The servant smiled again. "Of course, a great person like King Vajiravudh must surely have a long name!"

"Oh, really? I see... Please tell the king we will be ready tomorrow at 10:00. Thank you so much!"
The servant bowed his head for the third time and left.

Perla turned to Rivka:
"Rivka, can you believe it! The king wants Itzik and me to come to him tomorrow. I wonder what he wants?"

At ten o'clock the next morning, Itzik and Perla waited for the king's servant.

At 10:20 a man came to take them to the palace. He was dressed in a black suit and did not look Siamese.

"Hello," he said. "My name is Mr. Hunter and I am the English secretary of the king. I am here to take you to the palace."

When they were all sitting in a fine little boat, Itzik asked Mr. Hunter if he knew what the king wanted.

"Something to do with the king's upcoming marriage◊," answered Mr. Hunter, "but I don't know exactly what."

King Vajiravudh of Siam, also called 'Rama VI', was already king for 10 years, but he still was not married. Now he was finally engaged◊ and all of Siam was waiting for his wedding.

◊ upcoming marriage – חֲתֻנָּה הַמִּתְקָרֶבֶת
◊ engaged – מְאוֹרָס

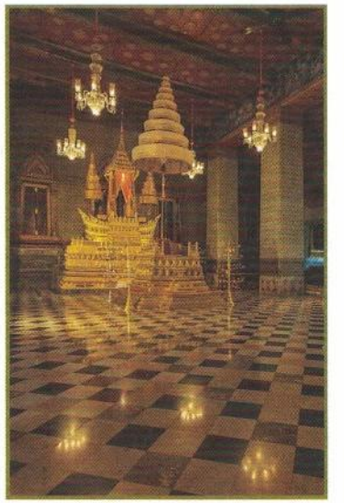
After sailing for some time, the boat stopped and they got off in a beautiful area of Bangkok. They saw many beautiful palace buildings with a lot of gold on them. There were also lovely gardens with special trees and flowers all around the buildings.

"This is the Grand Palace," explained Mr. Hunter. "It was built about 150 years ago. King Rama VI now lives most of the time in 'Dusit Palace', which is new and looks more European.
But the king's wedding will be here."

The palace was very Siamese and very grand.

Itzik and Perla were brought into a large, beautiful room. After waiting a few minutes, the king walked in. All the servants in the room put their hands to their faces and bowed low. Itzik and Perla bowed their heads too.

"So we meet again, dear Laskers!" said the king. "This time, I have some good news for you! But please tell me first, how has the time passed for you in Siam?"



The 'Throne Hall' of the Grand Palace where the king received people.
אולם כס-המלך לקבלת מוזמנים.