

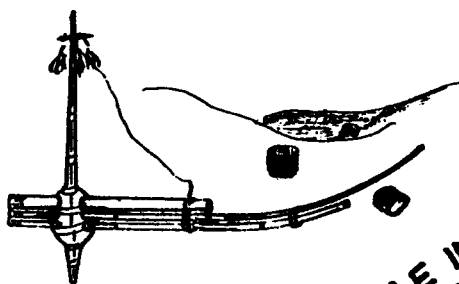
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NKAUJ NTSUAB thiab  
SIS NAB

(Dab neeg Tiaj Rhawv Zeb )

NGAO NJUA and  
SHEE NA

(The Story of the Plain of Jars)



-A HMONG FOLK TALE IN  
HMONG AND BEGINNING  
ESL: LEVEL 1

**Hmong Folk Tales**

**Retold in ESL**

**Series Editor:  
Charles Johnson**

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The Plain of Jars  
a folk tale

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in Hmong  
and Beginning ESL  
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Editc

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The Story of  
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A Hmong Folk Tale  
in Hmong and  
Beginning ESL  
Level 1

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NKAUJ NTSUAB

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Dab Neeg Tiaj Rhawv Zeb

NGAO NJUA AND SHEE NA

The Story of the Plain of Jars



Sis Nab tau ib tug poj niam zoo zoo nkauj.  
Nws lub npe hu ua Nkauj Ntsuab.



Shee Na had a beautiful wife.  
Her name was Ngao\* Njua.

---

\*Ngao means young lady, "Miss."

Ib tug yawg muaj muaj txiag  
xav tau Nkauj Ntsuab,  
ces nws txawm txeeb kiag lawm.  
Nws hais tias,  
"Koj mus ua kuv tus niam yau, niam yim."  
Nkauj Ntsuab quaj quaj,  
Sis Nab kuj quaj thiab.  
Ua rau ntuj ntxoov  
thiab ntuj los nag tas li.



A rich man wanted her,  
so he took her away.  
He said,  
"You are my eighth wife."  
She cried  
and Shee Na cried too.  
This made the sky cloudy  
and rainy.



Niag yawg muaj muaj txiag hais tias,  
"Nkauj Ntsuab tsis luag hlo li."



The rich man said,  
"Ngao Njua won't smile."

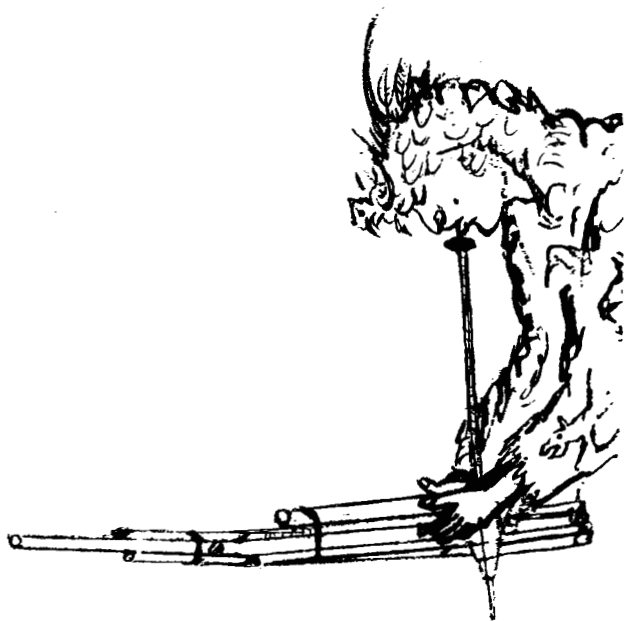
Sis Nab hais tias,  
"Kuv yuav mus cuag Nkauj Ntsuab.  
Kuv yuav mus coj nws rov qab los tsev."

Nws hle nws cev ris tsho zoo cia.  
Nws hnav nws cev ris tsho  
tawv nas tawv noog.



Shee Na said,  
"I'm going to Ngao Njua.  
I'm going to bring her home."  
He took off his good clothes.  
He put on animal skins.

Nws nga nws rab geej ces nws txawm mus  
puag tom tus yawg muaj muaj txiag tsev.



He took his kheng.  
He went a long way  
to the rich man's house.

