

THAUM NTUJ TSIM  
TEB RAUG

The BEGINNING of the  
WORLD  
(How We Got Grain and Meat )

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

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Beginning of The World: How We Got Grain  
Johnson Charles

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Hmong Folk Tales  
Retold in ESL

Series Editor:  
Charles Johnson



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THE BEGINNING

OF THE WORLD:

How We Got

Grain and Meat



Thawj tug txiv neej nyob ntiaj teb no  
yog Luj Tub.  
Nws poj niam hu ua Ntxhi Chiv.  
Nkawd tawm ntawm ib phab toj  
los rau nraum no.



The first man on earth  
was Lou Tou.  
His wife was named  
See Chee.  
They came out of a door  
in the side of a mountain.

Nkawd nga ib lub paj caus ci  
nrog nkawd tawm los.  
Nkawd niaj hnuv noj cov moob paj no  
ua nkawd zaub mov.



These people brought  
a special flower with them.  
And they ate its seeds.  
That was their food.



Cov noob twb yuav luag tas.  
Nkawd txawm sib noog hais tias,  
"Wb yuav ua li cas,  
cov noob paj  
twb tshuav tsis ntau lawm?"



But the seeds were  
almost gone.  
The first man and woman said,  
"We don't have many seeds left.  
Soon we won't have any.  
What can we do?"

Ces nkawd txawm txiav siab  
muab ib co coj mus cog.



So they decided  
to plant some seeds.

Nkawd cog tag ces ua ciav  
txawm pom tuaj ib tsob xwb.  
Thaum goos noob lawd  
cua tau muab cov noob nplawm  
ya mus deb rau qhov txhia chaw.  
Ib txhia noob ya rau puag pem tej kwj ha.  
Ib txhia noob ya rau puag nram tiaj.



They planted the seeds,  
but only one plant grew.  
It got ripe and dry.  
The wind blew its seeds  
far away.  
Some seeds went to the valleys.  
Some went to the plains.

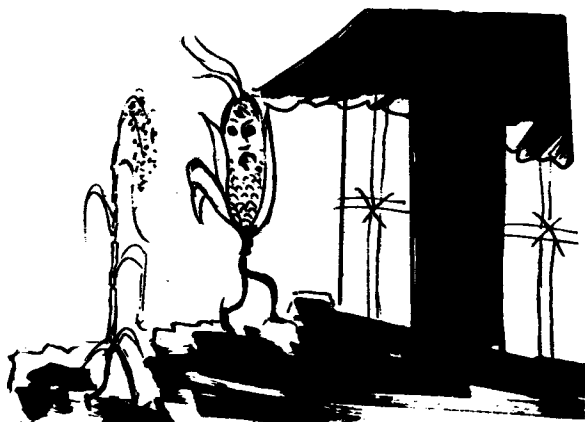
Ces cov noob no txawm loj hlob tuaj.  
Ib txhia ua pob kws,  
ib txhia ua nplej  
thiab ua ntau ntau yam noob.



And the seeds grew there.  
They became corn, rice  
and many kinds of grain.

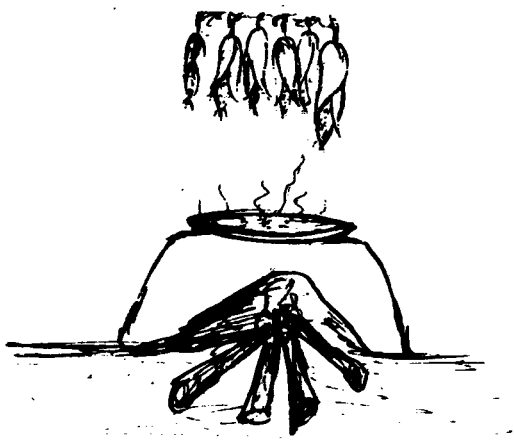
Thaum cov noob qoob noob loo no siav lawm  
nws txawm rov qab los hauv Luj Tub  
thiab Ntxhi Chiv  
nkawd lub tsev.

Cov noob no rov los hu hais tias,  
"Niam thiab txiv aws,  
peb los txog rau ntawm no lawm  
thov qhib qhov rooj os!"



Then they returned to Lou Tou  
and See Chee.  
They called,  
"Open the door, Papa and Mama,  
here we are!"

