

M119
The song of Nzhai-jio-shi-du.

Sung by Zhang Ming.

Notes

This song is recorded in Document N (no. 44, page 601). The Miao text is full of mistakes. There is scarcely a line which does not require some correction. The majority of the errors are due to the fact that the compositor had no idea of the meaning of the text he was setting and often misread his manuscript. Capital letters appear where they should not be, words which should be separated are run together into conglomerates, single letters are constantly misread, omitted or detached from one word and added to the next. There are also other errors particularly in assigning tone letters. Thus the name "Nzhai" appears as "Nzhaix", "Nzhaik" and "Nzhais" for no obvious reason. In the present transcription the necessary corrections have been made, but no good purpose can be served by listing them all here. Only more important matters are noted below. Occasionally in the printed text two lines of the song have been run together into a single long line. This occurred with lines 18 and 19, 25 and 26, 51 and 52, 173 and 174, 175 and 176.

Line 116. The printed text has replaced the word "dlib", "far", with "fangd", repeated from earlier in the sentence.

Line 149. The word "faod" means "head" or "top most", and "las" means "spread out". A footnote explains that the "faod las" was an elevated area used for the rituals of spirit worship. "High place", therefore, with its feint Biblical overtones, is a fair translation.