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On Corpses, Ghosts, and Amulets in the Funerary Culture of Thai Buddhism

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Key Terms:

Phra kruang – Thai for “amulet”

Yantra – Sanskrit for powerful protective diagram

Mantra – Sanskrit for transformative or protective incantation

Ngan Sop – Thai for funeral ritual

Takrut – Thai for rolled (usually) metal scroll of a protective Buddhist incantation worn around the neck

Asubhakammatthana – Pali for a class of meditation types which feature focusing on “unbeautiful” or unpleasant things like corpses

Somdet Toh – famous Thai monk and master of protective magic

Jinapanjara Gatha – well-known Pali incantation or protective chant

Paritta – a type of protective Pali chant common throughout South and Southeast Asia, major chants are the Ratana Sutta, Mora Paritta, among others

Pi -- Thai for “ghost”

Winyan – difficult concept in Thai for “consciousness” or essence

Nang Nak or *Mae Nak* – famous Thai ghost

King Mongkut or *King Rama IV* – important 19th century Siamese/Thai king

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