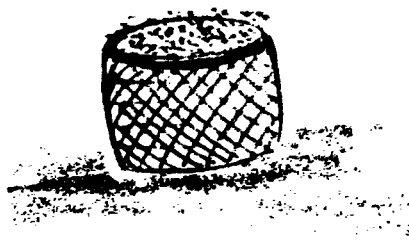
Pob kws hais tias,  
"Muab kuv dai rau saum nthab  
ze ntawm qhov cub."



The corn said,  
"Hang me up near the fire."

Nplej hais tias,  
"Nej hiab ib lub pob tawb los rau kuv,  
kuv yuav mus nyob hau."

Ces txhua txhua yam  
noob hais kom nrhiav chaw raw nws nyob  
ib yam nkaus li thiab.



The rice said,  
"I want you to make  
a big basket  
for me to stay in."

And every grain asked for  
the kind of storage place  
it wanted.

Luj Tub thiab nws poj niam  
 tau ua raws li cov noob  
 tau nyiam rau lawv.  
 Ces nkawd txawm muaj mov noj,  
 muaj noob qoob noob loo cog.  
 Nkawd tau yam ub yam no  
 raws li nkawd siab nyiam  
 los txog rau hnuv Ntxhi Chiv xeeb tub.



The first man and woman did  
 what the grains wanted.  
 And so they had food to eat  
 and seeds to plant.  
 They had all they wanted,  
 until See Chee got pregnant.



Ntxhi Chiv xeebtub nws nkees nkees  
thiab tsaug tsaug zog.  
Nws hais tias,  
"Luj Tub, kuv qhis qhis ngaij."



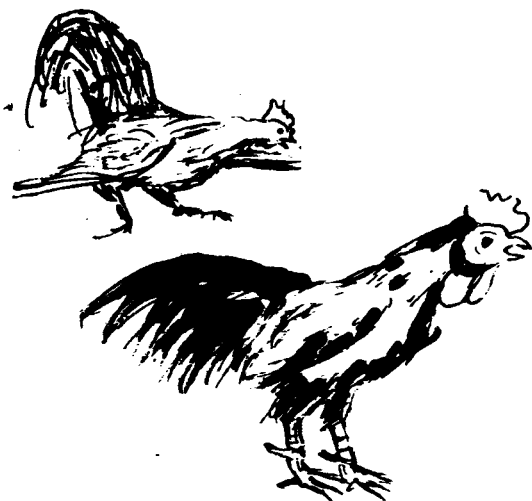
Now when See Chee got pregnant,  
she was tired and sleepy  
all the time.  
She said, "Lou Tou,  
I want some meat to eat."

Ces Luj Tub row gab mus qhib phab toj.  
Nws hu hais tias,  
"Qaib aws, tawm los os!"



So Lou Tou went back  
to the mountain  
and opened the door.  
He called,  
"Chickens, come out!"

Ces gaib txawm tawm los.



And the chickens came out.

Nws hu tias,  
"Npua aws, tawm los os!"  
Ces npua txawm tawm los.



He called, "Pigs, come out!"  
And the pigs came out.

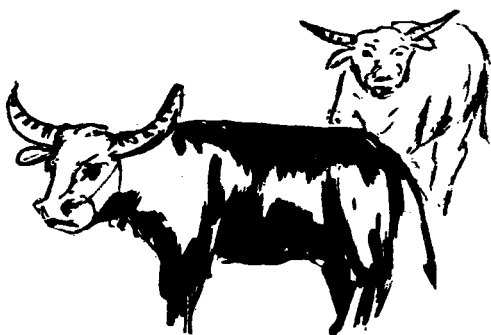
Nws hu tias,  
"Nyuj aws, tawm los os!"  
Ces nyuj txawm tawm los.



He called, "Cows, come out!"  
And the cows came out.

Nws hu tias,  
"Twm aws, tawm los os!"  
Ces twm txawm tawm los.

Hauv paus neeg ua mus li no  
thiaj li muaj tej tsiaj txhu  
los nyob hauv qab ntuj no.



He called,  
"Buffaloes, come out!"  
And the buffaloes came out.

And that's how man got animals  
on the earth.

## 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

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SHAO AND HIS FIRE

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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.

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Editor

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St. Paul, Minnesota