
[Interviewer: Tola Say. Interviewee: Bin Song (BS)]
[00:00]
 After I finish pounding [the metal], I have to file it. I have to file it until it is ready to make the body of Angkuoch with.
[00:10]

[BS starts to file the piece of metal that he cut off.]
[02:45]

[Private conversation between BS and his wife]

[Wife of BS says:]

[Our daughter asked you to write the code numbers. She has sent us some money.]

BS:

[Go to sit right there! I will write down the code numbers in the moment.]
[03:40]

[BS changes the position of the metal piece in order to file another side of it.]
[03:48]
[ทิง

[BS takes the knife to pound the metal piece in order to get it in between the nails.]
[04:08]

[BS takes a nearby Angkuoch Russey to support the wooden block in order to keep it stable.]
[05:14]
 [When the filing is done, BS extracts the metal piece from the nails.]
 [BS puts the metal piece between the nails to file it further.]
[07:28]

How do you want it to become? When do you know that the filing is done?
ต่ยทฺ์?
What?

How do you want it to become?



I have to file it until it becomes even. It cannot produce a sound unless I make it nice. If it is not even and smooth, it cannot produce a sound. That is why I have to file it until it becomes nice.
[07:51]

Make it nice! Make it even so then the body of Angkuoch can appear!


What I am doing now is based on the technique that I know. If I did not understand this, I could not make it happen.
[08:16]

How do you call this? 'Snok' [Body]?



It is called, the 'body of Angkuoch'. This body of Angkuoch... Some people call it 'Touk' or 'Snok'. People can call it in two ways. Some people prefer 'Touk Angkuoch' and some people prefer 'Snok Angkuoch'. It depends on their preference.

Who calls it 'Touk'? and who calls it 'Snok'?


Some people call it 'snok' and some people call it 'touk'. They can name it in two ways and they can use either of these two. They could use either.
[09:16]


Since I started making [Angkuoch], I never used fire to heat [the metal]. I always filed with unburned metal like this. Before, I use a nail [as the piece of metal]. The length of the nail was 15 centimeters.
[09:30]

Did you have to file the nail as well?
 I had to pound it like this metal piece! After pounding it, you start to bend it to make it look like the body. Its body!
[09:46]

## 

Did you have to take a nail to make it?

You had to take one to pound it. When you had it in hand, you had to pound it. You pounded it the same as this one.
[09:57]

Why aren't you using a nail?


Because I already had this piece of metal! I did not need to take a nail for the making. This piece of metal is the same as a nail. Both can be pounded.
[10:15]

Why don't you heat it? Is it faster this way?



Yes! If I heated it, I would have to use live [unbendable] metal. If I pounded it without heating it, it would break. Dead [bendable] metal does not break. The nail is a dead metal, so it will not break by pounding it. If it were a live metal, it could break.

What is live metal？And what is dead metal？


Live metal is an unbendable metal．It always goes back to its previous shape， so it is called，＇live metal＇．If it is a dead metal，it can be bent into any shape．
［10：58］


It is dead like a human being．If someone is dead on that spot，they can no longer move．［Laughs．．．］Dead like this！If it is dead，it can no longer walk．If it is still alive，it can still move on．
［11：22］

How many hours do you need for the filing？



No set time！Sometimes it is quick．Sometimes it takes two hours．Sometimes I am slow to make it，so it could take three hours．Sometimes it takes one hour and a half．I cannot set a time！

It depends on the metal file．Some metal files are sharp and some not．
［11：49］

Is this metal file new or old？


It is not new nor old because I have used it once．I took it to file once；it is no longer new，yet not old．
［12：08］

How many bodies do you have to make？One or two？
STก？
Body？
S゚「ばがNT？

## Bodies of Angkuoch?




I make only one. When I bend it, it will become two. After bending it, it will become like this. Now it becomes two. When it goes like this, I can start to file the bottom.

Do you like making Angkuoch?
MTS?
What?

Do you like making Angkuoch?


I do this because I like it. If I didn't, I would not make it. [Laughs...!]





I do this to make sure that old instruments of Cambodia will not disappear. What does Cambodia have? Before, Cambodia had Angkuoch, khloy [flute], Chapei Dong Veng [lute].... It had games. There were games [that were played] at festivals in our country. Our country has had all these things since the Angkor era. That is why I like to make it for the purpose of preservation.
[13:43]





I make this for the younger generation to show them what we used to have in the past. If I don't do this, they will not know. They will know only the instruments in their own generation. They would not know what they used to have in the past.





That is the reason I gave my attention to working on it. It is for the younger generation. I pay attention to the making! But I cannot make it well and nicely
because I cannot see clearly any more. I cannot see or hear well. And I also lost my teeth so I cannot work well like before.
[14:31]


But I still pay attention to the making process to make other people see and understand. I make it for the younger generation.

## [14:41]


Where did you learn?



 I learned to make it by myself. I started to make it because I heard people talking about it. Once I heard that, I thought, how can I do it? I was thinking about the technique. When I worked on it, it was usable. Once it was usable, I did not make it only for myself but also for selling.
[15:12]

Before I sold them for 25 per Angkuoch.
ต๕゙ร?
25?
ต๕โฺ่ญ!
25 Riel.
๒๕セุญู่า
25 dollars?

No! 25 Riel!

No! Before we used Riel currency. Khmer currency! I made it for sale. I could sell a lot.

## 

25 Riel in what era?

It was ages ago.

What era? 1960?

