NKAUJ NTSUAB thiab
SIS NAB
(Dab neeg Tiaj Rhawv Zebo)
NGAO NJUA and
SHEE NA
(The Story of the Plain of Jars)

-A Hmong Folk Tale in
Hmong and Beginning
ESL: LEVEL 1
The Story of the Plain of Jars

A Hmong Folk Tale
in Hmong
and Beginning ESL
Level 1

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

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?"
He looked out the window.
And he saw a man
wearing animal skins.
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."
He bought Shee Na's clothes and he put them on. Shee Na put on the rich man's clothes.
But some dogs smelled
the animal skins.
They jumped on the rich man
and killed him.
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.
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."
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?"
Neeg 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 gab 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.
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."
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.
Ngao Njua and Shee Na ran for many days. Every night they stopped.
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.
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."
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