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Dead man comes home

Family stunned as long-dead man walks in

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The real Sakorn Sachiwa has two missing front teeth. (Captured image from a news programme aired on Channel 3)

A Si Sa Ket man who was believed dead and cremated in May has returned home very much alive, to his family's great astonishment, and is now seeking to correct the official record.

Sakorn Sachiwa, 44, walked in **unannounced** at his home in Non Khun district on Sunday, Thai media reported.

His step-brother Charoen Lekdi said the family was totally astounded. They had been contacted in May by police and asked to collect Mr Sakorn's body. Police said he had died of a **digestive** disease at a rented room in Phra Nakhon district on May 18.

The family went to pick up the body from the Faculty of Medicine Vijira Hospital of Navamindrachiraj University. They received a death **certificate** dated May 21, issued by Phra Nakhon district of Bangkok.

Nakornchai Pimklang, a **cousin**, said family members asked to look at the body. He noticed the front teeth were different. His step-brother had two teeth missing.

He had pointed this out to an official, who suggested the family to just take the body, which was already **swollen**. The family took the body home and held religious **rites** for three days before the **cremation**. The bone **relics** were placed in a **chedi** at Wat Ban Lao Fai.

And then Mr Sakorn arrived home on Sunday evening. The family was shocked. The **cousins** kept touching him until sure he was not a ghost, he said.

Mr Sakorn said he had been working on a fishing boat based in Nakhon Si Thammarat since Jan 24, 2016. During that time a Myanmar worker had stolen his identification card and fled. He reported the missing card and had been issued a new one at Khanom district office in the southern province.

He had now left the job and had returned home, only to find his family thought him long dead and cremated.

Mr Sakorn now wants the official record changed, because it still shows he died on May 18.

It is not known who was cremated in his place.

Vocabulary:

- astounding** : extremely surprising or shocking - น่าประหลาดใจ
- certificate** : an official document or record stating that particular facts are true - ประกาศนียบัตร เกียรติบัตร
- chedi (noun)** : a pagoda, a stupa, a temple in S or E Asia in the form of a tall tower with several levels - เจดีย์
- cousin** : a child of your uncle or aunt; someone who is related to you through a brother, sister, uncle, or aunt of one of your parents - ลูกพี่ลูกน้อง, ญาติห่างๆ
- cremate** : to burn the body of a dead person - เผาศพ
- cremation** : the burning of a dead body - การเผาศพ (งานพระราชทานเพลิงพระศพ)

digestive	: connected to digestion, the process in the body of making food in substances the body can use - เกี่ยวกับการย่อยอาหาร
flee	: to leave a place or person quickly because you are afraid of possible danger - หนี อพยพ
relics	: the bones of someone who has been cremated - อัฐิ
rite	: a traditional ceremony, especially a religious one - พิธีกรรม (พระราชพิธี)
swollen	: larger or fuller than normal - ขยายใหญ่, พองตัว, บวม
unannounced	: happening without anyone being told or warned in advance - ไม่ได้ประกาศล่วงหน้า