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SAUB thiab HLUAV TAWS

SHAO and HIS FIRE

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

Shao and His Fire; Level 2 (Saub Thiab Hluav
Johnson Charles

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Hmong Folk Tales
Retold in ESL

Series Editor:
Charles Johnson



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A Hmong Folk Tale
in Hmong
and Beginning ESL
Level 2

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SAUB
THIAB HLUAV TAWS

SHAO
AND HIS FIRE

Puag thaum ub
muaj ib tug yawg hu ua Saub no,
nws yog ib tug neeg ntse heev.
Nws yog Hmoob.



A long time ago
there was a very wise man.
He was Hmong.
His name was Shao.

Saub paub txhua yam txhua tsav
thiab paub txhua yam lus.
Nws nrog Xob, nrog Zaj, nrog Npua Teb,
nrog Dais thiab nrog Tsov tham tau.
Tag nrho cov ntawd
puav leej yob nws tej phooj ywg xwb.



Shao knew everything and
could speak all languages.
He could talk with Thunder,
with Dragon, with Wild Pig,
with Bear and with Tiger.
All these were his friends.

Saub thiab cov ntawd
 mas yeej nyob ua ke
 thiab ib tug hlub ib tug kawg nkaus.
 Muaj ib hnub lawv txawm sib tham.
 Ib yawg hais tias,
 "Peb cov no txhua tus
 mas xav kom nyias muaj nyias
 ib lub tsev.
 Peb yuav nyob ua ke
 li no mus tas li tsis tau."



They all lived together and
 liked each other very much.
 Then, one day,
 they had a meeting.
 One of them said,
 "Each one of us needs
 his own house.
 We can't live together
 like this forever."

Tsov teb tias,
"Kuv nyiam kom sawv daws
nyob ua ke li no mus li.
Tab sis kuv nyiam kom ua suab sab
li ub li no.
Yog peb nyob ua ke mas,
kuv tsis kam ua rau nej saib.
Vim kuv tsis xav ua kom nej ntshai."



The tiger said,
"I like living all together,
but I like to make noise.
I can't make noise
if we live together.
I don't want to frighten you."

Cov thiaj teb tias,
"Aub, peb yeej tsis ntshai
koj kiag os, Tsov.
Koj yeej ua tsis tau
ib lub suab sab loj loj."



The others answered,
"Oh, Tiger,
we aren't afraid of you.
You can't make
a very big noise."

Tsov hais tias,
"Nyob no tos, nej mam li pom."

Ces Tsov txawm nce mus
puag pem ncov roob lawm.
Nws mus nyooj laws
ua av ngeeg nkaws los.
Nws ua niag qhov ncauj rua ras loj loj,
pom tej niag tus kaus hniav ntev ntev.
Nws kaug lub pob zeb, kaug lub pob ca,
nqis rov los txog.
Nws hais tias,
"Kuv paub tseeb tias nej ntshai."



So the tiger said,
"Wait and see."

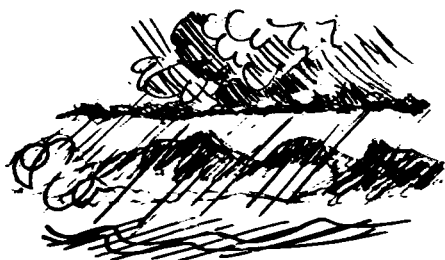
And he climbed up
 onto a high mountain.
He growled and shook the earth.
He opened his mouth and
 showed his long teeth.
He snapped at the rocks and
 trees.
Then he came down again
 and said,
"I'm sure you were afraid!"

Zaj teb tias,
"Peb tsis ntshai.
Kuv nkaus xwb.
Yog kuv ua mas
nej thiaj li yuav ntshai.
Kuv mus puag pem roob.
Kuv mam mus ua kom ntuj tsaus nti,
teb tsaus ntais.
Kuv yuav ua kom dej ntws sis lug
pem roob los thiab toj pob
cuag tus tsi los lawm nram kwj ha."



"No," said Dragon.
"I am the one
who can frighten you.
I will go up on the mountain
and make the sky black.
I will throw water
down the mountain.
And its sides will fall
into the river."

Ces Zaj txawm nce dua pem roob lawm.
Nws mus ua ntuj tsaus nti,
teb tsaus ntais.
Nws ua dej ntws sis lug pem roob los
thiab ua toj roob hauv pes
pob cuag tus tsi los dua nram hav dej loj.
Dej mas ua kua av daj nruv xwb.



So Dragon went up
 on the mountain
 and made the sky black.
He threw water
 down the mountain.
And its sides fell
 into the river.
And the river was mud.

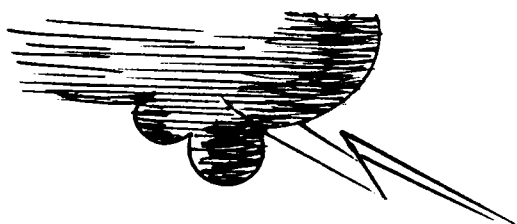
Zaj nges pem roob los txog.
Zaj nug tias,
"Ua nej puas ntshai?"

