

NTUJ TSIM TEB RAUG
(Hnub thiab hri)
THE BEGINNING OF
THE WORLD
(The Sun and the Moon)

-A HMONG FOLK TALE IN
HMONG AND BEGINNING
ESL: LEVEL 2

Hmong Folk Tales
Retold in ESL

Series Editor:
Charles Johnson



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THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD:

The Sun and Moon



Thiab thawj thawj tub txiv neej
thiab poj niam
tawm ntawm ib phab toj roob los
rau saum lub ntiaj teb no mas,
tseem tsaus ntuj nti xwb.



When the first man and woman
came out of the mountain,
everything was dark.

Tsis tau muaj hnuv.
Tsis tau muaj hli li.



No sun. No moon.

Ntuj noyb nqis nqis kawg.
Nqis tsis nqis mas
kawg qhov Luj Tub cev tes xuas tau.



The sky was low.
It was so low
that Lou Tou sometimes
touched it with his hand.

Luj Tub yog thawj tub txiv neej lub npe.

Nws tus poj niam hu ua Ntxhi Chiv.

Ntxhi Chiv cev xeeb tub
ces txawm yug tau ib tug tub.
Ces ho yug tau tub dua ntxiv thiab.



Lou Tou was
the first man's name.

His wife was See Chee.

She got pregnant and had a son,
then more sons.

Ib tug tub hu ua Theeb Tswv.

Theeb Tswv hais tias,

"Txiv, lub ntiaj teb no nqaim hwi.

Wb yuav tsum muab ua kom loj tshaj no.

Neeg thiaj li yuav muaj chaw nyob."



One son's name was Teng Chu.

He said,

"The world is too small,
Father.

We have to make it bigger.
People need a bigger place
to live..."

Ces Theeb Tswv nkawd ob txiv tub
thiaj li peb npuag tes,
peb ntaug taw tag nrho.



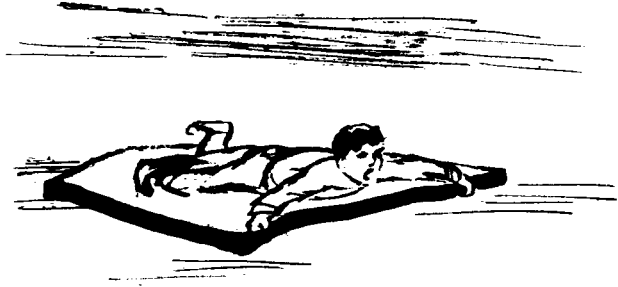
So Teng Chu and his father
clapped their hands.
They stamped their feet
three times.

Theeb Tswv tib thawb lub ntuj
rau puag saum ub lawm.



And Teng Chu pushed up the sky.

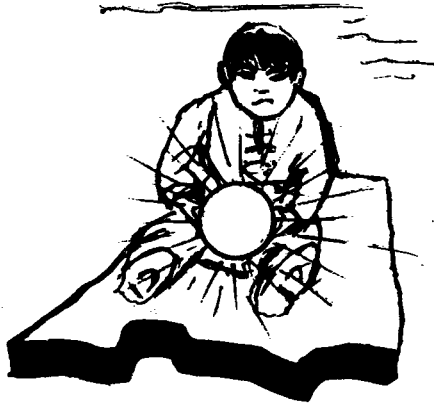
Ces thiaj li muab lub ntiaj teb no
rub kom loj dav ntxiv.



And he stretched the earth out
to make it bigger.

Ces Theeb Tsw
puab kiag ib lub tsom teeb kub,
tsom nruab hnuab.

Peb hu lub ntawd ua, "lub hnuab."



Then he made a gold lamp.

"This is for the day,"
he said.

"We'll call it SUN."

Nws puab kiag ib lub tsom teeb nyiaj,
tsom hmo ntuj.

Peb hu lub ntawd ua, "lub hli."

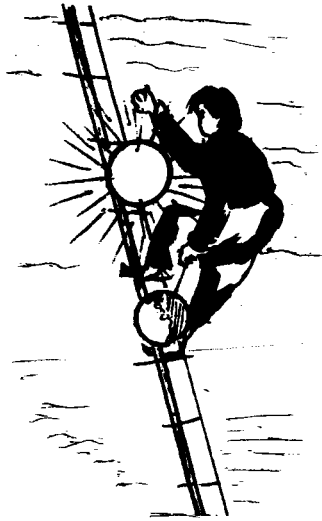


He made a silver lamp.

"This is for the night,"
he said.

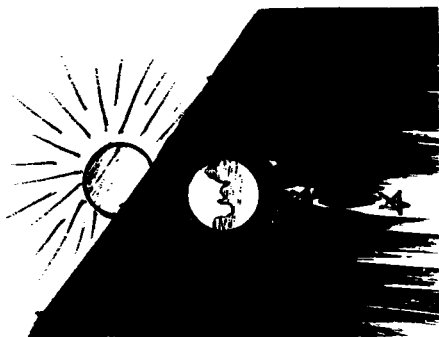
"We'll call it MOON."

Ces nws txawm muab lub hnuv
thiab lub hli
khuam siab siab cia puag saum ub.



And he hung them up very high.

Lub hnuv thiab lub hli
no ua rau lub ntuj pom kev.
Niaj hnuv no,
peb thiaj li tseem pom lub hnuv
thiab lub hli
nyob puag saum ntuj.



They made lights in the sky.
We can still see them today.

Hmong Folk Tales

Titles in this series:

THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD:

How We Got Grain and Meat

THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD:

The Sun and Moon

*YAO THE ORPHAN

*THE FIRST FARMER: Why Farmers

Have to Carry Their Crops

*THE WOMAN AND THE TIGER

*NGAO NJUA AND SHEE NA

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SHAO AND HIS FIRE

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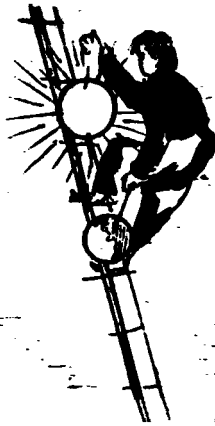
*THE WOODCUTTER, HIS ROOSTER

AND HIS WIFE

THE FLOOD: HOW HMONG NAMES BEGAN

(for adult programs)

Each story appears in Hmong-English and English-only editions, on both Beginning 1 and Beginning 2 levels. Those marked * appear together in an advanced level English-only reader.



Charles Johnson
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