

Part III: The Origin of Songkran



"Do you know the meaning of throwing water at each other?" This is a question frequently asked by outsiders participating in Songkran each year. To provide a complete answer for this question, the meaning and origin of Songkran must be explained.

Songkran is the traditional New Year Festival of Tai ethnic groups. It falls in mid-April annually. Songkran in Sanskrit means a move, in reference to the significant movement of the sun into the sign of Aries, leading into a New Year. In ancient astrology, Aries is the first sign of the zodiac in relation to the solar circulation. When the sun moves to Aries, or mid-April, it signifies the change of the year. Thus, the New Year starts.