Part 403 for Cathy's blog

Today is Wednesday 28th, October. It is David's birthday, so we went to his favourite temple : the Bayon.

Where do I start to show you the carvings at the Bayon?

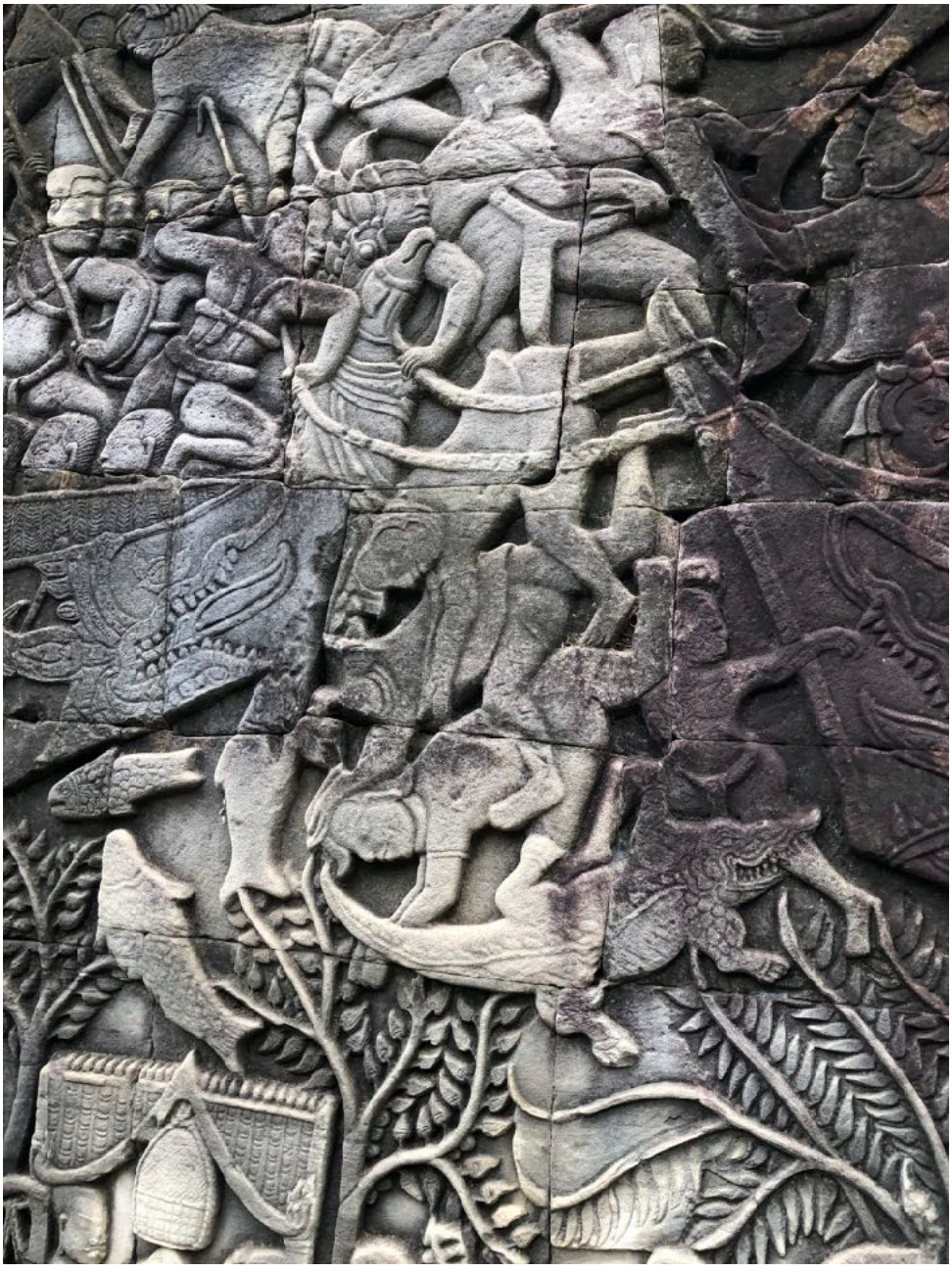
Here is a complicated scene with people and animals.



Fish in the water and a crocodile catching a fish. Can you see the very round tortoise? Under the water, there are birds. Some of the birds are "dancing". There are more animals in the tree, perhaps a squirrel and a monkey.

