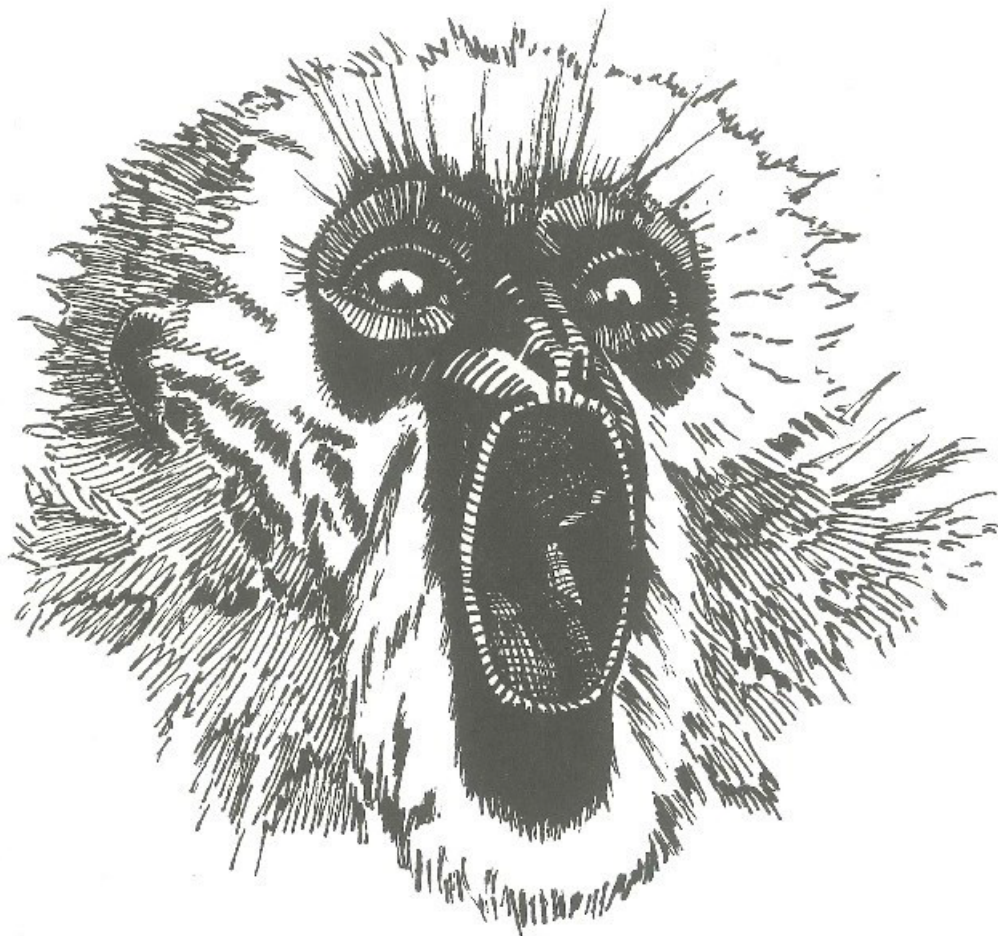


GIBBON STORIES, MYTHS AND LEGENDS FROM MYANMAR

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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.



MYANMAR (Source: (Geissmann et al. 2013))

Researchers have noted there may be a special regard for gibbons in Myanmar among the ethnic Kayin (= Karen), who claimed cultural taboos against killing gibbons at the only site in that state. Such informal prohibitions among the Kayin were also observed in one wildlife sanctuary in western Thailand, where researchers “found no reason to contradict Karen claims about never harming gibbons”. They conclude that this special “respect” for the species may be due to observed similarities between gibbons and humans in the eyes of the Karen. In other parts of the country there is clearly a ‘hunting culture’ that appears to be strongly linked to ethnicity. The Lisu people, for example, are widely regarded (by others and among themselves) as great hunters, and large collections of trophies often adorn the walls of their homes. The Naga are also famed for their hunting prowess.

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