Nws cov phooj ywg teb tias,
"Tsis ntshai."



Then Dragon came down
from the mountain.
"Were you afraid?" he asked.
"No," his friends answered.

Ces Xob ho hais tias,
 "Kuv ua mas nej yeej yuav ntshai xwb.
 Kuv nce mus puag pem roob.
 Kuv mus ua ntuj tsaus nti,
 teb tsaus ntais.
 Ua xyoob ntoo dam cuag tus tsi los
 thiab kuv yuav nthe
 ua nrov thoob ntuj,
 ho yuav ua kom hluav taws
 tawm txim liab pes vog rau saum ntuj
 thiab ntawm nej tej qhov muag."



Then Thunder spoke. He said,
 "I will make you afraid.
 I will go up the mountain
 and make the sky black.
 I will break the trees
 and make a noise through
 all the sky.
 I will make lightning
 jump across the sky.
 And I will throw lightning
 in your eyes.
 You will be afraid."

Hais li tag,
 Xob txawm nce mus puag pem roob lawm.
 Nws mus ua ntuj tsaus nti,
 teb tsaus ntais.
 Nws ua xyoob ntoo dam
 nrov nroo ntws los.
 Nws nthe tej niag rhe nrov thoob ntuj.
 Nws ua hluav taws tawm txim
 liab pes vog txhia chaw
 thiab ntawm lawv tej qhov muag.



So Thunder went up
 the mountain.
 He made the sky black.
 He broke the trees
 and made a noise through
 all the sky.
 He made lightning
 jump across the sky.
 He threw lightning
 into his friends' eyes.

Nws nges los txog nws nug lawv tias,
"Ua li nej puas ntshai?"

Nws cov phooj ywg teb tias,
"Tsis ntshai."



He asked, "Were you afraid?"

"No," said his friends.

Ces Saub hais tias,

"Cia kuv ho ua.

Kuv ua mas nej yeej ntshai xwb."

Xob thiab sawv daws nug hais tias,

"Ua li koj yuav ua li cas?"

Saub teb tias,

"Ib, nej mus hlais nqeeb.

Ob, nej mus txiav ntoo

los tau ua ncej.

Peb, nej los ua ib lub tsev."



Then Shao said,

"It's my turn.

I can frighten you."

"How?" asked Thunder
and all the animals.

"First," answered Shao,

"cut some straw.

Second, cut some trees
to make poles.

Third, build a house."

Ces sawv daws txawm pib mus hlais nqeeb,
txiav ntoo los ua tsev.



So the animals began to work.
They built a house.

Thaum lawv ua tau tsev lawm ces
Saub hais rau lawv tias,
"Nej mus nyob hauv tsev.
Xov phab ntsa kom ntom nti rau,
es tsis txhob tseg qhov rooj
qhov rai hlo li."
Ces lawv txawm xov zoo zoo li ntawd
tag rau.



When they finished, Shao said,
"Go inside. Close the walls
so there are no doors
or windows."

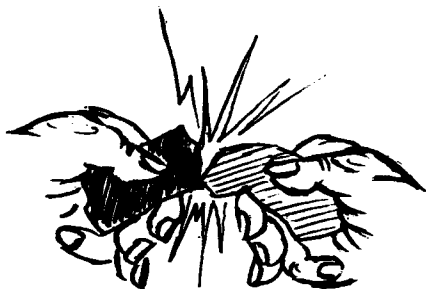
And they did.

"Are you afraid?" asked Shao.

"No," they answered.

Saub nyob sab nraud zoov.
Saub txhuam ntais nrov
rhej! rhej! tag.
Saub nug tias,
"Nej puas ntshai?"

Lawv teb tias,
"Tsis ntshai."



Shao was outside the house.
He struck his flint
 and steel together.
This made a noise, ts! ts! ts!
"Are you afraid?"

"No."

Zaum tom qab,
Saub txhuam ntais zes kias rau tw ngeeb,
tw ntoo ces nug tias,
"Nej puas ntshai?"

Lawv teb tias,
"Tsis ntshai."

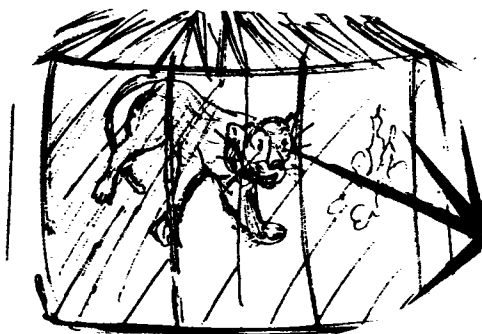


Next he lit some straw and wood.
"Are you afraid?" he asked.

"No."

