

Tus NEEG TXIAV TAWS,
nws tus QAIB thiab nws
POJ NIAM

The WOODCUTTER, his
ROOSTER and his WIFE

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

Woodcutter His Rooster and His Wife; Level 2
Johnson Charles

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Hmong Folk Tales
Retold in ESL

Series Editor:
Charles Johnson



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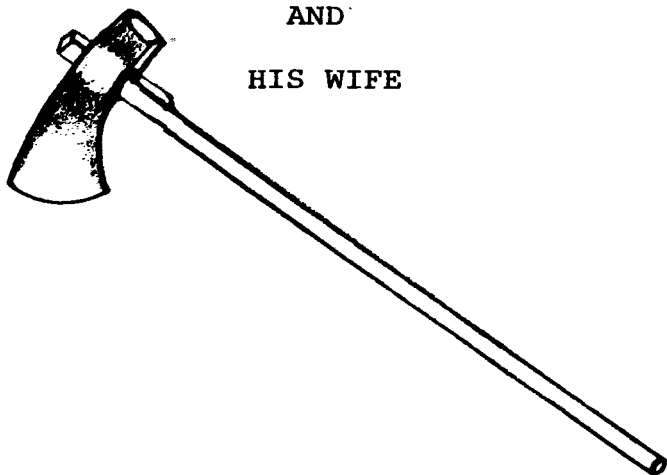
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THE WOODCUTTER,
HIS ROOSTER
AND
HIS WIFE





Thiam ub muaj ob niam txiv txom txom nyem
txiav taws muag xwb
nkawd noyb ze hav zoov.
Nkawd tsis muaj ib nyuag qho hyiaj
hlo li.

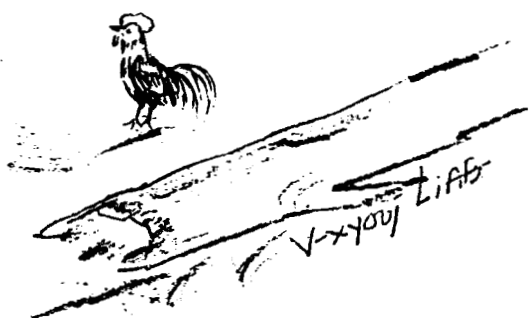
Muaj gee zaus nws tus txiv
tau muab taws coj mus pauv mov
thiab pauv ris tsho hnav.



One time
a poor woodcutter and his wife
lived near the forest.
They didn't have any money
at all.
The woodcutter sometimes
traded wood for food
or cloth.

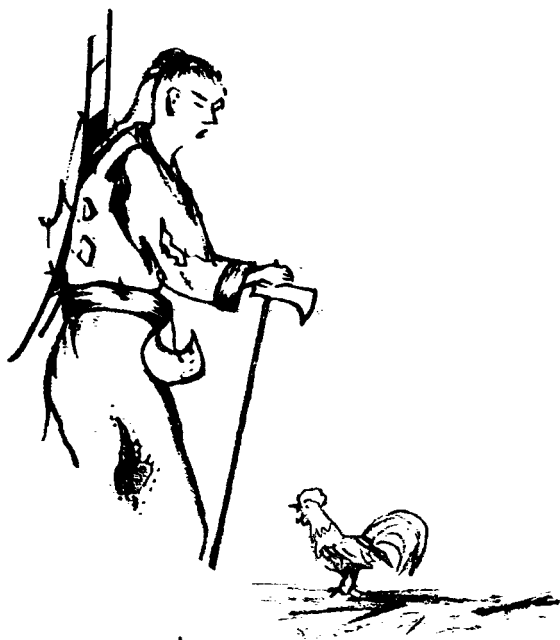
Nkawd tsis muaj ib nyuag qho nyiaj
hlo li.

Tiamsis nkawd muaj
tib tug nyuag lau qaib
uas nws tus txiv nyiam heev.
Tus txiv xav hais tias
tus lau qaib zoo nkauj thiab ntse.



They didn't have any money.
But they had one rooster
that the woodcutter loved
very much.
He thought the rooster was
beautiful and intelligent.

Txhua txhua taig kis
 uas nws yuav mus txiav taws
 tom hav zoov,
 nws yuav tsum nres ntsia
 nws tus qaib tso.
 "La mus lawm nawb,
 kuv tus qaib zoo nkauj,"
 hais li ntawd rau ces mam li mus.



Every morning
 when he went to the forest
 to cut wood,
 the woodcutter would stop
 and see the rooster.
 "Goodbye, my beauty,"
 he would say.

Thaum tsau ntuj
rov los txog tsev,
nws rov hais rau nws tus qaib dua thiab
tias,

"Hello dua,
kuv tus me nyuam lau qaib ntse."



In the evening,
when he came home,
he always spoke to the rooster
again.

"Hello again,
you smart little rooster,"
he said.

Muaj ib taig kis,
 tom qab tus neeg txiav taws
 la nws tus lau qaib mus ua hauj lwm lawm.
 Nws poj niam cheb vaj cheb tsev.
 Thaum nws tseem cheb cheb tsev
 muaj ib tug neeg muaj txiag
 tuaj txog ntawm nws lub qhov rooj.



One morning,
 after the woodcutter
 said goodbye to the rooster,
 he went to work.
 His wife cleaned house.
 While she was sweeping,
 a rich man came to her door.

Nws hais tias,
"Kuv yog huab tias.
Kyv xav so me ntsis.
Kuv thov los tsev thiab puas tau?"



