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How the Kha-woman plucked the hair from mankind.

Sung by Zhang Ming.

- When the sky had begun,
In the world where the elders first came,
When the elders of the people arrived, they found deep, dark woods and dense,
black forests.
The people had no crops,
5 They simply lived with the deer.
- The people were like deer by the edge of the forest,
Their elders like squeaking pheasants by the edge of the forest.
But there was a Kha-woman in the sky above who saw them,
And the Kha-woman came down to the people on earth.
- 10 The people had no clothes to wear,
For the people were covered with hair like the wild beasts.
Then the Kha-woman hunted,
Hunted the elders with their covering of hair.
- 15 What could the people do for the best,
For there was no way that the people could flee?
The people covered their heads in holes in the rocks.
Then the Kha-woman plucked,
Plucked the people's bodies, plucked them completely bare,
Except the elders' heads which alone escaped the plucking.
- 20 So the people had to go,
Go with their bodies naked, having no clothes to wear.
But all the elders of the sky above had pity,
Had pity for the elders on earth.
- 25 The elders of the sky showed their pity for the elders and the people on earth,
By ordering the Kha-woman to give hemp seed, hemp which could be stranded,
So that the elders of the earth might make clothes to wear.
Thus the Kha-woman gave,
Gave hemp seed from the sky
To earth's people to sow and make clothes to wear.
- 30 The elders of the sky caused,
Caused the Kha-woman to give seed-grain from above,
For the people to till that they might eat.
So the people, the elders received,
Received seed from the Kha-woman that they might eat.
- 35 The elders of the sky caused
The Kha-woman to give fire for the people to light.
So the people received fire embers to light up and warm themselves.
Then the elders of the sky said,

"The Kha-woman must be called back to the sky."

40 So the Kha-woman climbed up to the sky,

But when she thought of the people on earth,
Their flesh so good to eat and their blood so good to drink,
The Kha-woman grew increasingly hungry,
And the Kha-woman longed for human flesh to eat.

45 So the Kha-woman stood in the sky
And jumped, to land among earth's people,
But it was to her death, for the Kha-woman was killed.

When the people of the sky realised the Kha-woman was dead,
The elders of the people of the sky promised,
50 Promised that the Kha-woman should be changed,
Changed into a clump of the people's stinging nettles,
While the Kha-woman's hands were changed,
Changed into a clump of bracken.

The elders of the sky grew alarmed.
55 They rounded up the earth people and the sky people,
And having rounded them up, made earth people and sky people separate their
dwelling places,
So it was no longer possible to climb up to the sky,
And no longer possible to go down to the earth.