

Tus POJ NIAM thiab
tus TSOV

The WOMAN and the
TIGER

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

Woman and The Tiger; Level 2 (Tus Poj Niam
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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Editor

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in Hmong
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Series Editor: Charles Johnson

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TUS POJ NIAM

· THIAB ·

TUS TSOV

THE WOMAN

AND

THE TIGER

Tau ntau xyoo los lawm,
muaj ib tug Hmoob tau mus tua nqaij
nws tau tua ib tug liab poob,
tab sis ib tug tsov twb pom nws
thiab nyob ntawd tos nws.



Many years ago,
a man went hunting
and shot a monkey.
But a tiger was watching
and waiting.

Niag tsov tau tom tus Hmoob tuag
ces txawm muab noj lawm.



He killed the man and ate him.

Ces tsov txawm muab nws cov ris
tsho coj los hnav,
kwv nws rab phom
thiab los tom nws tsev.



Then he put on
the man's clothes,
took the man's gun,
and went to the man's house.

Tus poj niam
tsis paub hais tias nws yog tsov,
tiamsis nws tus niam hluas hais tias,
"Tus no tsis yog koj tus txiv!"



The wife didn't know
 it was a tiger,
but her younger sister said,
"That's not your husband!"

Hmo ntawd, tsov muab tus poj niam
 thiab nws cov me nyuam tom noj tag.
 Tus niam hlua, Ntxawm,
 tau mus nkaum rau saum nthab.
 Nws hnov zoo li tsov cua pob txha
 nrov nkij nkij, nkuaj nkuaj,
 mas nws tau ntshai.
 Nws qw hais tias,
 "Koj ua dabtsi?"

Tsov teb hais tias,
 "Kuv cua plhaub mag
 plhaub mig ntxuag kua ntshai xwb os."

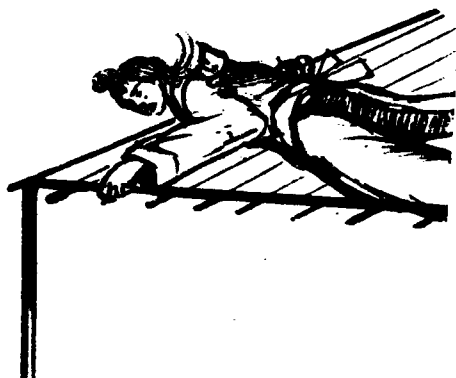


That night
 the tiger ate the wife
 and all the children.
 The younger sister, Yer,
 was up in the attic.
 She heard crunch, crunch,
 like the breaking of bones,
 and she was scared.
 She called down,
 "What are you doing?"

The tiger answered,
 "Oh, nothing,
 just chewing some plant stems
 with rice water."

Tag kis sawv ntxov
tsov hais rau Ntxawm hais tias,
"Nqis los,"
tiamsis Ntxawm ntshai heev
mas nws tsis kam nqis li.

Tsov hais rau Ntxawm hais tias,
"Nqis los na has,
tsis li kuv txawm nce tuaj ntag laiv!"



The next morning
the tiger said, "Come down,"
but Yer was afraid
and she wouldn't come down.

The tiger said,
"You come down or
I'll come up!"

Ntxawm txawm muab me ntsis pob kws
 pub rau lawv noj
 thiab hais rau lawv hais tias,
 "Tsov tau los hauv tsev
 mas muab sawvdaws tom noj tag lawm
 tshuav kuv xwb.
 Kuv nce ntai los nkaum saum nthab
 mas kuv thiaj li ciaj xwb.
 Kom lawv kav tsij tuaj tsawg tsuag!"



So Yer gave him some corn
 and sent a message.
 "A tiger came and
 ate everybody but me.
 I climbed up the ladder and
 I am safe.
 Come quickly!"

Ces tsov txawm rov nram hav dej los.
Ntxawm nchuav tshauv, ntsev
thiab kua txob rau nws qhov muag.
Ces nws txawm rov qab mus
rau nram hav dej dua lawm.



Then the tiger came back
from the river.
Yer threw ashes
and salt and pepper
into his eyes.
And he went back
to the river again.

Ntxawm tsev neeg tuaj txog.
Lawv noog hais tias,
"Tsov nyob qhov twg?"

Ntxawm teb hais tias,
"Tsov nyob nram hav dej.
Kuv mam li hu nws los."



Yer's family came.
They asked,
"Where's the tiger?"

"Down at the river,"
answered Yer.
"I'll call him."

Ces Ntxawm txawm hu tias,
"Tsov aws, Tsov aws,
kuv tsev neeg nyob ntawm no lawm os.
Lawv yuav muab
kuv rau koj yuav ua poj niam."



And Yer called,
"Tiger, Tiger,
my family is here.
They will give me to you.
I will be your wife."

