

Tus POJ NIAM thiab
tus TSOV

The WOMAN and the
TIGER



A HMONG FOLK TALE IN
HMONG AND BEGINNING
ESL: LEVEL 1

Woman and The Tiger; Level 1 (Tus Poj Niam
Johnson Charles

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Hmong Folk Tales

Retold in ESL

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Charles Johnson

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A Hmong Folk Tale
in Hmong
and Beginning ESL
Level 1

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Editor

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THE WOMAN

AND

THE TIGER

Puag thaum ub,
ib tug Hmoob tau mus tua ib tug liab.
Tab sis,
ib tug tsov tau tom tus yawg Hmoob ntawd.



Many years ago,
a man killed a monkey.
But a tiger saw the man.

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



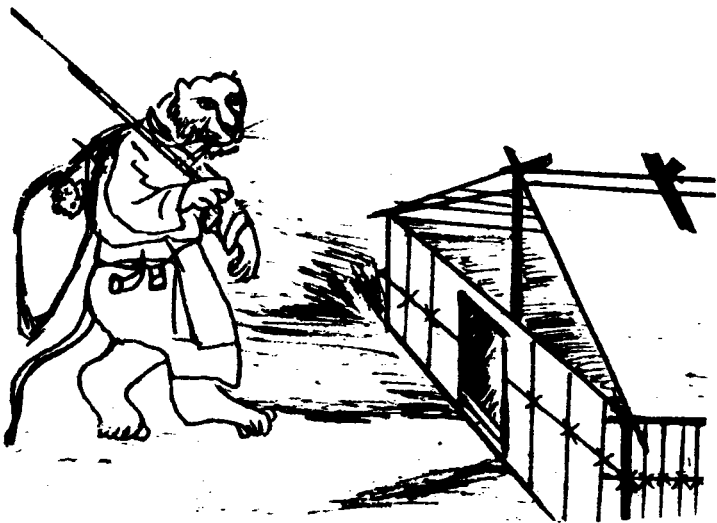
The tiger killed the man
and ate him.

Nws hnav neeg tej ris tsho.
Nws nqa neeg rab phom
thiab nws hais tias,
"Kuv yog neeg."



He put on the man's clothes.
He took the man's gun.
And he said, "I am a man."

Ces nws mus hauv neeg lub tsev.
Nws hais rau tus poj niam hais tias,
"Kuv yog koj tus txiv."



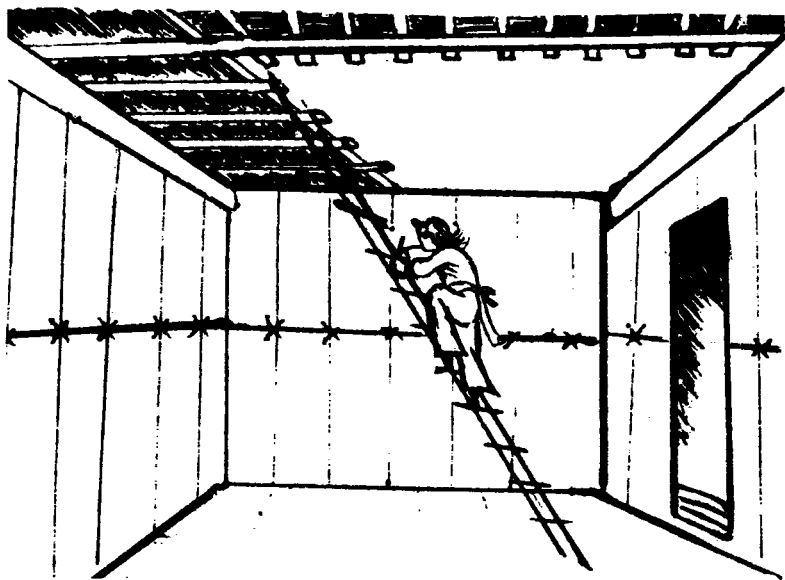
The tiger went
to the man's house.
He said to the man's wife,
"I am your husband."