While you are looking for these animals, check out the lion fighting with a person (a damaged carving).

And someone is sneaking away with goods in baskets slung from a shoulder yoke.



The next scene (above) involves people on a boat, people falling out of a boat and someone being bitten by the crocodile.

It is part of a war.

Historians could tell you which war this was (and who won… I expect it was the Angkorian King).



Troops were carried in the boats and other people were rowers.

And the workers and family members came along and set up camp in huts made of woven sugar palm leaves.

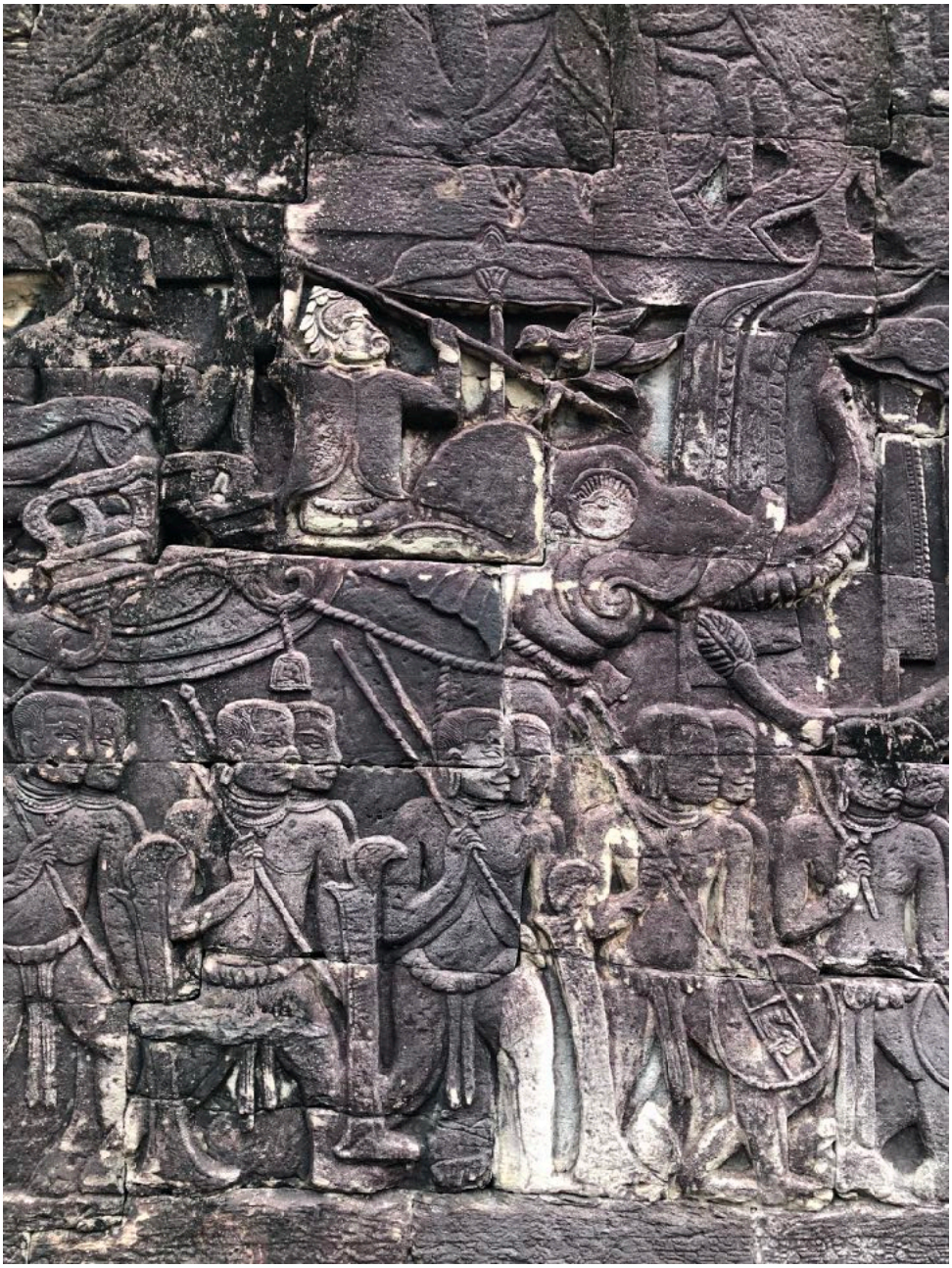


There were many people other than the soldiers.



