

Hmong Folk Tales Retold in ESL

Series Editor: Charles Johnson



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YOB NRAUG NTSUAG

YAO THE ORPHAN

A Hmong Folk Tale
in Hmong
and Beginning ESL
Level 2

Charles Johnson Editor

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A Hmong Folk Tale in Hmong and Beginning ESL Level 2

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YAO THE ORPHAN

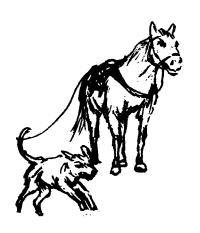


Thaum ub muaj ib tug huab tais
nws muaj xya leej ntxhais.
Nws hais rau nws pab ntxhais hais tias,
"Nej cia li nyuas
mus nrhiav yuav nyias txiv.



A long time ago
a king had seven daughters.
He said,
"Go find husbands
for yourselves.

"Coj tus nees
thiab tus dev liab muag no
nrog nej mus.
Nej lawv dev qab.
Dev mus so qhov twg
nej yuav pom nej tus txiv
nyob qhov ntawd."



"Take this horse and this red-eyed dog. Follow the dog. Where he stops you will find your husband." Rau leej ntxhais txawm teb hais tias, "Kuv tsis kam mus."



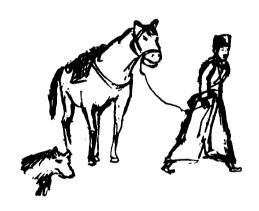
Six of the daughters said, "No, I won't go."

Tus ntxhais ntxhawm thij xya thiaj li teb hais tias, "Txiv Kuv mus. Kuv ua raws li koj hais."



The seventh and youngest daughter said,
"Yes, Father,
I will do what you say."

Ces nws txawm cab nees
thiab coj tus dev liab muag
nrog nws mus.
Nws lawv dev liab muag qab.
Tus dev txawm mus
hauv Yob nraug ntsuag tsev.



So she took the horse and the red-eyed dog. She followed the dog. He came to the house of Yao the orphan.

Nws mus nkaum hauv qab txag. Nws txawm tsis tawm los li lawm.

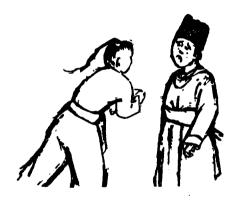


He went into the house and hid under the bed. He wouldn't leave.

Huab tais tus ntxhais txawm yuav Yob. Yob pluag pluag, txom txom nyem mas nws chim siab heev niaj hnub quaj.



The king's daughter cried, but she married Yao. Yao was poor and she was sad. Every day she cried. Thaum kawg, Yob hais tias,
"Kuv poj niam niaj hnub quaj.
Kuv hais rau nws hais tias
kuv tsis muaj ib npib nyiaj.
Kuv hais rau nws hais tias
kuv txom nyem kuv pluag
no mas ua li cas
los nws pheej yuav yuav kuv xwb.
Ua li kuv yuav ua li cas?
Kuv yuav mus xyuas Saub.
Nws yog ib tug neeg ntse
thiab paub tag ib puas tsav yam.
Nws yeej yuav pab tau kuv xwb."



Finally Yao said,

"My wife cries all the time.

I told her I don't have
any money.

I told her I am poor,
but she wanted to marry me.

What can I do?

I'll go to see Shao.

He is a wise man and
knows everything.

He will help me."

Ces nws txawm mus cuag Saub.
Saub hais rau nws hais tias,
"Yog, kuv pab tau koj.
Koj muab khaub rhuab thiab cib laug
rau koj poj niam.
Hais rau nws kom nws mus cheb tsev
kom zoo zoo.
Cheb txhua txhua
ces kaum vaj ces kaum tsev.
Cheb qab txag qab txees.
Hais rau nws hais tias
khawg tag nrho tej xyoog, ntoo, ntawv,
los puas yog pob zeb
uas nvob hauv tsev huv tib si."





So he went to Shao and
Shao told him,
"Yes, I can help you.
Give your wife a broom and
a dustpan.
Tell her to sweep the house
carefully,
to sweep in every corner,
under the bed and
under the shelves.
Tell her to pick up
every scrap of wood or stone."

Ces Yob txawm los tsev,
muab hkaub rhuab civ laug
rau nws poj niam.
Nws poj niam txawm cheb txhua txhua
ces kaum vaj ces kaum tsev,
qab txag qab txees.



Then Yao gave his wife
a broom and
a dustpan.