"I am the king," he said.
"I need to rest.
May I come in?"

Tus poj niam teb hais tias,
"Los las mas. Zaum os.
Kuv muaj lus zoo siab
ua koj los so hauv kuv tsev."



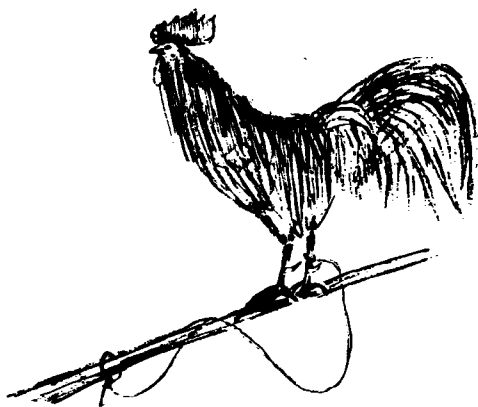
"Oh, sir, please come in and
sit down,"
the wife answered.
"I am happy to have you
in my home."

Tiamsis tus poj niam xac hais tias,
 "Ntuj es, kuv yuav ua li cas
 mov los tsis muaj, nyiaj los tsis muaj.
 Kuv yuav muab tus dabtsi
 coj los ua ib pluag mov
 rau huab tais noj?"



But she thought,
 "Oh, dear, what can I do?
 I don't have any food or
 any money.
 What can I give the king
 to eat?"

Tus poj niam tsis muaj dabtsi kias
tsuas tshuav tib tug lau qaib xwb
ua li nws thiaj li muab tus lau qaib
tua ua ib pluag mov rau huab tais noj.



She had nothing but the rooster,
so she killed it and
cooked it for the king.

Tsis ntev nws tus txiv los txog tsev.
Nws nrhiav nws tus lau qaib,
tiam sis tsis pom.
Nws cuab nws tus lau qaib
tabsis tsis hnov teb qhov twg hlo li.



Soon her husband came home.
He looked for the rooster,
but he couldn't see it.
He called to the rooster,
but there was no answer.

Ces nws tsawm mus tom tsev mov
thiab noog nws poj niam hais tias,
"Kuv tus lau qaib rau twg lawm?"

Nws tus poj niam teb hais tias,
"Kuv muab tus lau qaib tua lawm."



Then he went into the kitchen
and asked his wife,
"Where's my rooster?"

His wife said,
"I killed the rooster."

Nws qw hais tias,

"Dabtsi?

Koj muab kuv tus lau qaib tua?"

Ces nws txawm muab poj niam ntaus

ces poj niam txawm quaj quaj.

"Vim li cas

koj muab kuv tus lau qaib tua?"

Nws poj niam teb hais tias,

"Kuv muab koj bus lau qaib

ua ib pluag mov rau huab tais noj."



He yelled, "What?

Killed my rooster?"

Then he hit her and

she began to cry.

"Why did you kill it?"

She answered,

"I cooked your rooster

for the king."

Huab tais hnov suab quaj
ces txawm noog hais tias,
"Vim li cas ais koj quaj?"



The king heard the noise
and asked,
"What's the matter?
Why are you crying?"

Tus poj niam teb hais tias,
 "Kuv tus txiv chim
 vim rau qhov kuv ua
 ib nyuag pluag mov me me
 rau koj noj xwb.
 Koj yog huab tais
 ua li cas ais kuv yuav tsis muas npua
 tua rau koj noj.
 Ais kuv yuav muab ib tug nyuag qaib
 me me us rau koj noj xwb."



The woman said,
 "My husband is angry
 because I cooked
 a small dinner.
 You are the king.
 I didn't buy a pig
 for your dinner.
 I just cooked
 one small chicken."

Huab tais zoo siab heev thiab hais tias,
 "Koj hais lus raws kev raws cai heev.
 Koj thiab koj tus txiv neb
 yog neeg zoog kawg.
 Neb yog neeg txom nyem
 tiamsis neb muab rau kuv
 ib puas yam tsav uas neb muaj.
 Kuv yuav muab me ntsis nyiaj
 thiab kub pub rau neb.
 Koj tus txiv yuav tau los ua ib tug nom
 kav lub zeev no,
 mas neb yuav muaj nyiaj myuaj txiaj."



The king was pleased and said,
 "You speak very politely.
 You and your husband are
 good people.
 You are poor
 but you gave me all you had.
 I will give you some silver
 and gold.
 Your husband will be
 the headsman
 of the district.
 You will be rich."

LI NTAWD,
NCO NTSOOV HAIS TIAS
TAU POJ NIAM ZOO,
NWS KUJ YUAV PAB TAU TUS TXIV
MUS TAG NWS LUB NEEJ.



SO REMEMBER,
IT IS IMPORTANT
 TO HAVE A GOOD WIFE.
SHE WILL KNOW HOW TO HELP A MAN
 ALL HIS LIFE.

Hmong Folk Tales

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THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD:

The Sun and Moon

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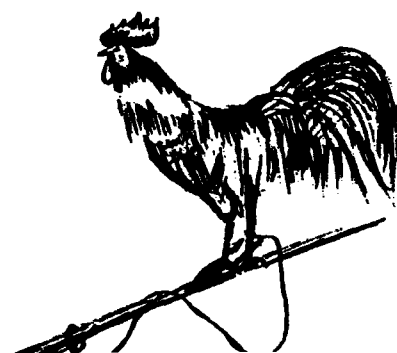
*THE WOODCUTTER, HIS ROOSTER

AND HIS WIFE

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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