Tsov teb hais tias,
"Ahah! Zoo ntau!
Kuv los tam si no!"

Ces tsov txawm rov los tsev.
Nws nyob twj ywm ntsiag to.



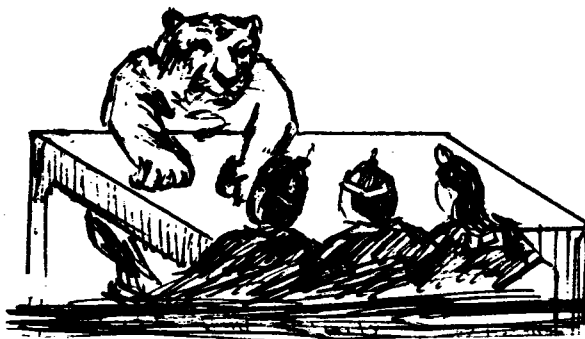
"Aha! Good!
I'm coming right now,"
the tiger said.

So the tiger came
to the house.
He was quiet.

Cov niag niam dab laug txawm hais tias,
"Yawm vauv, Tsov,
peb txhiaj teeb meem meb!"

Tsov teb tias,
"Tiag, yuav txhiaj los sis txhiaj mas.
Tiam sis nej xub txhiaj ua ntej."

Cov niam dab laug teb tias,
"Tsis tau, yawm vauv
koj xub txhiaj tso."



Yer's sister said,
"All right, Tiger,
let's talk."

"All right," the tiger said,
"You go first."

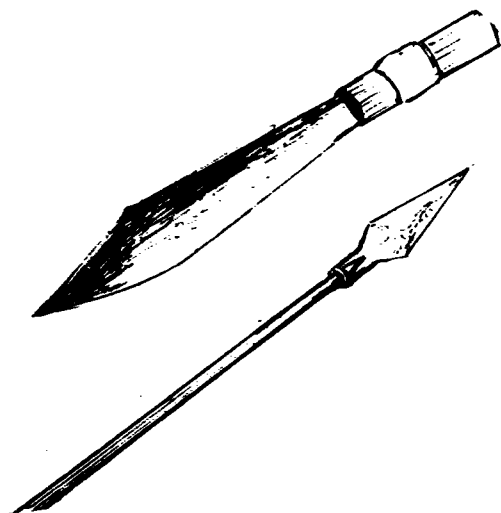
"No, Brother-in-law,
you go first."

Ces tsov txawm xub txhiaj,
"Laum-Laum,
tis dab yuab mag kuv hniav kaus--
heh! heh!"
Tsov ho hais tias,
"Tis dab laug
npaj no koj ho txhiaj saib."



So the tiger began,
"Lo-law, Sister-in-law,
You'll be caught
in the teeth of my jaw --
heh! heh!"
Now it's your turn,
Sister-in-law."

"Laum lab loo laj,
yawm vauv tsov yuav mag peb hniav ntaj!"



"Brother-in-law Tiger,
save your labor.
You'll be cut
with spear and saber!"

Tsov rov qab hais dua thiab hais tias,
"Laum-Laum,
tis dab yuav mag kuv hniav kaus."



But the tiger started again,
"Lo-law, Sister-in-law,
You'll be caught
in the teeth of my jaw."

Thaum lawv tseem sib tham,
 Ntxawm tsev neeg qee leej
 tau tawm mus sab nraud.
 Lawv tau mus khawb ib lub qhov
 rau ntawm txoj kev
 usa mus ntawm tsev rau nram hav dej.
 Lawv txiav nroj thiab muab nplooj ntoos
 koj los tsuab lub qhov ntawd.
 Lawv hais rau tsov tias,
 "Yawm vauv,
 koj lub qhov muag ntsim txob mob heev,
 koj qi qhov muag ais wb koj kev mus.
 Wb qhia koj kev
 ais koj mus nruab nrab ntawm wb ob leeg."



While they were talking,
 some of the family went outside.
 They dug a hole in the path
 between the house and the river.
 They covered the hole
 with small branches and leaves.
 They said, "Brother-in-law,
 your eyes are hurting.
 Close them. We will lead you.
 We'll show you where to walk.
 You walk between us."

Ces nkawd txawm coj tsov taug kev.
 Nws tsuj saum cov khaub
 thiab nplooj ntoos mus.
 Nws poob rau hauv lub qhov,
 Ntxawm ob tug nus
 thiaj li muab nws tsuav
 ua yim cuaj ya rau hauv.



So they led the tiger
 down the path.
 He stepped on
 the small branches and leaves.
 He fell into the hole
 and the brothers cut him up!

Ces lawv txawm coj Ntxawm
rov qab los tsev lawm.



Then they took Yer home
with them.

Hmong Folk Tales

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