She swept in every corner,
under the bed and
under the shelves.

Nws hkaws tag nrho tej xyoob, ntoo, ntawv, los puas yog pob zeb huv tib si.



She picked up scraps of wood and stone.

Nyob ze ntawm qhov cub nws pom ib hub nyiaj thiab kub.

Nws zoo siab heev. Nws txawm hu Yob hais tias, "Yob, koj sim los xyuas ntawm no saib!"



And near the stove, she found pots of gold and silver.

She was happy.
She called to Yao,
"Oh, Yao, come and see!"

Tom qab no, Yob thiab Yob poj niam nkawd muaj ib tug me nyuam.
Thaum tus me nyuam zaum tau lawm,
Yob poj niam txawm hais rau Yob tias,
"Yob, wb tus me nyuam loj lawm.
Kuv xav rov qab mus xyuas
kuv niam lawv."
Ces nkawd txawm
rov qab mus xyuas huab tais.

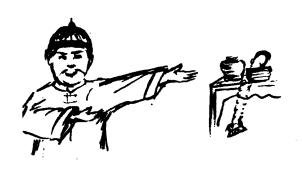


Later, Yao and his wife
had a baby.

When the baby sat up,
Yao's wife said,
"Dear Yao, our baby is big.
I want to visit my parents."

And they went to visit
the king.

Yob poj niam hais rau Yob tias,
"Koj mloog kuv hais.
Kuv txiv yuav muab dabtsi
pub rau wb xwb.
Nws yuav noog wb hais tias,
neb xav tau tus dabtsi.



Yao's wife said to him,
"Listen to me.
My father will give us
a gift.
He will ask us what we want.

"No mas koj tsis txhob taij yuav nyiaj los yuav kub. Koj taij yuav nws tus ywm kav hlau, nws lub taub iab thiab daim tawv twm qhuav."



"Don't ask for gold or silver.
Ask for his round piece of iron,
his old dry gourd and
his piece
of buffalo hide."

Ces Yob txawm taij yuav cov khoom no. Tiam sis huab tais hais tias,
"Kuv tsis xav muab tus ywm kav hlau, lub taub iab thiab daim tawv twm qhuav rau neb. Kuv tseem xav tau thiab."



So Yao asked for these things.
But the king said,
"I don't want to give you
my round piece of iron,
my dry gourd and
my piece of buffalo hide.
I need them."

Ces Yob poj niam txawm hais tias,
"Txiv, tsis tau!
Koj hais tias kom mus.
Ces kuv mloog koj lus.
Tag kuv cov niam laus
tsis kam muaj neeg mus.
Koj cia li muab tus ywm kav hlau,
lub taub iab
thiab daim tawv twm qhuav rau wb."



Then Yao's wife said,
"But Father! You said, 'Go,'
and I went.
I obeyed you.
My sisters said, 'No,'
and I said, 'Yes.'
Give us the iron, the gourd
and the buffalo hide."

Ces nws txiv thiaj li teb hais tias,
"Kuv tus me ntxhais,
koj yog ib tug ntxhais uas zoo kawg,
koj mloog kuv lus.
Koj yuav yuav tus dabtsi los
koj cia li nga mus."



Ces Yob poj niam me nyuam lawv txawm rov qab los tom lawv lub tsev.

Lawv nqa huab tais tus ywm kav hlau, lub taub iab thiab daim tawv twm qhuav los thiab.



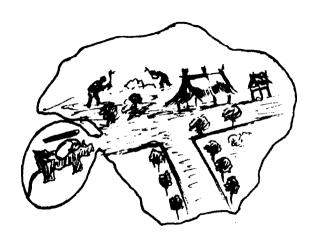
So Yao and his wife and baby went back to their own home.

They took
the king's round piece of iron,
his dry gourd and
his buffalo hide.

Cov khoom pub no mas muaj nwj huam.

Nws ua rau Kob thiab Kob poj niam nkawd
muaj ntau yam xws li:
muaj zoo vaj zoo tsev,
muaj tub mab tub qhe,
muaj mov noj thiab liaj ia.

Uarau huab tais tus ntxhais ntxawm
thiab nws tus txiv muaj lus zoo siab
thiab nyob kaj siab lug mus ntau xyoo.



These gifts were magic.
They gave Yao and his wife many things:
 a beautiful house, servants, rice fields and food.
The seventh daughter and her husband were happy for many years.

Hmong Folk Tales

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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.