Tus poj niam
tsis paub hais tias nws yog tsov.
Tiamsis nws tus niam hluas Ntxawm
hais tias,
"Tus no tsis yog neeg.
Nws yog tsov."



The wife didn't know
 it was a tiger.
But her little sister Yer
said, "This isn't a man.
 This is a tiger."

Ces tus niam hluas
txawm mus nkaum rau saum nthab.



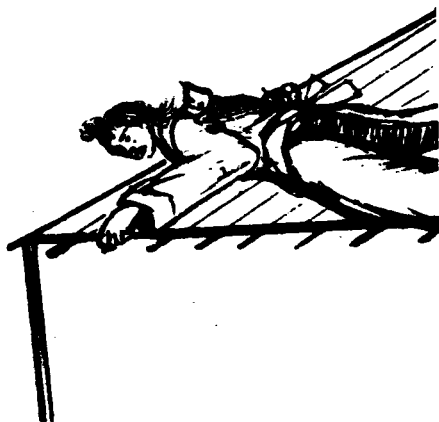
And she hid upstairs.

Hmo ntawd,
tus tsov muab tus poj niam ntawd
tom noj.
Thiab muab mws cov me nyuam
tom noj nrov nkij, nkawj,
nkij, nkawj.



That night,
the tiger ate the wife.
And he ate all the children,
crunch, crunch.

Ntxawm hnov suab nrov nws ntshai.



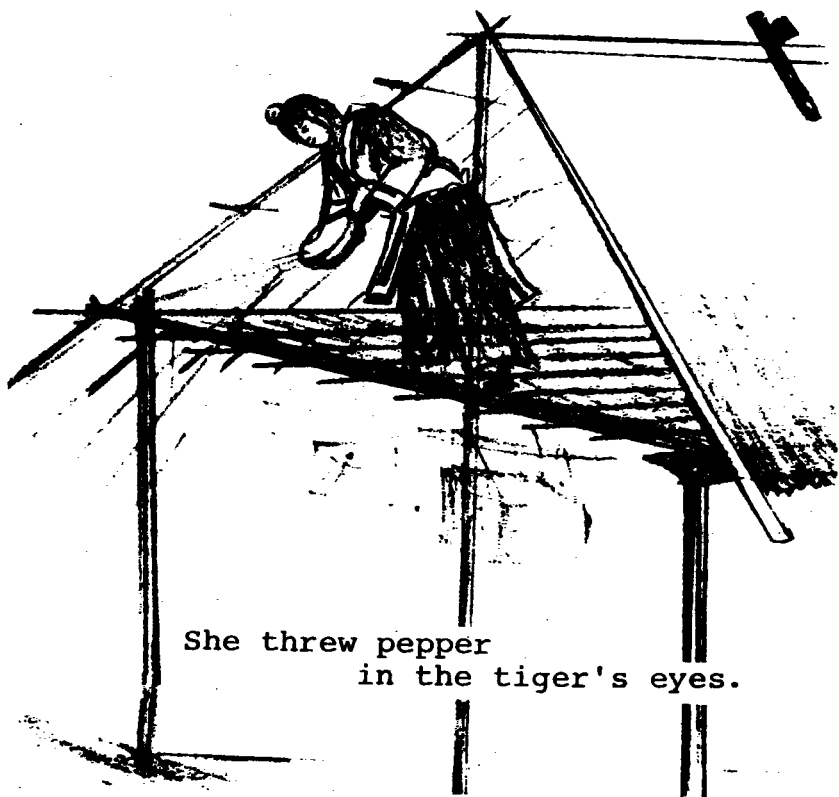
Yer heard the crunch, crunch.
She was scared.

Tag kis sawv ntxov
tsov hais tias,
"Nqis los."
Tiamsis Ntxawm ntshai.
Nws tsis kam nqis los.



The next morning,
the tiger said, "Come down."
But Yer was afraid.
She didn't come down.

Nws ntov kua txob
los rau tsov qhov muag.