Sis Nab mus txog tod. Sis Nab ntsia  
saum Nkauj Ntsuab lub qhov rai.  
Sis Nab txawm tshuab tshuab qeej.  
Nkauj Ntsuab hnov qeej nrov  
ces nws twb paub lawm.  
Nkauj Ntsuab ntsia dheev sab nraud.  
Ces Nkauj Ntsuab txawm luag nyav.



Shee Na came to that house.  
He looked up  
at Ngao Njua's window.  
He played his kheng.  
She heard and she understood  
the kheng's words.  
She looked out the window  
and she smiled.

Tus yawg muaj nyiaj  
pom Nkauj Ntsuab luag.  
Nws hais tias,  
"Nkauj Ntsuab luag lawm.  
Kuv ua tsis tau nws luag li,  
leej twg ais  
yuav ua tau rau nws luag lawm?"



The rich man saw her smile.  
He said, "Ngao Njua smiled.  
I didn't make her smile.  
Who made her smile?"

Yawg ntawd thiaj li ntsia nraum zoov  
nws pom ib tug txiv neej  
hnav ib ce ris tsho tawv nas tawv noog.



He looked out the window.  
And he saw a man  
wearing animal skins.

Ces nws txawm tawm mus nraum zoov.  
Nws hais rau Sis Nab tias,  
"Kuv xav yuav koj cev ris tsho.  
Kuv xav ntsib kev lom zem.  
Kuv xav ua kom kuv poj niam luag."



So he went outside.  
And he said to Shee Na,  
"I want to buy your clothes.  
I want to be funny.  
I want to make my wife smile."

Nws txawm yuav Sis Nab cev ris tsho.  
Nws muab hnav kiag ces Sis Nab  
ho hnav tus yawg ntawd cev ris tsho.



He bought Shee Na's clothes  
and he put them on.  
Shee Na put on  
the rich man's clothes.



Ces ib cov dev txawm hnov tawv nas  
tawv noog tswv.  
Dev txawm dhia mus tom  
tus yawg muaj muaj nyiaj tuag.



But some dogs smelled  
the animal skins.  
They jumped on the rich man  
and killed him.

Tus yawg muaj muaj txiag muaj ob tug tub.  
Nws cov tub los txog tsev.  
Sis Nab hais rau Nkauj Ntsuab tias,  
"Kuv ntshai ntshai.

Tus yawg muag muaj nyiaj cov tub  
yuav tua wb."

Ces Sis Nab thiab Nkauj Ntsuab  
txawm tso tes khiav.

Nkawd khiav khiav lawm.

Tus yawg muaj muaj nyiaj cov tub  
txawm caum nkawd qab.



The rich man had two sons.

They came home.

Shee Na said to Ngao Njua,

"I am afraid.

The rich man's sons

will kill us."

So Shee Na and Ngao Njua

ran away.

They ran and ran.

The rich man's sons ran

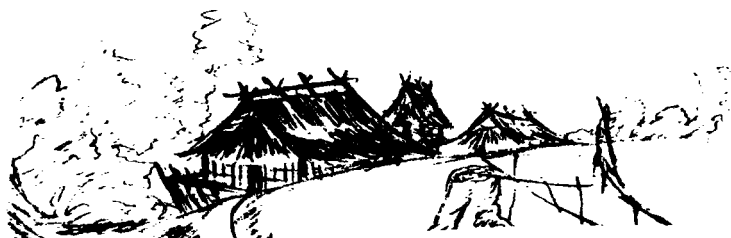
after them.

Lawv caum nkawd mus txog ib lub zos.  
Lawv noog hais tias,  
"Nej puas pom ib tug txiv neej  
          thiab ib tug poj niam los mus?"  
Luag teb lawv tias,  
"Pom puag taig kis no ntxov ntxov  
  thaum qaib qua thawj tsig,  
  nkawd dua tod lawm."



The sons came to a village.  
They asked, "Did you see a man  
                                  and a woman?"  
The people answered,  
"Yes. Very early this morning.  
  At the rooster's first crow.  
  They went this way."

Ces lawv ho lawv gab mus. Lawv caum  
Nkauj Ntsuab thiab Sis Nab mus dua.  
Lawv caum mus txog lub zos ob.



So the sons went that way.  
They chased Ngao Njua  
and Shee Na.  
And they came  
to a second village.

