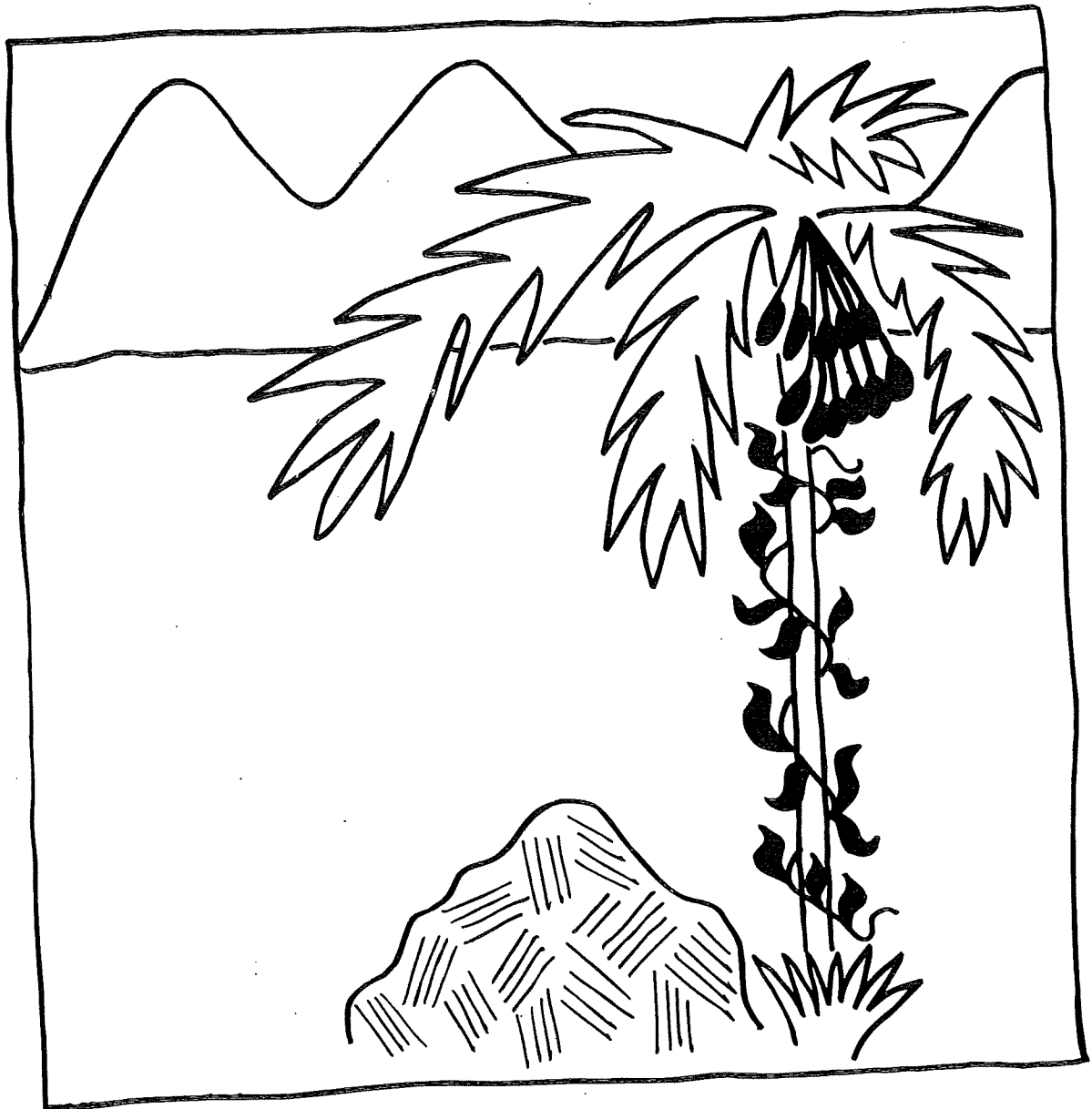


BETEL AND ARECA

Before you start to read

- Do you know anyone who loved someone so much that he/she was willing to give his/her life for the other's happiness?
- Some wedding customs are so old that people have forgotten how or why they started. Read this story to find out about the beginning of a wedding tradition that many Vietnamese people still follow.
- In different cultures there are different beliefs about the importance of love of family and marital love. Which bond—the bond of blood (family) or the bond of marriage—is stronger in your culture?
- Read this story. Does one kind of love seem stronger than the other in this story?





BETEL AND ARECA

- 1 Once upon a time, there was a family with two sons. The parents died, and the two brothers lived together. They looked alike, and they loved each other very much.
- 2 After the older brother got married, his wife often got mixed up because they were so much alike. The brothers were sad about this.
- 3 The younger brother wanted his older brother to be happy, so he went away to the forest and he died there. When he died, he turned into a limestone rock.
- 4 The older brother felt sad and lonely. He wanted to see his brother, so he went to look for him in the forest. He saw the limestone rock and sat down on it. Then he died, too. After he died, he turned into an areca tree.
- 5 When the wife went to the forest to look for the brothers, she saw the rock and the tree. Then she died too. She became a betel vine. The vine climbed around the areca tree.
- 6 After that, people saw the three things together, the limestone rock, the areca tree and the betel vine. They ate the fruit from the areca tree and the leaf from the betel vine with the powder from the limestone.
- 7 The king heard about this and he decided to make it a custom: When people get married, they chew these three things together.

