

M132
The Flood.

Collected by Lu Xing-fu.

From out of scattered sky material came the dome,
For the Woman Nca-so to come and live.
Woven from scattered earth material came the ranges,
Provided for the Forefather Dlao-jiao to make a family and dwell.

5 In the course of time,
 The Forefather Dlao-jiao and the Woman Nca-so begot,
 Begot two brothers only.
 Having no special name for the elder,
 Let the elder be called Ndrao-yiu.
10 Having no special name for the younger,
 Let the younger be called Ndrao-ya.

One day Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya went to dig their land,
And the Man Dlang-hnu did no good.
The Man Dlang-hnu, carrying his slender staff, persistently turned over,
15 And re-set the sods Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya had dug, not letting them be dug
 out.
Ndrao-yiu was heavy hearted.

Ndrao-ya returned to dig.
The Man Dlang-hnu went to reveal himself.
The Man Dlang-hnu, carrying his slender staff, persistently trampled down,
20 And re-set the sods Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya had dug, not letting them be raised.
Ndrao-yiu was heavy hearted,
Ndrao-ya was sad at heart.

Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya went and built a booth.
Built a hide, built a green booth and waited,
25 Waited to catch the Man Dlang-hnu.
Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya laid,
Laid hold of the Man Dlang-hnu.

Ndrao-yiu spoke,
"Hold the Man Dlang-hnu, let us beat him!"
30 But Ndrao-ya spoke,
 "After all our fruitless labour,
 Do not beat the Man Dlang-hnu!
 Hold the Man Dlang-hnu for me to question".

The Man Dlang-hnu spoke,
35 Telling Ndrao-yiu things of many kinds,
 Telling Ndrao-ya things of many kinds.

Let not the people expend their strength farming,
Let not the people expend their strength tilling!

40 Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya, do not expend your strength digging the land.
 For this year the water will rise to a flood.
 The Man Dlang-hnu made Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya go and build boats.
 Ndrao-ya built a boat of planks that floated lightly,
 Ndrao-yiu built an iron boat which would sink heavily.

45 On reaching Snake-month or Horse-month,
 The Man Dlang-hnu caused Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya to go aboard their boats,
 Placing Ndrao-yiu in the iron boat,
 And placing Ndrao-ya in the boat of wooden planks.

50 The Man Dlang-hnu gave,
 Gave Ndrao-ya a white, hen's egg to enfold in his armpit,
 And gave a wrought iron claw-bar to Ndrao-ya to carry in his hand.

55 The Man Dlang-hnu spoke,
 "One day the white, hen's egg will chirp, 'zi-zi',
 Then pick up the iron claw-bar,
 Prize open the top of the boat and have a look.
 You will see that the sky is azure blue,
 And the water all level covering the people.

60 One day the cockerel will crow, 'sang-sang',
 Then take the iron claw bar,
 Open the window and have a look,
 The people are destroyed, all laid flat by the water".

65 When Ndrao-ya came outside,
 Tigers and lions were bounding away,
 Deer were jumping about,
 Kestrels were flying back and forth,
 And eagles were flying to and fro.

70 Then Ndrao-ya spoke,
 "This year the water has risen and the water has taken,
 Taken the people and they are all gone.
 This year the water has risen and the water has drowned,
 Drowned the people and they are all gone".

75 The martins were hopping in and out of the cliff.
 Ndrao-ya picked up,
 Picked up the wrought iron claw bar to strike,
 To strike at the martins.

80 The martins were not hit,
 But the wrought iron claw bar brought forth sparks which fell on the tinder-
 moss.
 Thus Ndrao-ya got,
 Got smoke and kindled a fire to sit beside,
 Got smoke and kindled a fire to warm himself.

Framed words on purpose to ask,
To ask the Man Dlang-hnu in his place in the sky,
"In the future will there ever be so great a flood?"
"In the future I will cause the enchanter to come to earth,
85 Then the people's forests will be reduced to dust,
And the woods to snow white ash.
It will be exactly the same as the flood is now".
Ndrao-ya listened nodding his head.

90 The Man Dlang-hnu spoke,
Telling Ndrao-ya things of many kinds.

"On reaching Dog-month or Pig-month,
Do not let the children stay out when it is overcast,
Do not let the children stay out when it is dull,
For fear that Thunder, drawing his shining sword, lightning, should strike them.

95 On reaching Dragon-month or Rabbit-month,
Water from Thunder's mouth and nose will change to snow, filling everything
with whiteness.
On reaching Snake-month or Horse month,
Water from Thunder's mouth and nose will change to rain, water to nourish the
growing leaves.

100 Then the needles on the pine trees will grow big and cast a shadow,
Causing the people to know,
Know that it is the season to start farming,
Know that it is the season to raise crops".

Thus it is ended.