

*Please recycle to a friend!*

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Cover photo by Nahshon Cook

**Origami Poem Projects™**

***Nonthaburi Immigration***

Nahshon Cook © 2013



## ***Nonthaburi Immigration***



***Nahshon Cook***

Nonthaburi - a central province of Thailand

The taxi ride back to my flat was pleasant:  
the driver was lovely enough to offer me watermelon  
after wrongly assuming I was a professional soccer player.  
He even turned the radio down  
while I talked with mom on the phone  
and shared with her the story about the monk.  
But, he also tried to charge me eighty baht  
more than the meter said I owed.

3

When I suggested  
he go to the eye doctor to see if he might need glasses,  
he shook his head 'no' saying he uses the pain  
as an invitation to practice and deepen his meditation.  
Then he asked where I lived,  
how much I paid for rent  
and if he could have my phone number.

I was in line, reading my book,  
waiting for my number to be called  
when a monk from Cambodia  
came up behind me, looked over my shoulder  
and asked what I was reading.  
He was musky, so I smelled him  
before I turned around and saw him.  
When I did, he was smiling a smile  
full of plaque enameled teeth  
that looked like they'd gone to bed  
and woken up the next morning  
without being brushed for a few days.  
During the course of our conversation  
he shared that he was studying  
for his Master's degree in comparative philosophy,  
and that he sometimes gets migraines  
from reading so much.

2

1)

Forty-five minutes into the taxi ride  
to the immigration office  
the driver realized he'd lost us.  
So, he parked on the side of the road  
and asked for help from a few different  
passing pedestrians  
which landed us at a Visa stamping office  
for Thais wanting to go to Cambodia.

By now he was quite upset.  
So, he hailed another taxi,  
gave the driver the paper with the directions on it,  
kicked me out of his car and drove off.

When we arrived  
the taxi driver tried to charge me  
eighty baht more than the meter said I owed.  
I gave him exact change  
and thanked him for his help.