

**M107**  
**The song of Ndu-nzha-byu**

*Sung by Tao Zi-gai*

Notes

This song is recorded in Document K (no. 1/3, page 4), Document L (no. 3, page 7) and Document N (no. 5/2, page 358).

**Title.** The title adopted is that found in Document N.

**Line 2.** A note in Miao in Documents K and L at the end of the line explains that the meaning is "at that time", but does not say to which words this refers.

**Line 7.** In Document N the expression "ndlies liel", meaning "smooth", is wrongly written, "ndliexs liel".

**Line 8.** In Document N the word, "ngies" is incorrectly spelt, "hgies". This line, as it stands, is unfinished. Being parallel to line 6, one would expect it to continue, after the word "skilful", with "his hand spread out the earth", or something of that sort, and this would be followed by another line, parallel to line 7, saying something about the manner of the creation of the earth.

**Line 15.** Documents K and L both read  $\text{C}\text{J}^{\text{u}} \text{'C}^{\text{u}} \text{CT}_{\text{u}} \text{L}^{\text{n}}$  in this line, and they are followed by Document N. However, lines 15 and 16 are strictly parallel. The former concerns the sun, and the latter the moon.  $\text{CT}_{\text{u}} \text{L}^{\text{n}}$  is therefore not required here.

**Line 18.** Document N, transcribing the word  $\text{t}_{\text{z}}$  as "zeu" has lost the tone letter "f".

**Line 19.** In Document N the first five words  $\text{J}^{\circ} \text{J}^{\text{z}} \text{T}_{\text{u}} \text{J}^{\text{z}} \text{J}^{\text{z}}$  are transcribed "gof ghangb dox gnangb hangd". "Gnangb" is a printing error for "ghangb". There is also a foot note regarding "dox" which reads, "Dox: dox draob. Mountain range". The last two words are in Chinese. "Dox draob" certainly means "mountain range", but the word is not "dox", i.e.  $\text{T}^{\circ}$  but  $\text{T}_{\text{u}}$ , and "draob" is not in the text at all.

**Line 20.** A foot note in Document N correctly defines "caik daos" as "on the far side". The definition this time is in Miao.

**Line 23.** Document K, followed by Document N, has the correct text  $\text{C}\text{J}^{\text{u}} \text{- T}_{\text{u}} \text{C}\text{J}^{\text{u}} \text{- V}^{\text{u}}$ . In Document L the word is wrongly written,  $\text{CT}_{\text{u}}$ .

**Line 25.** Document N has wrongly transcribed  $\text{C}\bar{\text{E}}^{\text{u}}$ , "to pour out", as "nqiad". It should be, "nchad".

**Line 25, 26 and 27.** At some point in the copying process, possibly in cutting the wax stencil for Document K, lines 26 and 27 were omitted from their proper place following line 25. Rather than rewrite the whole stencil, compensation for the error was made by

repeating line 25 at the end of the song, and adding the missing lines 26 and 27.  
Documents L and N follow Document K.

**Line 29 ff.** The four lines 29 to 32 are missing in Document L, an error of haplography.