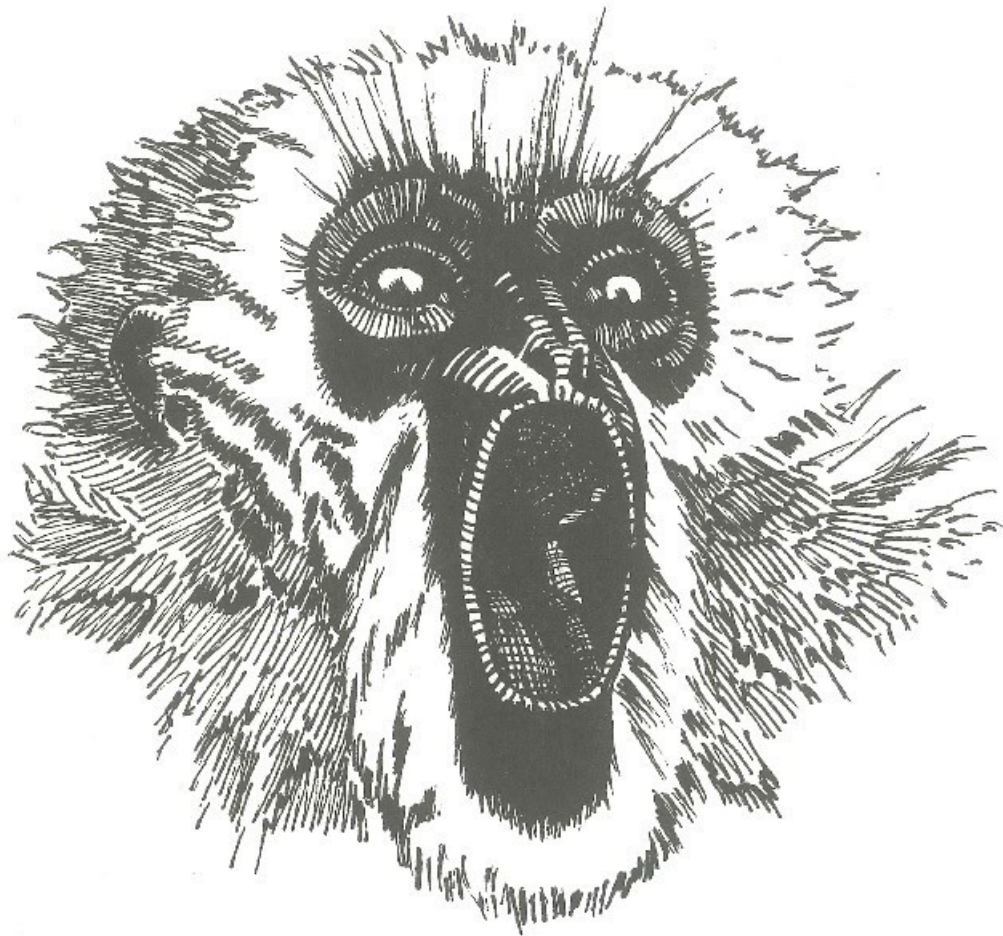


GIBBON STORIES, MYTHS AND LEGENDS FROM CAMBODIA

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We present these stories, myths and legends to highlight the cultural importance of gibbons in habitat countries. We must start with a clear statement that consuming any part of a gibbon has **no medicinal value** and that gibbons must **not be kept as a pet** (it is illegal everywhere). So please do enjoy these stories, but remember they are just stories.



CAMBODIA (Source: Naven Hon, Conservation International)

Kavet People from Ratanakiri province. The story of the gibbon calling (in their language the word "calling" means "crying"):

Long time ago, there was a family who live near the jungle, one day the kid (not sure boy or girl) asked mother, I was hungry, and wanted to have rice. The mother responded that, the rice was not yet, we needed to prepare plantation first. After the farm had been prepared, the kid asked again, could I have rice, the mother responded again, not yet. We needed to plant the rice first. Then the kid asked again, why it took very long time, can I have rice please, the mother still responded, not yet. We needed to pound the rice first. The kid though, it was very long to wait to have rice, so suddenly the kid took a bunch of cold rice and run into the jungle. The kid then lived in the jungle and became as a gibbon. Whenever the kid hungry, the kid remembered the cold rice, and then started crying (calling). The sound of the calling or crying (Ouk Koy, Ouk Koy), the Kaven translated as the cold rice (Ouk Koy Ouk Koy).