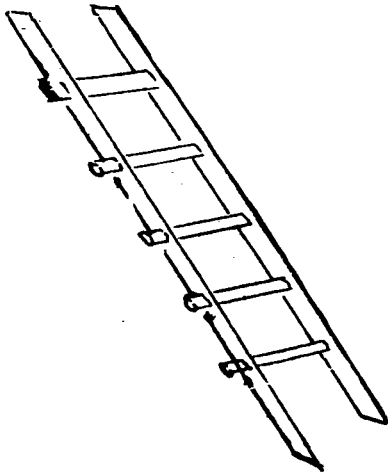
She threw pepper
in the tiger's eyes.

Tsov quaj, "Mlow!"
Ces tsov txawm khiav mus ntxuav muag
rau nram hav dej.



"O-o-ow!" the tiger said.
He ran to the river.
And he washed his eyes.

Ntxawm nqis ntaiv los nrawm nroos.
Ntxawm los muab me ntsis kua txob.



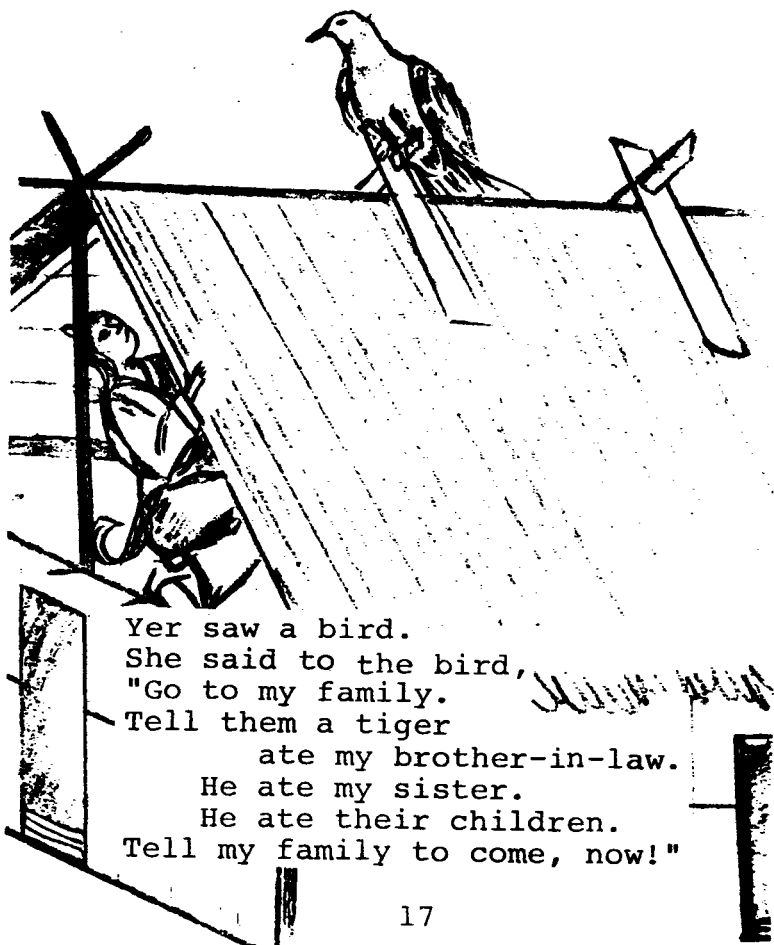
Yer came down the ladder
quickly.
She got some pepper.

Ces nws nce rov rau saum nthab lawm.



And she got some salt.
Then she went back
up the ladder.

Ntxawm pom ib tug noog.
Ntxawm hais rau tus noog tias,
"Koj mus hais qhia kuv tsev neeg
hais tias
tsov tom kuv tus txiv laus
thiab kuv tus niam laus lawm.
Tsov tom nkawd cov me nyuam tag
huv tib si thiab.
Hais rau kuv tsev neeg
kom tuaj tam sis no."



