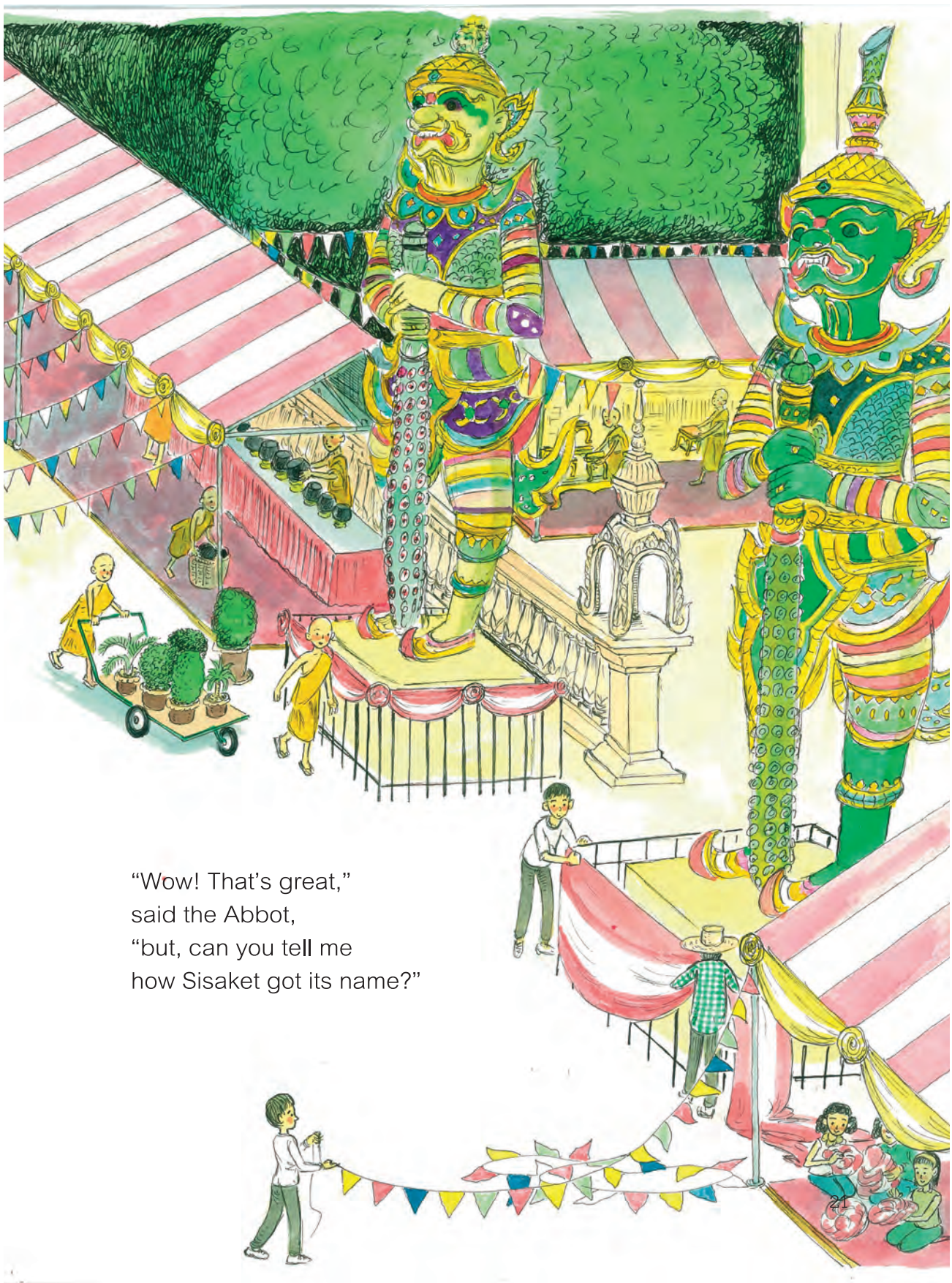
Tum took the kids to an abbot in the temple.  
The abbot enjoyed the conversation with the kids.  
“Do you all know the slogan of Sisaket Town?”,  
asked the Abbot.

Tong shouted, “We highly respect Luang Por Tho.  
There are so many Cambodian-style temples.  
Our rice is wonderful and our garlic is too! There is  
Somdet Park which is full of Lamduan flowers.  
We are one community with many traditions and  
we can't be prouder!”