The warriors were there to protect you.

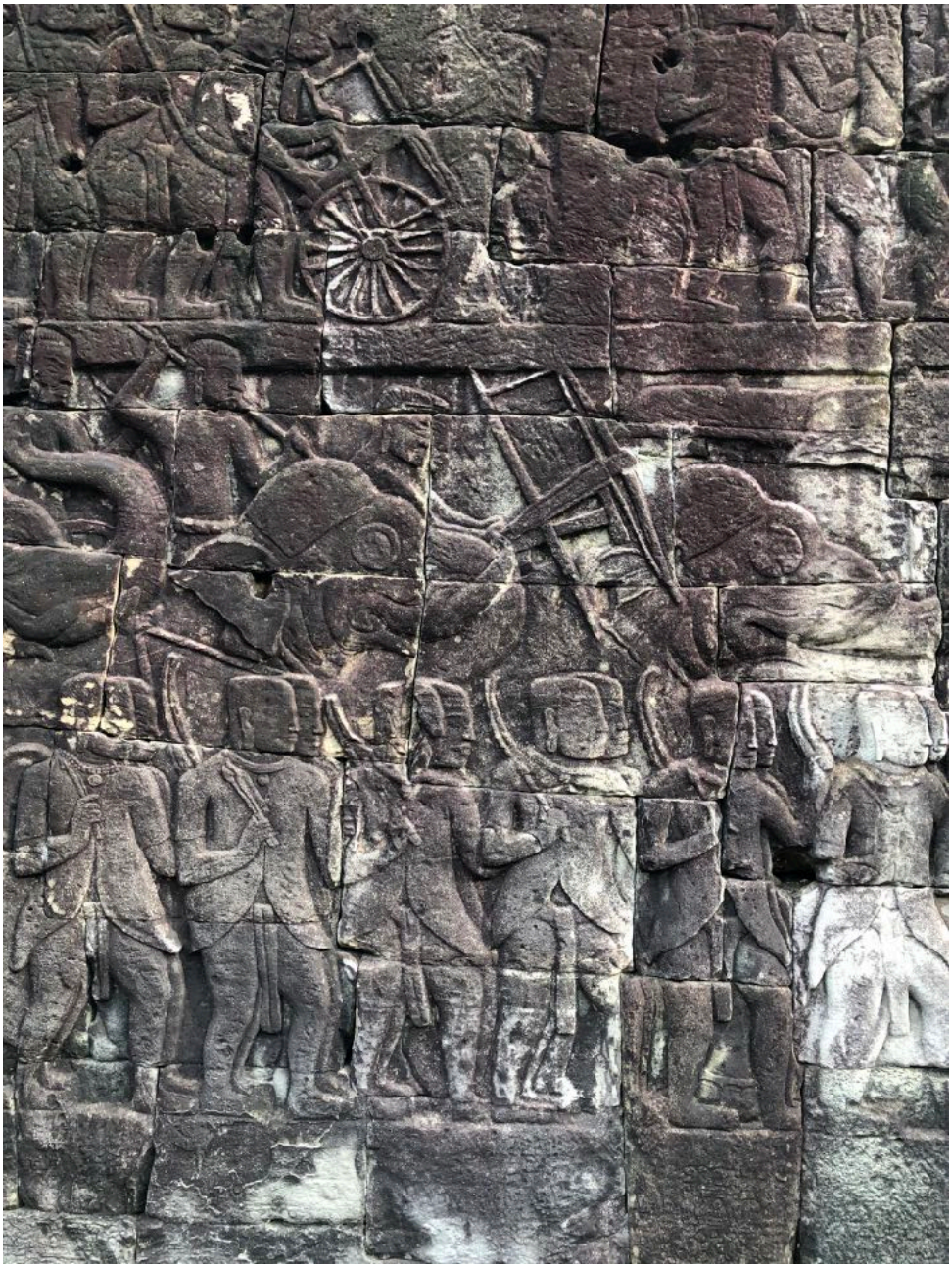
I hope they are not vultures in the trees.



In other wars, they used elephants.



And horses.



They had carriages (and ladders?).

Of course, on land, you were safe from the crocodiles, but you could still be chased up a tree by a big cat.



After all that excitement, it was time to eat.



You would not eat your best fighting boars.



And cows were sacred.