Tsev pib kub nrov, vig-vwg! vig-vwg!
Ib pliag ces lawv hnov hluav taws kub.
Lawv pom nplaim taws,
mam paub tias yog hluav taws.

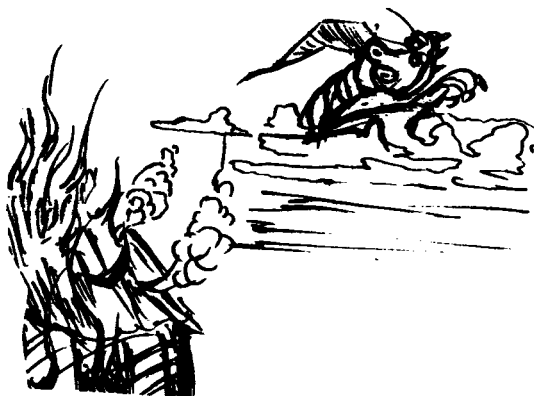
Lawv quaj qw, quaj qw hais tias,
"Pab aus! Pab aus!
Kub kub, ntaiv ntaiv heev li,
peb xav tawm lawm nraud!"



Then the house began to burn --
wh-sh-sh-sh!
Soon the friends heard fire.
Then they saw fire and
felt fire.

"It's hot!" they yelled.
"Help! We want out!"

Xob ntshai heev
ces Xob ya plaws rau puag saum ntuj lawm.



Thunder was very scared and
flew to the sky.

Zaj ces Zaj lij lias
mus nkaum tob tob rau puag hauv av lawm.



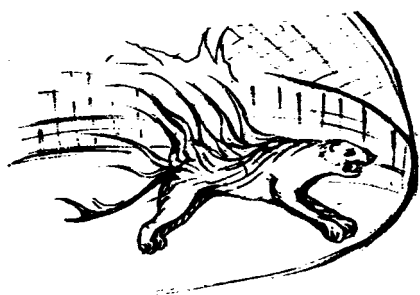
Dragon dug a deep hole
in the ground
and hid in it.

Npua Teb ces,
Npua Teb tib plua tawm sab nraud.
Hluav taws kub nws cov plaub me ntsis,
nws thiaj li tib tug niag daj plhes.



Wild Pig jumped out of
the house
but the fire burned him
a little
and made his hair yellow.

Tsov dhia tawm tsis tau.
Tsov mus phoom phoom phob ntsa xwb.
Nws pheej dhia mus phoom
phab ntsa li ntawd
es hluav taws thiaj li muab
nws kub tus niag nraug zoj nraug zees.



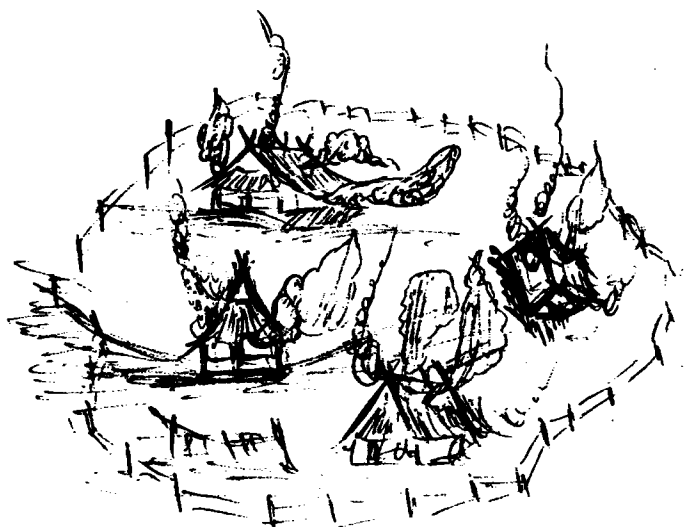
Tiger could not get out
so he jumped against the wall.
He jumped again and again.
Where he hit the wall,
the fire made him striped.

Niag Dais Dawb dhia tawm tsis tau li
ces hluav taws thiaj li muab
nws kub ua tib tug niag dub nciab lawm.



White Bear couldn't jump out.
The fire burned him black
all over.

Ces hluav taws txawm kub thiab kub
tsis paub taug li lawm.
Vim li cas?
Vim hais tias nws yog hluav taws Saub.
Nws kub lub ntuj lub teb
los tau xya xyoo nkaus....



And the fire burned and burned
without stopping.

Why?

Because it was Shao's fire.
It burned the earth and
the sky.

It burned for seven years....

Hmong Folk Tales

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SHAO AND HIS FIRE

THE ORPHAN AND NIA NGAO ZHUA PA

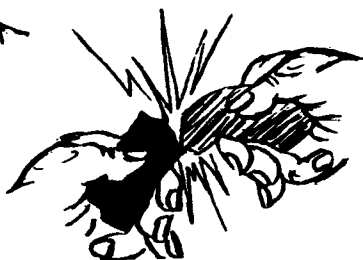
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