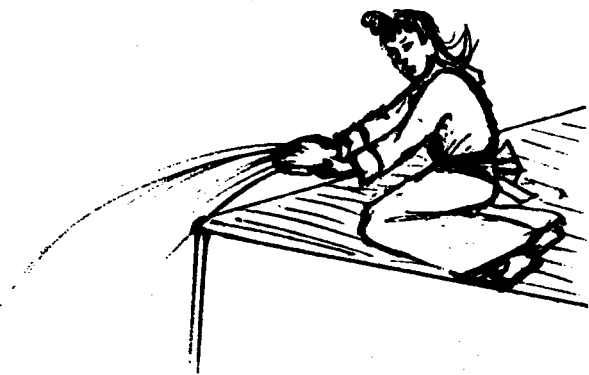
Yer saw a bird.
She said to the bird,
"Go to my family.
Tell them a tiger
ate my brother-in-law.
He ate my sister.
He ate their children.
Tell my family to come, now!"

Ces tus noog txawm mus
hais rau nws tsev neeg.



So the bird went.

Tsov rov qab los tsev,
hais rau Ntxawm tias, "Nqis los."
Ntxawm rov ntov kua ntsev
thiab kua txob rau tsov qhov muag.



Then the tiger came
back to the house.
He said to Yer, "Come down!"
But she threw the salt
and pepper.
She threw them in his eyes.

Tsov nquaj, "Mlow!"
Ces rov mus ntxuav muag
rau nram hav dej.



The tiger said, "O-o-ow!"
And he ran to the river
again.

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

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



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

"He's down at the river,"
answered Yer.
"I'll call him."

Ntxawm hu hais tias,
"Tsov aws, Tsov aws!
Kuv tsev neeg nyob ntawm no.
Lawv xav nrog kom tham.
Kuv yuav ua koj tus poj niam."



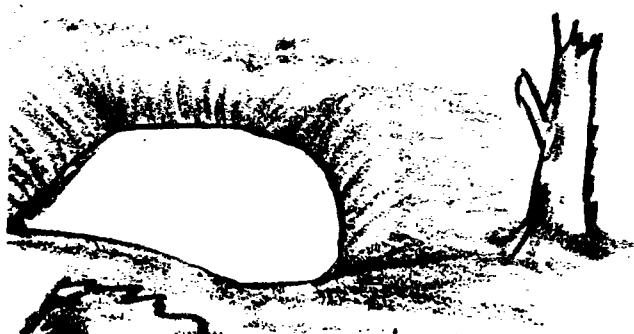
"Tiger, Tiger!" Yer called.
"My family is here.
They want to talk with you.
I will be your wife."

Tsov teb hais tias, "Zoo ntau!"
Tsov rov los hauv tsev
thiab nrog lawv tham.



"Good!" the tiger answered.
He came to the house
and talked.

Tiamsis Ntxawm cov nus qee leej
tau tawm mus sab nraud.
Lawv mus khawb qho rau nram kev.



But some of Yer's brothers
went outside.
They dug a hole.
They dug it in the path.

Lawv muab khaub
thiab nplooj tsuab lub qho.



Then they put leaves
over the hole.

Lawv hais rau tsov hais tias,
"Me tsov,
koj lub qhov muag mob mob
no ces mus ntxuav muag lawm
nram hav dej."



"Dear Tiger," they said.
"Your eyes hurt.
Come to the river.
Wash your eyes."

Ob tug nus hais tias,

"Wb pab tau koj.

Wb pab tuav koj mus lawm nram hav dej."



"We can help you,"
the brothers said.

"We can help you go
to the river."

Ces ob tug nus txawm nrog tsov mus.
Tsov taug kev
tuaj hauv nrub nrab.



Then two brothers walked
with the tiger.
The tiger walked
in the middle.
Only the tiger walked
on the path.

Tsov taug kev.
Tsov tsuj saum khaub
thiab nplooj ntoos.
Tsov poob qhov.



So the tiger walked
on the leaves
over the hole.
He fell in!

Nkawd muab tsov tua.



The brothers killed him.

Lawv coj Ntxawm rov los tsev.
Lawv coj Ntxawm nrov los
nrog nws tsev neeg nyob.



Then they took Yer home
with them.

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.

