

M110
How Ya-ya shot the suns and moons.

Sung by a grandfather from Hmao-a-bw.

Notes

This song is recorded in Document C (no. 12 page 15)

Line 4. The word CT^u is mistakenly written CT^u.

Line 19. The Miao text for the last three words is J⁻ CT^u V^ɛ which would mean, "yellow shores", but this is, in all probability, a mistake because the phrase occurs frequently elsewhere in the songs and should read J⁻ CT^u Ĩ[̃], meaning "wide shores".

Line 24. This line in Document C reads: Ĩ[̃] Yⁿ 'Ĉ[̂] T["] J^ɛ C^ɛ. "shot one cross-bow hit seven pairs". That is, "With a single shot he hit seven pairs". The notion that a single arrow could hit seven different, double targets is so absurd as to raise serious questions about the accuracy of the text at this point. It looks as though the word "seven", though correct in line 21, has been mistakenly repeated in this line. The actual meaning of the line would appear to be that a single arrow hit, not only the sun at which it was aimed, but its attendant moon as well, and the text has been amended accordingly. See note in the introduction.