# M131
# The song of the Flood.

## *Sung by Yang Zhi.*

Notes

This song is recorded in Document A (no. 2, page 3).  Document E' (no. 2, page 3).  Document E (no. 2, page 3).  Document K (no. 2/1, page 4).  Document L (no. 4, page 9).  Document N (no. 11, page 374).  The entry in Document N contains all but lines 18 to 24 and 106 to 124 of Yang Zhi's song, but the text has been rearranged and conflated with material from two other versions of the Flood story by different singers, together with some redaction.

**Line 2**.  The Name Ϲп ⅃₀ Ϲϯ'⁻ Š varies somewhat.  Document A has Ϲп ⅃₀ Ϲϯ₋ S°, Document E' has Ϲп Ⴑ₀ Ϲϯ̄' Š, Documents E, K and L have Ϲп ⅃₀ Ϲϯ'⁻ Š, while Document N reads, "nis bob ncal sod".  The meaning is not clear except that Ϲп ⅃° means "The Woman".

**Line 4**.  The name Δ" Ϲпıı ϯₔ ⅃⁻ Ⴑıı also shows variations. Document A has Δıı Ϲпıı ϯᵣ Ⴑıı, Documents E', K and L have Δ" Ϲпıı ϯₔ ⅃⁻ Ⴑıı, Document E has Δ" Ϲпıı ϯₔ Ⴑıı, and Document N reads, "Dlaot jaof zyul ghak laol".  ϯᵣ and ϯₔ mean "father", and ⅃⁻ Ⴑıı means, "the old".  Together they mean "Forefather".  A note in Document N suggests that Δ" Ϲпıı is "forty", meaning that he was forty years old before getting married.  A suggestion to be treated with some reserve.

**Line 6**.  Documents E', K and L read ⅃⁻ instead of ⅃̄'.

**Line 13**.  Documents E' and E read ⅃⁻ Ϲᵣ, "second child", instead of ⅃⁻ Ϲ̃, "youngest child".

**Line 17**.  Document A interchanges the two parts of the compound name to read Λᵴ Ϲп° Δᵟ 'Ϲᵁ  Ⴑпᶜ ϹΔıı ⅃ᵣ Ⴑ'ᵁ ⅃п Ↄᵓ.  Document E has Ⴑпᶜ ϹΔıı ⅃ᵣ Ⴑ'ᵁ ⅃п Ↄᵓ only.

**Lines 19 to 25**.  These seven lines were omitted in Document K and also in Documents L and N.

**Line 20**.  The word Ⴑ̌ is omitted in Document A, and the previous two words ⅃'⁻ ⅃₀ are detached from this line and added to the beginning of line 21.

**Lines 21 and 22**.  Document A uses both names in both lines instead of one in each.

**Line 24**.  This line is found only in Document A but is essential to retain the parallelism of the passage.

**Line 27**.  In Document A the last two words have been wrongly copied ⅃₀ ⅃₀.

**Lines 28 and 29**.  As lines 21 and 22 above.

**Line 30**.  Document L omits the final ⌐ₙ and replaces it with Cᵗ'∘.

**Line 31**.  Document N misspells the initial "cot" as "cat".

**Line 37**.  Document A has lost the final Sˇ and repeated ⌐ⁿ ⌐ₙ from the previous line in its place.

**Line 46**.  Document K followed by Documents L and N omit the word Ȝ∘.

**Line 56**.  Document E' and all subsequent documents omit the word ᵗₙ, "planks", and thereby lose the parallelism between lines 56 and 57.

**Line 70**.  Document A says that Ndrao-ya was instructed to open Lᵛ C⊥ᵖ ⌐ⁿ which means "that which blocks the wind", and is an expression meaning "the door".  It is used in incantations, and here in an old song, but not in current speech.  In all the later documents the words Lᵛ C⌐ₗ C₋ are substituted. This in spoken Miao means "window" . Either expression makes good sense, but the former is more likely to be original.

**Line 71**.  Document A reads Tₛ instead of Tₛ.

**Line 72**.  Instead of C⊤∘ Document L reads C⊐ₛ.

**Line 79**.  Document A says that the flood left all the people: C⌐ᵘ ⊤ˇ C⌐₋, "limp finish completed", that is, "lifeless".  Document E' and all subsequent documents change the phrase to C⊤∘ Lₛ ⊤ˇ which simply means "gone away".  The rather unusual phrase in Document A is to be preferred.

**Line 88**.  Document K reads ⊐'ˉ, "to teach" instead of ⊐'ᵖ, "to show".

**Line 92**.  Documents K, L and N read ᵗˉ instead of Cᵗ'ˉ.

**Line 95**.  Document A alone includes the word ⊐ˉ, "to call" in this line.  However in the copy of Document E corrected by Wang Ming-ji, the word has been added, and it would appear that its omission was a mistake first made in Document E' and repeated in every subsequent document.

**Lines 97 and 98**.  Document K followed by Documents L and N, changes the expression Yˉ 'Cᵛ and Yˉ 'Ɔ°, "by day" and "by night" to ᵗ'ˉ 'Cᵛ and ᵗ'ˉ 'Ɔ°, "every day" and "every night".

**Line 99**. Document K, again followed by Documents L and N, adds an explanatory gloss, ⊤" ⌐̈ Vᵖ, "on the top of the rock", to the end of this line.

**Line 103**.  Documents K, L and N add ⌐ₙ ⊐ₙ ⌐₋ after ꞁ meaning that it was "set on fire by chance ---"

**Line 104**.  In Document E' the line begins with ꓄'" Ꞓ̊, meaning, "from this ---", an addition not continued in later documents.

**Line 109**.  This line is found only in Document A where it follows line 117, that is at the beginning of the spring sequence.  This can hardly be correct as there is no thunder activity at that time of the year, which probably explains the absence of the line from the later documents.  However, if it is simply moved to the beginning of the summer sequence it fits exactly.

**Lines 110 to 113**.  The copy of Yang Zhi's text used in the preparation of the duplicated documents E', E and K had apparently lost nine words between Ꞓ$_n$ in line 110 and Ꞓ꓄$_\delta$ in line 111, an omission repeated in Document L.  This haplography destroys the parallel construction of the stanza, and leaves a passage of uncertain meaning.  Document A preserves the text, but even here corrections are necessary.  In line 110 the word Ꞓ꓄'₀, meaning "overcast" is written ꓄'₀.  In lines 111 and 113 Ꞓꓤ'', "for fear that", appears as Ꞓ꓄' and ꓤ'', respectively, while in line 112 the word Ɔ$^{\circ}$, meaning "hazy, dull or dim" is written Ɔ$_n$.  Also in line 112 the word Ꞓ$^{no}$ has been written twice.  All these are small errors easily made by a scribe reading a faded manuscript.