A

Exercises

A

Pronoun Reference

Which words or ideas do the underlined pronouns refer to?

1. "They looked alike. (paragraph 1) _____
2. "The brothers were sad about this. (paragraph 2)

3. "He saw the limestone rock and sat down on it." (paragraph 4)
he _____ it _____
4. "People saw these three things together." (paragraph 6)
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
5. "The king heard about this, and he decided to make it a custom." (paragraph 7)
this _____ he _____ it _____
6. "They chew these three things together." (paragraph 7)
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Comprehension

1. Why did the wife get mixed up?
2. Why did the younger brother leave the house and go to the forest?
3. What did the younger brother become when he died?
4. Who became a betel vine?
5. What custom did the king start?
6. What three things do people chew when they get married?

True-False

1. _____ The younger brother left because he didn't like his sister-in-law.
2. _____ The older brother got married.
3. _____ The younger brother turned into an areca tree.
4. _____ When the wife died, she became a betel vine.
5. _____ The brothers loved each other.
6. _____ When people get married they chew the fruit from the areca tree, the leaf of the betel vine and the powder from the limestone.
7. _____ The betel vine climbs around the areca tree.
8. _____ The brothers were twins.

Sentence Order

1. _____ The vine climbed around the areca tree.
2. _____ The king decided to make it a custom for people to eat these three things when they marry.
3. _____ The parents died.
4. _____ The younger brother went to the forest.
5. _____ The older brother died.
6. _____ The older brother got married.
7. _____ The wife died and became a betel vine.
8. _____ The older brother felt sad and lonely.

Matching

Match the words in the first column with their definitions in the second column.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. _____ alike | a. to care about |
| 2. _____ chew | b. confused |
| 3. _____ forest | c. to put together |
| 4. _____ lonely | d. a climbing plant |
| 5. _____ mixed up | e. finely ground pieces |
| 6. _____ powder | f. the same |
| 7. _____ vine | g. grind with the teeth |
| 8. _____ custom | h. a sad feeling of being alone |
| | i. trees, woods |
| | j. usual habit, tradition |

Sentence Combining

Use the word in parentheses to combine each pair of sentences.

1. The older brother got married. His wife often got mixed up.

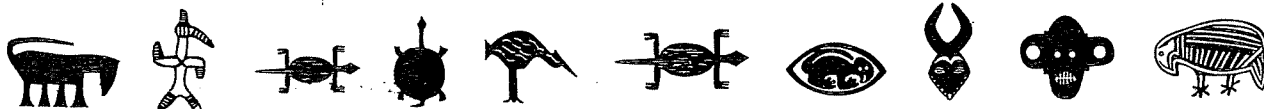
(after) _____

2. His wife got mixed up. The brothers looked alike.

(because) _____

3. He died. He turned into a limestone rock.

(when) _____



Exercises

B

Comprehension

1. *From then on* means:
 - a. alike
 - b. when
 - c. after that time
 - d. in the past
2. There were two orphaned brothers.
 - a. What is the subject of that sentence? _____
 - b. What is the verb? _____
3. What phrase is used to start the story?

4. The king made his decree because:
 - a. he wanted his people to have strong teeth.
 - b. this was the people's custom anyway.
 - c. he wanted a marriage custom that represented love and devotion.
5. "When the king heard of *this custom . . .*" (paragraph 7).
What custom? _____
6. "He made a decree." What was the king's decree?

Vocabulary

Choose from the following words to fill in the blanks:

alike chewed climbing confused decreed
miss orphaned similar tasted

1. The boys were _____ when their parents died in a fire.
2. Alex _____ the meat for a long time because it was tough.
3. The homework assignment was so difficult that Alan got _____.
4. My new car is _____ to yours.
5. Jon and Ricky were _____ the mountain when they got hurt.
6. We _____ our friends when we don't see them for a long time.

Reading from Context

1. What word in paragraph 1 means "without parents"?

2. What word in paragraph 1 means "exactly alike"?

3. What word in paragraph 2 means "almost identical or somewhat alike"? _____

4. What word in paragraph 5 means the same as "forest"?

5. What word in paragraph 6 means "to use the teeth to eat"?

6. What word in paragraph 7 means "a habit, an accepted social practice"? _____

7. What word in paragraph 7 means "an official order or law"?

8. What word in paragraph 4 means "brother or sister"?

9. What word in paragraph 5 means "a climbing plant"?

Sentence Combining

Use the words in parentheses to combine each pair of sentences.

1. There were two orphaned brothers. They lived together.

(who) _____

2. He died. He turned into an areca tree.

(after) _____

3. The wife went to the woods to look for the brothers. She saw the rock and the tree.

(when) _____

4. She became a betel vine. The betel vine was climbing around the areca tree.

(leave out some words) _____

5. They chewed these things. Their teeth became strong.

(when) _____

Topics for Discussion/Writing

- In this story it is a custom to eat limestone powder, areca fruit, and betel leaves at weddings. Weddings are a time to express love. Why would these foods be appropriate for a wedding?
- What is a common wedding custom in your country? Do you know how it started or what it means?
- Was the younger brother right or wrong in his decision to leave the house? Why do you think so?
- There are different kinds of love—brotherly love and marital love. Give an example of both kinds of love in this story.

