

**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 2**

Ngao Njua and Shee Na: The Story of The Plain
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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Dab Neeg Tiaj Rhawv Zej

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A Hmong Folk Tale
in Hmong
and Beginning ESL
Level 2

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NGAO NJUA AND SHEE NA

The Story of the Plain of Jars



Nkauj Ntsuab nws zoo nkauj tag zog.
Nws yog Sis Nab tus poj niam.



Ngao Njua was beautiful.
She was the wife of Shee Na.

Nim no, muaj ib tug huab tais
muaj muaj nyiaj
txawm nyiam nyiam Nkauj Ntsuab
ces nws txawm tuaj txeeb kiag
coj mus ua nws tus niam yau,
niam yim lawm.



Now, a rich king
fell in love with Ngao Njua
and took her away.
He made her his eighth wife.

Nkauj Ntsuab mas chim chim tag zog.
Sis Nab los kuj chim chim tag zog thiab.
Nkauj Ntsuab mas quaj quaj tag zog.
Nyob rau lub teb chaws ntawd
mas ntuj los nag thiab ntuj ntsoov
tau peb xyoo nkaus.



Of course Shee Na was unhappy.
Ngao Njua was sad, too.
She cried a lot.
And for three years,
in that far country,
the sky was rainy and grey.

Huab tais tsis paub yuav ua li cas
kom nws luag hlo li.
Txawm yog huab tais yuav ua li cas los
Nkauj Ntsuab yeej tsis luag.



The king couldn't make her
smile.
No matter what he did,
she wouldn't smile.

Muaj ib hnuv Sis Nab txawm hais tias,
 "Kuv sim mus coj Nkauj Ntsuab
 rov qab los saib,
 no ces nws txawm hnav ib ce ris tsho
 tawv nas tawv noog.
 Hnav tau cev ris tsho ntawd
 ces nws txawm mus
 ntawm tus huab tais lub tseb.
 Nws qa nws rab qeej nrog nws mus thiab."



Then, one day, Shee Na said,
 "I'm going to bring Ngao Njua
 home."

So he dressed himself
 in animal skins.
 Wearing these clothes,
 he travelled to
 the king's palace.
 He took his kheng with him.

Sis Nab mus txog, nws mus nres
ncaj ntawm Nkauj Ntsuab lub qab qhov rai.
Nws tshuab nws rab geej.
Nkauj Ntsuab hnov ces
nws txawm paub lub suab geej.



Standing under Ngao Njua's
window,
he played his music.
Ngao Njua heard
and she understood
because the kheng says words.

She knew it was
her first husband,
and she smiled.
The sky turned blue.

Thaum huab tais pom li ntawd,
 nws hais tias,
 "Ntawd yog dabtsi?"
 Nej sim xav saib meb, huab tais
 twb tsis paub tshuab qeej,
 huab tais twb tsis paub hais tias
 tus yawg tshuab qeej yog leej twg.
 Huab tais xav hais tias
 nws poj niam, Nkauj Ntsuab, luag
 ntshai yog tus yawg tshuab qeej ntawd
 hnav nws cev ris tsho
 tawv nas tawv noog ntawd
 ua tau txaus luag heev.



When the king saw this,
 he said, "What's this?"
 You see, he didn't understand
 the kheng.
 He didn't know
 who the kheng-player was.
 He thought the queen laughed
 because the man in the skins
 looked funny.

Huab tais hais tias,
"Kuv yuav sim hnav cev ris tsho ntawd,
Nkauj Ntsuab
thiaj li yuav luag rau kuv."



"I'll put on those skins,"
he said.
"Then Ngao Njua will laugh
for me."

Hais li ces nws txawm yuav Sis Nab
 cev ris tsho tawv nas tawv noog.
 Huab tais hnav Sis Nab cev.
 Sis Nab hnav huab tais cev.
 Nkawd sib pauv ris tsho.
 Hnav tau ces huab tais cov dev
 txawm dhia mus tom cev ris tsho
 tawv nas tawv noog
 ces txawm muab huab tais tom tuag lawm.



So he bought
 Shee Na's furry clothes.
 He put them on
 and Shee Na put on
 the king's clothes.
 They exchanged clothes.
 But the king's dogs jumped on
 the animal skin clothes
 and killed the king.

Sis Nab hnav tau huab tais cev ris tsho
lawm ces Sis Nab txawm nkag mus
hauv huab tais tsev.

Thaum kawg,

Sis Nab tau mus cuag Nkauj Ntsuab
zoo nkauj.

