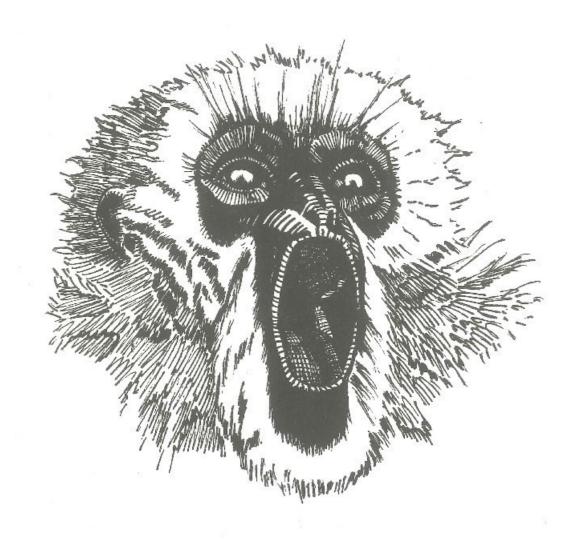
GIBBON STORIES, MYTHS AND LEGENDS FROM LAOS PDR Updated 11th November 2024

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.



LAOS PDR

For many ethnic minorities, gibbons and langurs (small apes and leaf monkeys) traditionally carried hunting and postnatal consumption taboos. Langurs were viewed as protectors of people as they gave warnings when big felidae (cats) were near. Gibbons were appreciated for their beautiful songs and seen as reincarnated ancestors. Only the more abundant macaque monkeys were regularly consumed (Krahn, 2005).

References:

- Krahn, J. 2005. The dynamics of dietary change of transitional food systems in tropical forest areas of Southeast Asia. The contemporary and traditional food systems of the Katu in Sekong province, Lao PDR. Bonn, Germany: Bonn Rheinische Freidrich- Wilhelms Universität (dissertation).
- Krahn, J. & Johnson, A. 2007. Upland food security and wildlife management.

 Juth Pakai (Perspectives on Lao Development) 9: 17–33.