

This formula is adhered to fairly rigorously in conservative areas like Nan province. Rural people in Nan know that an infraction of the rules may bring disaster on a project, or at best cause an ominous apparition warning the transgressor to mend his ways.

A more esoteric formula, which appears to be unnamed, runs:

On Sunday do not go travelling, or you will lose your money and valuables. On Monday do not build a porch for your house, or your children and grandchildren will suffer. On Tuesday do not sharpen swords or knives, as these will be liable to kill you. On Wednesday do not clear scrub to build a house, or the Bald Spirit is apt to disturb you. On Thursday do not plant houseposts or build sheds or huts, if you do not want wandering spirits to haunt you. On Friday do not go into the forest, for the jungles are full of restless forest spirits. On Saturday do not uproot seedlings or plant rice, or the rice shoots will not develop properly and there will not be enough rice to feed the family.

Three well-known and highly regarded formulas take into account the day of the week in conjunction with other factors. The Lost Days (*wan sia*) are days of the week which occur during certain lunar months.

Table 4
The Lost Days

| Months | Lost Days |
|----------|--------------------|
| 1, 5, 9 | Sunday, Monday |
| 2, 6, 10 | Tuesday |
| 3, 7, 11 | Thursday, Saturday |
| 4, 8, 12 | Wednesday, Friday |

The Burnt Days (*wan mai*) and Days of Destruction by Disease (*wan lookaawinaat*) are days of the week which coincide with certain days of the waxing or waning moon⁷. They are something like our Friday the Thirteenth.

Table 5
The Burnt Days and Days of Destruction by Disease

| day of the week | day of the lunar phase | |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Burnt Day | Day of Destruction by Disease |
| Sunday | 1 | 4 |
| Monday | 4 | 6 |
| Tuesday | 6 | 10 |
| Wednesday | 9 | 3 |
| Thursday | 5 | 8 |
| Friday | 3 | 9 |
| Saturday | 1 | 7 |

⁷ The Burnt Days formula is almost identical to the Siamese "Days of Criticism" (*wan thakthin*) recorded by SINGTO (1972: 423). "The Days of Destruction by Disease" corresponds closely to the Siamese "Days of World Destruction" (*wan lookaawinaat*) (SINGTO 1972: 424; THEP 1960: 185).