“Smart kid”, the abbot gave a compliment.  
Tong smiled from ear to ear.







“Wow! That’s great,”  
said the Abbot,  
“but, can you tell me  
how Sisaket got its name?”



Of the two folktales of Sisaket: **how did Sisaket get its name?**



### First

There was a Khmer princess named 'Sirikanlayani', or 'Sikanlaya', or 'Phra-nang-si'. She was traveling from Inthapat town in Cambodia to visit her husband in Phimai town. On the way she passed Saduk-am-pin, where there was a big pond. She was bathing and washing her hair in the big pond called 'Sa Kamphangyai'. When the town was built there, people named it from Phra-nang-si's story. The town was called 'Siriket' and then 'Sisaket' (Si = Phra-nang-si, sa = wash, ket = hair).





## Second

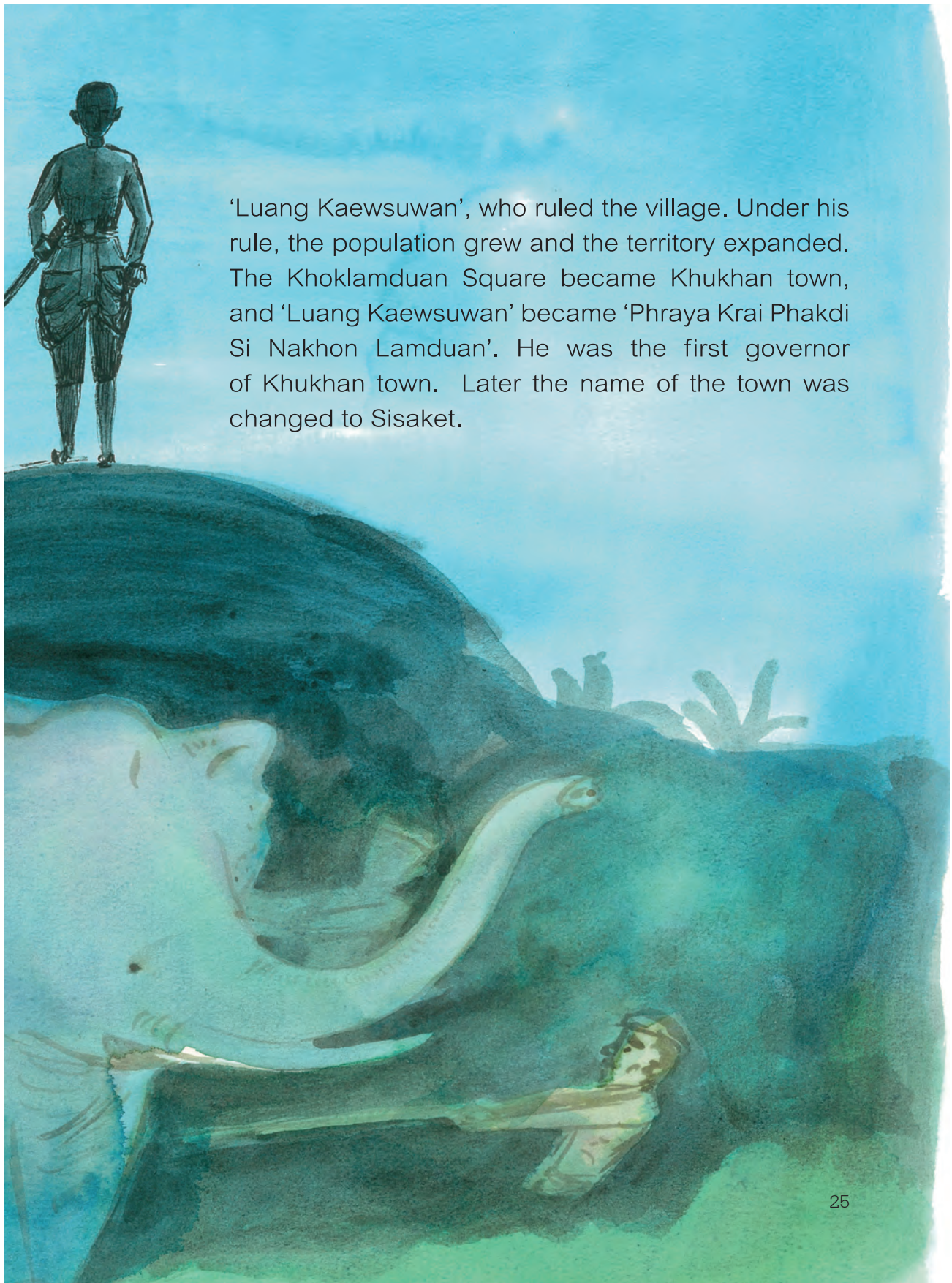
There was a Laotian princess named Nang Sirisopa, or Phra-nang-si, who married a king named Phraya Kraek. She got pregnant and was expecting a baby when she was trying to find her husband. She traveled to the pond and gave birth there. She cleaned herself and her baby in the pond. When the town was built, it was named Siriket or Sisaket.



