

# The Saint and the Popular are Mixed in Thailand

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I had watched, heard and tasted various kind of things. I was heard that there were the Saint and the popular in Thailand. Especially I have been interested in the Thailand of the Buddhism. The Buddhism that the Thailand people believe is the popular point. When I walked around the Chiang-Mai city about 7:00 a.m., two or three priests were walked fast because of a religious mendicancy. A lot of citizens offered foods. The scene was very pure and divine. When the Thailand man is 20 years old, they become a priest. The priest is hold the 227 religious precepts and it is hard for them, but if they made it, they are going to be treated the adult. Concerning religion, it is mysterious to the Japanese that are vague. But why do the Thailand people that never look rich man offer food to the priest? When I arrived, I felt the Thailand people are very friendly. So Thailand became my favorite country soon. One day morning I walked around the Chaing-Mai city, and went to the market. I was surprised it was very vigorous and powerful. I had a breakfast of noodle with feef and spycy soup. It was more delicious than "*The Continental style breakfast*". And I moved to Pam Bog village, to build up the water supply system that the villagers can use the clean water directly from the only stream which passes through the village, because of a water shortage in dry season. Although it was very hot,

we were digging ditches but the villagers worked much harder than us and I thought to be sorry. Because we were welcomed very much and we had a lot of delicious Thailand foods so we had been lazy. We always eaten our full, but I supposed that it was not usually for all villagers. One day I tried some larvae of the beetle which usually eaten by villagers as the protein supply, but taste was not so good for me. The last day of our camp, I heard a tragedy. The woman who was the poorest in the village was killed by fever and hunger. I was no idea about it. Why? I think the royal government is the starting point of poverty and wealth. The gulf between rich and poor is great in this country....Well, the farewell party at this village attracted me so much. Pure girls in this village were so beautiful after their make up for that party with "*Khantoku dinner*". I was so surprised because their looks changed so much than usually. I had a lot of extremes during staying in Thailand. The croud of the department store, the slum of Klong Toey, the shining of Wat Prah Keo and the poor of the North. The rich and poor, the Saint and the popular. There are a lot of serious and big problems but they are going to say "*Mai penrai*". In fact I was attracted by this word. If my revisit is possible, I will spend my time slowly and carefully, so I can love this country more and more than now.