

# QEEJ TU SIAV

1. Qeej Hauv Ncoo, Noo nrw

Tog maum xees . Tog maum xees  
2,3,4 2,6 3,4 2,3, 4 2,6 3,4

la

Tog maum xees qa tsi nws tsis yog <sup>1</sup> niag niaj hnuv,  
2,3,4 2,6 3,4 3,5 3,5 4,2

pes nrab hnuv,nplooj tsis zeeg zoov tsis kaj, ntiaj pes teb nrab  
5,3 4 4,2 2,6 4 2 1,3 4 2,6 2,6 5,3 2,4 2

gas cai txooj tib neeg los ntsib tuag ntim tsis **tag**.<sup>2</sup>  
3 2 2,6 4 2 1,3 4 2,5 3,2 4 2

The day is not the right day or even the right half a day. It is dark - the jungle kingdom is dark and full of leaves. The world is sad and a human being meets his destiny. The world overflows with living things. That is why someone must die.

Tog maum xees nplooj tsis zeeg zoov tsis **huv**<sup>3</sup>, ntiaj pes teb  
2,3,4 2,6 3,4 2,6 4 2 1,3 4 1,4 2,6 5,3 2,4

nrab gas cai txooj tib neeg los tsib tuag ntim tsis **puv**, ntiaj  
2 3 2 2,6 4 2 1,3 4 2,5 3,2 4 1,4 2,6

pes teb nrab gas cai txooj tib neeg los tuag **tas**.  
1,5 2,4 2 3 2 2,6 4 2 1,3 2,5 2

The jungle kingdom is dark and unclean. The world is full of sadness and death awaits.<sup>4</sup> Someone must die.

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<sup>1</sup> These words have no meaning

<sup>2</sup> **Tag** and **Tas** are a rhymed parallelism

<sup>3</sup> **Huv** and **Puv** are a rhymed parallelism

<sup>4</sup> Literally, the place of death is not full.

1b

Yuav mus muab puj lau- qaib tua siv ntis, yuav {los}<sup>5</sup> mus

1,3 3 2,4 2,6 1,4 ?1,2,4 1 3 1 1,3 3

muab puj lau-qaib tua siv nrawv

2,4 2,6 1,4 1,2,4 4 4 1,4

{Yuav mus muab} tus leej tub tuag yuav los noj tau {puj} lau-

2,6 3,5 4 1,2 1,3 3 2,6 4 1

qaib siab, yuav haus tau lau-qaib ntsws

1,4 2,4 1,4 2,3 4 1 2,4 2

Take the life of a chicken so that it will be able to guide the  
dead person to the next world

Yuav mus nrog tus lau-qaib nce sis hlov nce sis hlov Ntxwj qaum

1,3 3 2 2 1 1,4 4 3 4 4 3 4 3,6 3.5

Nyoog, {yuav mus yuav mus nrog} Txoj xub ke os<sup>6</sup> tshav ntuj pes

2 1,3 3 1,3 3 2 2,6 2,4 4 2 1,3 2,6 3

tiaj nkaum lau-qaib dab, los nag pes tiag yuav nkaum lau-qaib

2 2,3 1 1,4 2,4 3 2 3 2 1 2,3 1 1,4

tis.

2

Yuav mus nrog tus lau-qaib nce sis hlov nce sis hlov Ntxwj qaum

1,3 3 2 2 1 1,4 1 3 1 1 3 1 3,6 3,5

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<sup>5</sup> Seng Thao (Xeem Thoj) revised and corrected his performance during later discussions. Text within brackets thus { } here and hereafter is heard on the recording but was deemed incorrect.

<sup>6</sup> Underlined text here and hereafter was added by Seng Thao during later revisions. This text is not heard on the recording.

Nyoog txoj xub kev lawd tshav-tshav kub, lawd tshav-tshav kub.

2      2,6   2,1   4      2,3   4      4      4,1   4 ??   4      4      4,1

The dead person's soul must eat the chicken's heart and the chicken's lung then follow the chicken to the realm of Ntxwj Nyoog<sup>7</sup>. When it is sunny you can take shelter under the chicken's breast and when it rains you can hide under the chicken's wings.

You will follow the chicken to the realm of Ntxwj Nyoog, the many very sunny, very sunny roads of his kingdom.

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<sup>7</sup> *Ntxwj Nyoog* (pronounced "zoo yung") is a Lord of the Otherworld "who judges the souls of those who are to be reincarnated into animal, vegetable or human form after their death [He] resides at the top of a mighty mountain, guarding the gates which must be crossed before the souls of the dead can return to the village of their ancestors...Once one's licence for life has expired, only the shaman can intervene, sometimes, with *Ntxwj Nyoog* for an extension of its term to prolong one's life on earth...[He] is incorrigibly wicked" (Tapp 1989: 60)