

The Marriage of Sun King and Silver Moon  
A Myth from Thailand  
Play based on an adaptation from *Sun Stories* by Carolyn Edwards

**Cast:**

Narrator:

Sun:

Beautiful Dawn:

Star 1:

Star 2:

Star 3:

Other stars as needed:

Lights:

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NARRATOR: In a cave by the Great River, the Sun King once lay with his beloved so long that paradise on Earth was lost. But that was before her name was Silver Moon, and before the Stars had made their bargain with the Sun.

It happened long ago when the Sun was young. Every day he trotted his mares and stallions across the sky. Every evening, the Sun King set his steeds to rest in their shining stables. While the Sun King rested, the Stars crowded into the night sky, visiting and holding council above the peaceful sleepers below. Beautiful Dawn, daughter of the Earth King, was a young woman when the Sun first noticed her. He found her lying by the Great River.

[Beautiful Dawn reclines beside the ‘river’ humming to herself]

SUN: [drives his chariot by, sees BD, and stops] Wow.

BD: [notices the Sun, gets up, and smiles shyly at him] Hello.

SUN: Oh, yes. Hello. I am the Sun King; and you are...?

BD: I am called Beautiful Dawn.

SUN: Beautiful indeed.

[Sun and BD, continue talking and laughing softly together]

STAR 1: [from off stage] Beautiful Dawn has turned his head!

STAR 2: [from off stage] They’re going to fall in love with each other.

STAR 3: [from off stage] How wonderful!

SUN: See you tomorrow? [kisses BD’s hand]

BD: [nods]

NARRATOR: Finally, the sun king quit altogether going home to his palace in the evenings. He tied his horses near a cave at the bank of the river. He spent every minute with Beautiful Dawn.

[Sun and BD, sitting together, laughing and talking]

STAR 2: The Sun isn't setting. It hasn't set for days!

STAR 1: Oh, don't worry about it. Beautiful Dawn is like a daughter to us. Let them have their time.

[pause]

STAR 3: The Sun hasn't set for a month! I miss the darkness!

[Stars murmur agreement]

[Sun and BD get up and go off stage]

NARRATOR: It was a relief, when Beautiful Dawn and the Sun King retired to a cave by the river. Darkness finally fell over the world, and was welcomed by all.

[Lights dim]

[Stars come on stage]

STAR 3: Darkness! What a relief!

STAR 2: You know they're not going to come out of there for a while.

STAR 1: So what are we going to do about it?

[Stars talk among themselves]

STAR 2: Steal his chariot? Wonderful!

[Stars laugh among themselves, and sneak over to where the chariot is, quiet the horses (perhaps with sound effects?) and take the chariot away.]

NARRATOR: The day seemed unending before. Now it was the night that did not lift. The birds stopped singing, the plants stopped growing, and the world grieved at the loss of the light.  
[pause] Finally, the young lovers emerge from the cave.

SUN: [looking around frantically] My chariot! I can't find my chariot! Where are my horses?

BD: [not understanding] Just stay here with me, darling. Everything will be fine.

SUN: But I have to light the world. I need my horses and chariot. I'm going to look for them!

BD: [reluctantly] I will go with you, then. I don't want to leave you.

[Sun and BD go around to different places, searching]

SUN: This is hopeless! I must go look for them at my palace. Come, take my hand, and we'll jump there.

BD: [very sadly] I can't do that. But I will wait for you.

SUN: I will come for you when I find my chariot!

[BD goes off stage, Sun walks around until he gets to his palace, then flings open the doors; Stars are waiting there, with arms crossed and feet tapping]

SUN: Where are my horses! Where is my chariot!

STAR 3: We have them safe and ready for you.

SUN: Where!!

STAR 1: You shall have your horses and chariot and again be King of the Day. But—you can have them if and only if you agree never again to shine at night.

SUN: I promise! Now, where are my horses?!

STAR 2: That's not all. You have your work, Sun. Now that Beautiful Dawn is grown, she has her work as well. From now on her name is Silver Moon, and she will be Queen of the Night. You may only come to her when she is not shining.

SUN: Of course I will light the day, but I will visit my queen whenever I choose!

STARS: [raising eyebrows and shaking heads, say forcefully] Only when she is not shining!

SUN: [Looks around, thinking, also seeing the Stars being very firm, and sighs] Alright. I agree.

[Lights brighten]

NARRATOR: And so the Sun King and Silver Moon with her court of Stars took their balanced place in the sky. To this very day, the Sun almost always keeps his bargain with the Stars. Never does he shine at night; almost always he shines during the day. He waits to visit Moon on the other side of the sky until she closets her silvery robes and veils herself in soft black for him. Only during the time of the eclipse does Sun make his way, filled with unbearable longing, across the sky to be with his Moon when she is shining.