

Zomi Folktales Collection Vol. 1

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Folktale 1: The Clever Fox and the Tiger

Long ago in the hills of Chin State, there lived a clever fox who outsmarted a mighty tiger through wit and wisdom.

One day, the tiger caught the fox and said,
I will eat you for my dinner tonight.

The fox replied, O great tiger, I know where there is
a much bigger feast waiting for you.

The fox led the tiger to a deep well and said,
Look down there - another tiger guards a great treasure.

The tiger looked into the well and saw his own reflection.
Enraged, he jumped in to fight the other tiger.

The fox walked away, teaching us that wisdom
is mightier than strength.

Moral: Intelligence overcomes brute force.

Folktale 2: The Origin of the Zomi Hills

In the beginning, the Great Spirit created the earth flat.
But the Zomi people needed protection from invaders.

So the Great Spirit pushed up the earth to form mountains,
creating a natural fortress for the Zomi people.

The hills became their home, their identity, and their pride.
To this day, the Zomi are known as the People of the Hills.

Folktale 3: The Two Brothers

Two brothers lived in a village. The elder was strong but lazy, while the younger was small but hardworking.

When famine came, the elder brother had nothing stored, but the younger brother had prepared well.

The younger brother shared his food with everyone, including his elder brother, teaching the village the value of diligence and generosity.

Folktale 4: Why the Hornbill Has a Crown

The hornbill was once a plain bird with no special features. One day, it helped the Great Spirit carry seeds across the hills.

As a reward, the Great Spirit gave the hornbill a magnificent crown and colorful feathers, making it the most beautiful bird in the Zomi hills.

The hornbill became a symbol of loyalty and service.