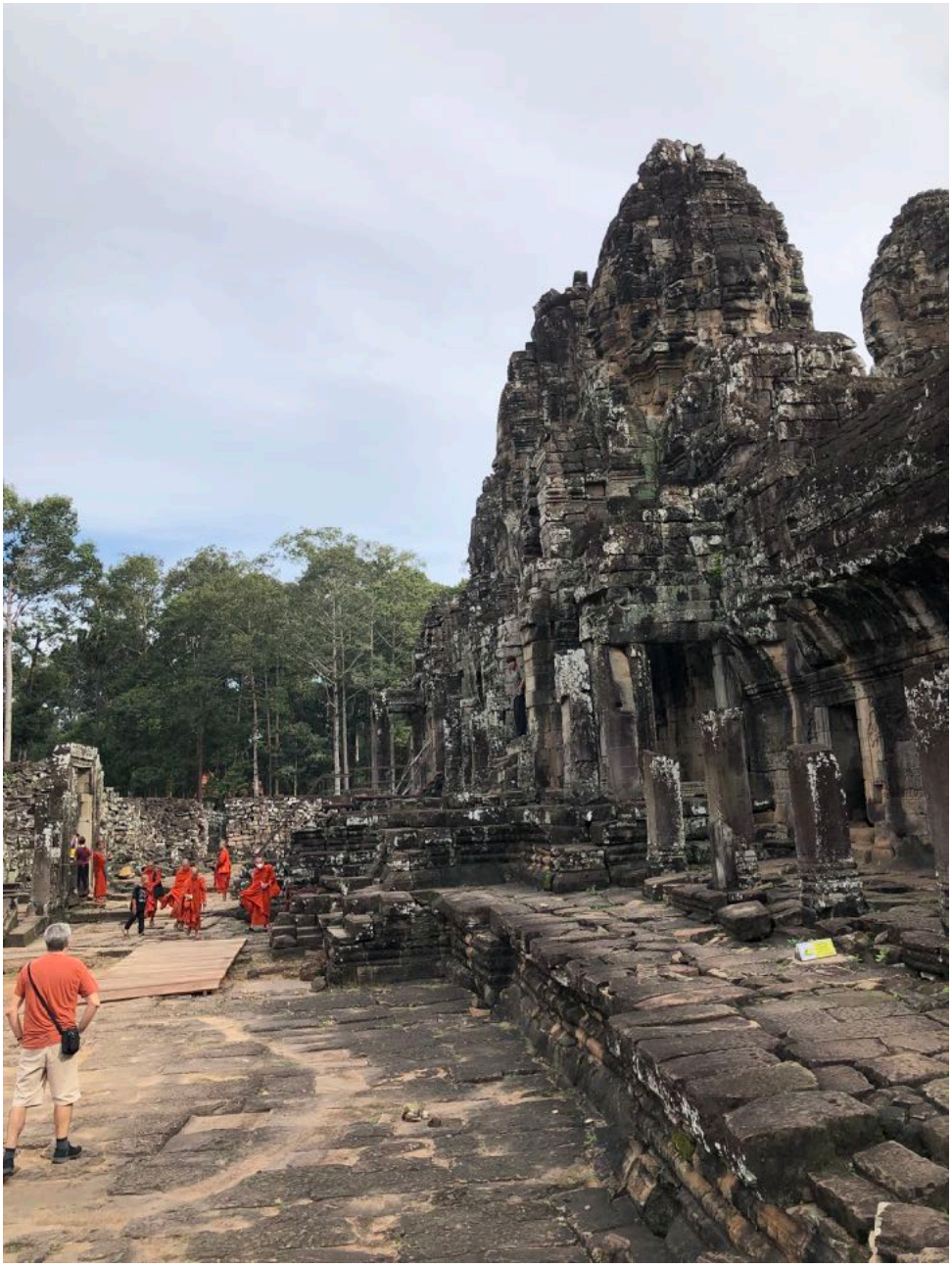


Perhaps, you would like a mug of beer?

Or just a cup of tea… someone will put the kettle on.



These temples are still important to Buddhists in Cambodia (and throughout the world).



A few tourists were there and several groups of monks.



The Bayon is famous for the faces carved on each side of the 54 towers.

Today, another famous “face” appeared at the Bayon.



I’ll bet you thought I was going to put in a photo of David!



Happy Birthday David, from the Bayon.