NTUJ TSIM TEB RAUG
(Hnub thiab hi)
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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Story Teller: Pa Chou Yang
Written Hmong: Pee Cha and Se Yang
Translation: Se Yang and Charles Johnson
ESL Adaptation: Ava Dale Johnson
Editor: Charles Johnson
Illustrations: Xiong Lia Vang

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THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD:

The Sun and Moon
When the first man and woman came out of the mountain, everything was dark.
Tsis tau muaj hnub.
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.
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.
And Teng Chu pushed up the sky.
And he stretched the earth out to make it bigger.
Then he made a gold lamp.

"This is for the day," he said.

"We'll call it SUN."
He made a silver lamp.

"This is for the night," he said.
"We'll call it MOON."
And he hung them up very high.
They made lights in the sky.
We can still see them today.
Hmong Folk Tales

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*THE WOMAN AND THE TIGER
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SHAO AND HIS FIRE
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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
Editor
Macalester College
St. Paul, Minnesota