It was a long time ago. 1950! Perhaps in 1951 or 1952!

At that time, I was young. I was 11 years old.

How old?

11! At that time, I was 11. When I turned 11, I knew the making process.

## [16:12]

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So you have known the making process since you were 11?


Yes! I knew how to make it when I was 11. Once I did, people also started to use Angkuoch. Women knew! So did men!

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Did women know the making process as well?




No! They did not know how to make them. They could only play. When I loved a girl, I also let her know through Angkuoch playing. [ Laughs...!] Women also communicated through Angkuoch because they knew [how to play] it too.
When I loved her and she could play, we communicated through Angkuoch.
[16:40]

[BS indicates his wife who is nearby]:

Not this grandma! My previous wife! This one is the second.
[16:49]

How could people understand each other through Angkuoch playing?


It sounded very clear. We all knew it. Whatever words I said, they could hear them.




Like 'Oun euy!' 'Bong euy!' we all knew this. We could understand! Could communicate! Anyway, I played in a big group, perhaps four or five people, we could dance and sing a song called, 'Santouch'.

USீริ?
What song?

Santouch! A Santouch song!

"My only hook, I tie ... the crocodile bites me, biting until the stitching of my pants comes off ... "[Laughs...!]

And what else?
©
What?

What else is in the song?

There is lot in the song but I cannot remember. I've forgotten most of it.

"Those who are good, please come to sew my pants!"

It asks the girls to sew your pants?

They sang and danced joyfully.

Play! Dance! Play with one hand and dance with the other hand!
[18:00]
 Why did you have to play the Angkuoch for flirting with girls? Why didn't you tell them directly?


If I told them directly, their mothers could hear. Their mothers would know. When we communicated through Angkuoch, their mothers did not know.

## 

Their mothers didn't know?
ตต่ยิริษึฟโร์9
They didn't.

Why did you have to hide it from their mothers?

Why would I let them know?

Never let the mothers know! [Laughs...!]

Like when we went to join the festival. If I dared to tell them [the mothers], how could they let their daughters go?
[18:40]

Was your flirting successful?

 It was successful! In some cases we could be together without any engagement event or wedding ceremony. Before, there were no engagement events. If we loved each other, we communicated that and the men moved to live with the girl's family.
[19:00]



It is just like in this generation. Young people in this generation communicate by phone. They can communicate although they are at a distance. For Angkuoch, I could talk only when we were close. [Laughs...!]
[19:17]

[BS takes piece of metal from the nail board to check it over.]
[19:23]

I'm making it straight.

Why do you want it to be straight?

When it is straight, I can bend it. Soon, I will bend it.

ราเคึโัตบร
The filing process is almost done now. It needs a bit more.
[19:46]

Did you teach girls to play Angkuoch?

I taught them how to play. After that, they could learn from each other. They followed each other.

ตรைนกียง!
It is done now.

Didn't you learn Angkuoch-making from anyone? Self-taught?

No! I learnt it by myself. I taught myself.
[20:24]

Did you see any older people make this instrument before?



No! I did not see anyone. When I kept making it, I became better at it. When I became better at it, I thought, what should I do next?
[20:46]

Why did you want to make [Angkuoch]?



I wanted to make it because people were talking about it. I heard they said that we used to have Angkuoch to play before. Then I saw it in the Pali Canon. It has it in the Pali Canon. "Go to play Angkuoch and the whistled sounds `klev"klev'!"



This was written in Pali Canon. I thought, how might it [an Angkuoch] look? In the Pali Canon!
[21:10]

Did you read the Pali canon when you were young?



Yes! I read it! And I listened to the monks preaching. When the monks preached, I learned. I could remember. When I heard about it [Angkuoch], I thought, how could I do it? Then I started to make it.

But you had not seen it yet?
Gis?
What?

You had not seen it yet, so how could you make it?
 I had not seen it. When I started to make it, I did it as desired.


I did it another way! I waxed it here, before. When I became better at it, I did not need to wax it. It still sounded the same.
[21:56]

When you don't wax it, does it still produce sound?

> Although I do not wax it, it still produces a resonant sound as long as I make it correctly. I need to file it here until it gets soft. When it becomes soft, it can produce a sound without the need for waxing. It is resonant.


If I had teeth, I could make a resonant sound playing. With no teeth, how can I make it resonant? If I had teeth, I could compress it with my teeth so then the sound could be resonant.

When you were young, since you knew about Pali Canon, did you live at the pagoda?

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I went to live at the pagoda when I was very young. I went to live at the pagoda when I was around eight or nine years old. I never studied at school. I only stayed at the pagoda.
 It is done now. I have to bend it.
[23:12]

## 

How do you know that it is ready?

When I look at it, it is even now. I filed it fairly now. Now I need to bend it.
ํ.
I feel regretful that I cannot see clearly; and I have lost my teeth. When you
asked me to show you the Angkuoch making and tell what Khmer people used
to have - w used to have Angkuoch, Chapey Dong Veng, khloy! These
instruments have existed since ancient times. When I lost all my teeth, I felt so
regretful about it. I could no longer play.
[23:58]

## ETrievsuiss\%?

Have long since you lost your teeth?

I cannot show you!
GTrevsuits\%?
How long since you lost your teeth?




I lost them a long time ago. A few years now! Four years! Because the research team wanted to know about it [Angkuoch], I have to make it. No matter whether it is playable or not, I have to demonstrate and prove that we used to have it. It is playable. It is playable if you take it to a real player.
[24:57 - END]