## Another Tale of Sisaket

Sisaket was once called Khukhan town. In the Ayutthaya Period, a white royal elephant escaped into the forest at the border between Thailand and Cambodia. The King asked his officers in Phimai to find and catch the elephant. Phimai's governor introduced the officers to a skillful hunter named Takacha, or Chiangkhan. He managed to catch the elephant. Therefore, the King appointed him as



A watercolor illustration in shades of blue, green, and white. In the upper left, a man in traditional attire stands on a dark green hill, looking out over a landscape. Below him, a large white bull with a curved horn lies on the ground. In the foreground, a person lies on the ground, possibly dead or resting. The background shows a hazy landscape with some trees under a light blue sky.

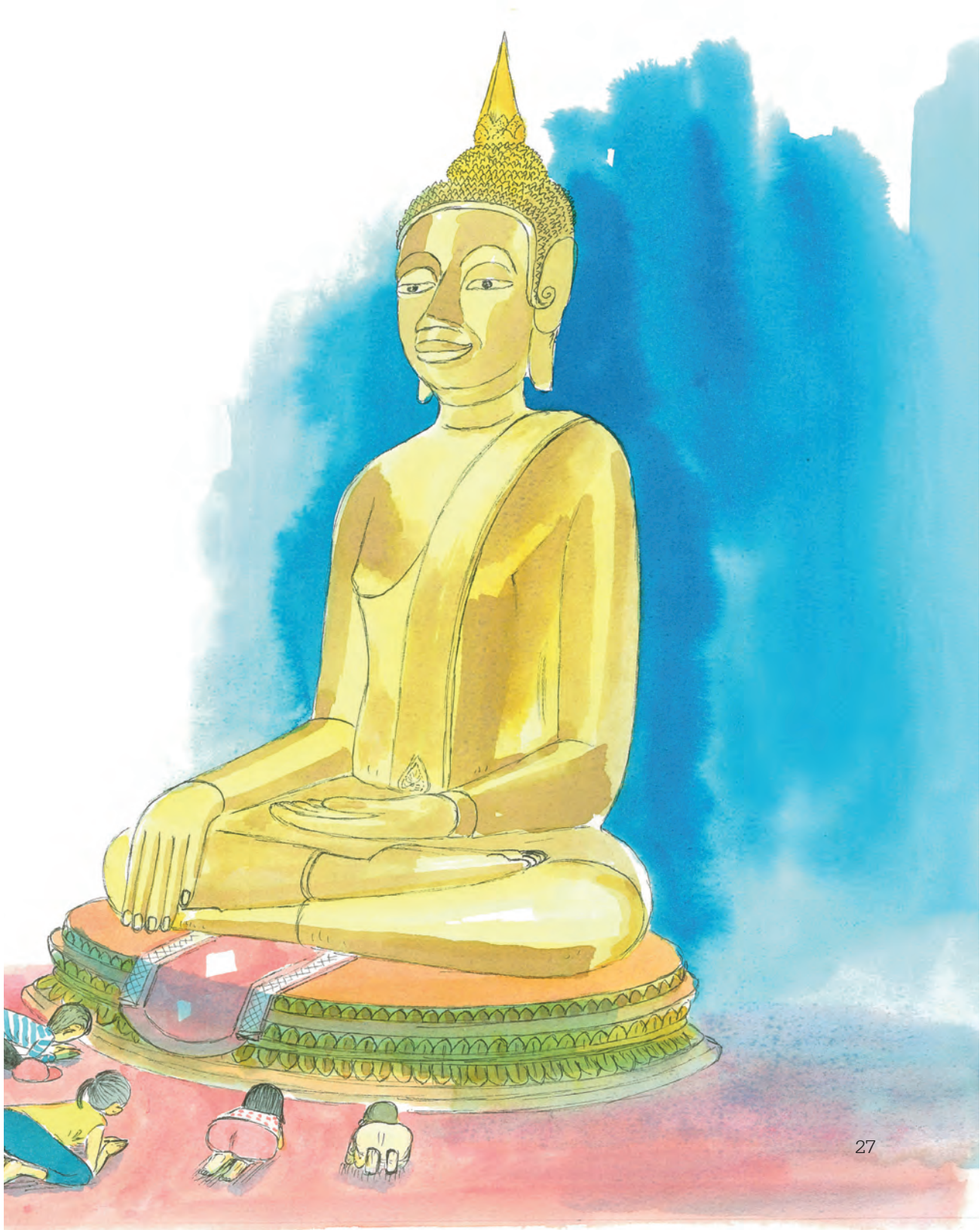
‘Luang Kaewsuan’, who ruled the village. Under his rule, the population grew and the territory expanded. The Khoklamduan Square became Khukhan town, and ‘Luang Kaewsuan’ became ‘Phraya Krai Phakdi Si Nakhon Lamduan’. He was the first governor of Khukhan town. Later the name of the town was changed to Sisaket.