Lawv nug tias,  
"Nej puas pom ib tug txiv neej  
thiab ib tug poj niam los mus?"  
Neeq nruab zog teb tias,  
"Pom puag taig kis no sawv ntsov  
thaum qaib qua thawj tsig.  
Nkawd dua tod lawm."



They asked,  
"Did you see a man  
and a woman?"  
The people answered, "Yes.  
Very early this morning.  
At the rooster's first crow.  
They went this way."

Ces cov tub ho caum Lawv nkawd qab mus.  
Lawv caum nkawd mus txog lub zos peb.



So the sons ran that way.  
They chased Ngao Njua  
and Shee Na some more.  
They came to a third village.

Lawv nug tias,  
"Nej puas pom ib tug txiv neej  
thiab ib tug poj niam los mus?"

"Pom puag taig kis no  
ntxov ntxov thaum qaib qua thawj tsig.  
Nkawd dua tod lawm."



They asked,  
"Did you see a man  
and a woman?"  
The people answered, "Yes.  
Very early this morning.  
At the rooster's first crow.  
They went this way."

Cov tub nkees caum heev lawm  
ces txawm hais tias,  
"Peb tsis paub  
xyov Sis Nab rau twg lawm.  
Xyov mus txoj kev no  
los mus txoj tod lawm?  
Ces peb rov qab."



The sons were tired.  
They said,  
"We don't know  
where Shee Na went.  
Did he go this way?  
Did he go that way?  
We're going home."



No ces lawv txawm rov qab los tsev.



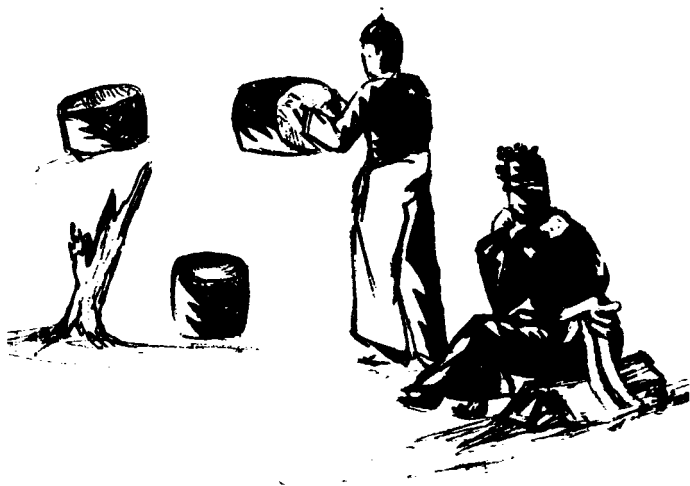
And they went home.

Nkauj Ntsuab thiab Sis Nab nkawd  
khiav tau ntau hnuv.  
Hmo twg los nkawd twb theem,  
so, ua mov noj tag ces pw.



Ngao Njua and Shee Na ran  
for many days.  
Every night they stopped.

Nkawd puab lauj kaub  
ua mov ua zaub noj.



They ate and slept.  
They made pots for cooking.

Tab sis nkawd nqa tsis tau tej lauj kaub  
tais diav ntawd.  
Nkawd muab tso tseg tag.  
Ces hmo twg los  
nkawd twb puab li ntawd cia.



But they couldn't carry  
the pots.  
They left them.  
And every night  
they made more.

Peb pog yawg kheev hais tias,  
"Mus lawm tom Tiaj Rhawv Zeb,  
teb chaws Nplog.  
Nej yuav pom tej niag lub rhawv zeb  
loj loj.  
Cov rhawv zeb no yog Nkauj Ntsuab  
thiab Nraug Nab nkawd li.



Our grandparents say,  
"Go to the Plain of Jars,  
in Laos.  
You will see some big jars.  
The jars are the pots  
of Ngao Njua and Shee Na.

"Nkauj Ntsuab thiab Nraug Nab nkawd  
tau puab tseg cia puag thaum ub."



"Ngao Njua and Shee Na  
made them  
a long, long time ago."

## 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
- \*THE MONKEYS AND THE GRASSHOPPERS  
(from NJIA AND NJO)
- SHAO AND HIS FIRE
- THE ORPHAN AND NIA NGAO ZHUA PA
- \*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.