Sis Nab zoo li ib tug huab tais
ho Nkauj Ntsuab

zoo li ib tug poj huab tais.

Thaum cov tub los txog

lawv paub hais tias

Sis Nab tsis yog lawv txiv

no ces Sis Nab thiab Nkauj Ntsuab

nkawd txawm xua kev khiav.

Huab tais cov tub txawm caum nkawd.



Then Shee Na,

wearing the king's clothes,
went into the palace.

At last, he was with

his beautiful Ngao Njua.

He was like a king and

Ngao Njua like a queen --

until the king's sons came home.

They knew this wasn't

their father.

Shee Na and Ngao Njua had to

run away

and the sons ran after them.

They chased them to

the next village.

Lawv caum caum nkawd mus txog ib lub zos.
Lawv noog hais tias,
"Nej puas pom ib tug poj niam
thiab ib tug txiv neej los mus?"

Cov neeg nruab zog teb tias,
"Peb pom thiab las mas,
nkawd los lawm puag taig lis no
ntxov ntxov qaib qua thawj tsig.
Nkawd dua tod lawm."



The sons asked some villagers,
"Did you see a man and a woman
going by?"
The villagers said, "Yes.
We saw them pass by here
very early this morning.
They went by
when the rooster first crowed.
They went this way."

Lawv ho caum caum mus txog
lub zos tom ntej,
lawv noog zej zog tias,
"Nej puas pom ib tug poj niam
thiab ib tub txiv neej los mus?"

Luag teb lawv tias,
"Pom. Peb pom nkawd dhau los mus lawm
puag taig kis no ntxov ntxov
thaum qaib qua thawj tsig.
Nkawd dua tod lawm."



In the second village
the sons asked the villagers,
"Did you see a man and a woman
going by?"

The villagers answered, "Yes.
We saw them pass by here
very early this morning.
They went by
when the rooster first crowed.
They went that way."

Lawv caum nkawd mus txog lub zos peb,
lawv noog hais tias,
"Nej puas pom ib tug poj niam
thiab ib tug txiv neej los mus?"

Luag teb tias,
"Pom. Peb pom nkawd dhau los mus lawm
puag taig kis no ntxov ntxov
thaum qaib qua thawj tsig.
Nkawd dua tod lawm."



At the third village
the sons asked,
"Did you see a man and a woman
going by?"

The villagers answered, "Yes.
We saw them pass by here
very early this morning.
They went by
when the rooster first crowed.
They went this way."

Txog ntawd ces huab tais
cov tub txawm nkees caum lawm
ces lawv txawm hais tias,
"Nres qhov no tso peb rov qab."



Now the sons were tired.
They said,
"Let's stop and go back."

Tabxi Nkauj Ntsuab thiab Nraug Nab
tseem pheej khiav mus tag zog.
Hmo twg los nkawd twb theem noj mov
thiab pw.
Nkawd tau theem rau txhua txhia chaw.
Nkawd tau puab lauj kaub tais diav
thiab hub ua zaub mov noj.
Nkawd nqa tsis tau
tej khoom no nrog nkawd mus tag.
Nkawd tso ib txhia tseg rau tom qab.



But Shee Na and Ngao Njua
kept going.
Every night they stopped.
They ate and slept.
Everywhere they stopped,
they made clay pots and jars
to cook with.
They couldn't carry
all of them.
So they left some of the jars
behind.

Niaj hnuv nim no
 peb tseem pom cov rhawv zeb ntawd qees.
 Peb pog yawg hais tias
 Nkauj Ntsuab thiab Nraug Sis Nab nkawd
 tau tso nkawd tej lauj kaub av tej hub
 ntawd rau yav pem qaum teb chaws Nplog.
 Yog ib qho chaw
 zoo saib uas hu ua Tiaj Rhawv Zeb
 nyob rau xeev khuam teb.



Today, we can still see
 those jars.
 Our grandparents say,
 "Ngao Njua and Shee Na
 left their pots
 in northern Laos.
 Look in the place called
 PLAIN OF JARS,
 on the plateau of Tra ninh."

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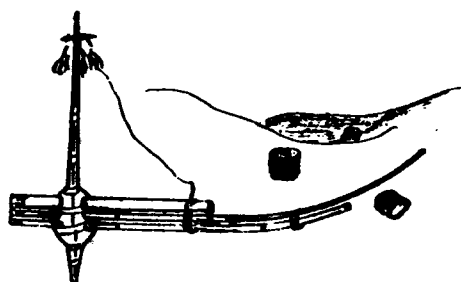
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