Afterwards, the abbot took the kids to venerate Luang Por Tho, which is a Buddha image in the Subduing Mara position. It was found when the temple relocated to its present location in Sisaket. The major of Sisaket at that time was Phraya Wiset Phakdi (Chom). He was the second mayor of Sisaket. He had a temple built where Luang Por Tho was found, which is called Wat Maha Buddha Ram Temple. Now it is very famous among the people of Sisaket.









## The Moral of Sisaket is Second-to-None



The author included these values in both pictures and words. For example, in the episodes when the kids were going to the temple and when the kids paid respect and said goodbye to the Abbot, teachers may introduce students to the Thai core values. Teachers may persuade students to discuss Buddhism simply by talking about the temples nearby.

In Sisaket Is Second to None, Wat Maha Phuttha Ram, or Wat Luang Phor Tho, was mentioned. When students are familiar with the temples, it is easier to teach them values about Buddhism. Teachers should be aware not to ask students to answer questions as they have been accustomed. Instead teachers should let students lead the discussion. It can also be done in a small talk or a seminar. For example, teachers may introduce the topic of Luang Phor Tho, and students do the talking about their experiences related to Wat Luang Phor Tho, or other temples. Teachers should encourage students to explore activities concerned with Buddhism, starting with the activities mentioned in the book. For example, teachers may pick out the scene when the kids went to the temple



to help organize the temple fair. This displays devotion, patience, and respect for others. The characters helped one another and students can share experiences of how they have been patient and how they have shown respect for others in real life.

Concerning the core values of being disciplined and following the laws, it can be seen in the story the kids were pushing the fruit trolley to sell at the market. They waited for the train to pass first—showing conformity to the traffic rules. Following the laws creates a safe and peaceful society. A lot of children are not aware that there are traffic rules. Teachers can start building up discipline by talking about laws that are easy for students to understand and follow.





## The Author's Profile

### Preeda Punyachand

- Born:** December 10th, 1959
- Education:** Bachelor Degree, Faculty of Fine Arts, Srinakarinwirot Prasarnmit University
- Honors:** Men-Lob-Fon (The Porcupine Who Was Hiding from the Rain)--the Outstanding Book Award from the 1995 National Book Fair  
Kra-Duk-Kra-Dik Consolation Prize from the 1996 National Book Fair  
Len-Klang-Chaeng (Let's Play Outside) Consolation Prize from the 1997 National Book Fair  
Racha-Kap-Ruesi (The King and the Mentor)--the Outstanding Book Award from the 2009 National Book Fair
- Books:** Men-Lob-Fon (The Porcupine Who Was Hiding from the Rain), Len-Klang-Chaeng (Let's Play Outside), Len-Rim-Nam (Let's Play along the River), Len-Nai-Pa (Let's Play in the Forest), Phra-Chan-Yak-Mi-Puean (The Moon Wants to Have Friends), the series of Sara-Sanuk (Fun Vowels), Racha-Kap-Ruesi (The King and the Mentor), and Kwam-Pho-Phiang (Sustainability)
- At Present:** Children's book author and illustrator  
Special lecturer in Children's Literature, Department of Library and Information Science, Srinakarinwirot Prasarnmit University  
Trainer specializing in how to develop reading skills among primary school students



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