

**M133**  
**Song of the Flood.**

***Sung by Zhang Ming.***

This year we may know,  
May know that the Woman Nca-so and the Man Zie-zi-dao have this year given  
    birth to children,  
Have given birth to two sons.  
Having no special names to give,  
5 Let the elder be called Ndrao-yiu,  
And let the younger be called Ndrao-ya.

There came a day, when Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya were grown up,  
That Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya arose, set out and took,  
Took their curved, iron hoes and carried them out to dig,  
10 To dig out sods of earth in great clods.

The Glorious King, the Man Dlang-hnu,  
Carrying his thin staff, persistently dug over,  
Turning back Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya's sods, leaving no trace.

Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya went and built a booth,  
15 Built it on the edge of Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya's land,  
And kept watch for the Glorious King, the Man Dlang-hnu each day.

After several days,  
The Glorious King, the Man Dlang-hnu,  
Carrying his slender staff, persistently dug over,  
20 Turning back Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya's sods, leaving nothing to be seen.

Ndrao-yiu spoke up and said,  
"Let us take the Glorious King, the Man Dlang-hnu and beat him!"  
Ndrao-ya would not agree.  
"Let us take the Glorious King, the Man Dlang-hnu and I will question him!"

25 The Glorious King, the Man Dlang-hnu spoke,  
Telling Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya things of many kinds that concerned the  
    people.

"This year do not waste your strength farming,  
Do not expend your strength tilling.  
You may farm, but get nothing to eat,  
30 You may till, but get no harvest,  
For this year in truth the water will rise to a flood".

Ndrao-ya spoke up and asked,  
"At what time will the deluge come?"

35 The Glorious King, the Man Dlang-hnu spoke,  
Saying that Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya must go and build boats.

- He made Ndrao-yiu build a boat of iron planks,  
 He made Ndrao-ya build a boat of wooden planks.  
 So Ndrao-yiu built,  
 Built an iron boat which sank heavily,  
 40 But Ndrao-ya built,  
 Built a wooden boat which floated lightly.
- The Glorious King, the Man Dlang-hnu arranged to catch,  
 To catch the people's birds, of many kinds,  
 Of every kind to catch a pair.
- 45 The Glorious King, the Man Dlang-hnu also gave,  
 Gave a strong pair of wrought iron pinchers, putting them upon,  
 Upon the top of Ndrao-ya's boat.  
 The Glorious King, the Man Dlang-hnu also gave,  
 Gave a white, hen's egg for Ndrao-ya to carry as a sign.
- 50 "One day the white, hen's egg will chirp, 'zi-zi',  
 Then take the wrought iron pinchers,  
 Drag open the top of the boat,  
 And you will see the light and the stars".
- Ndrao-ya released the pair of magpies to fly into the world.  
 55 The pair of magpies flew round about the people and would not come back.  
 Ndrao-ya then despatched the pair of crows sending them forth.  
 The pair of crows flew round about the people and would not return.  
 For the pair of magpies and the pair of crows ate,  
 Ate the flesh of the people every day.
- 60 Ndrao-ya then despatched the pair of doves sending them forth.  
 The pair of doves flew round about the people everywhere.  
 The pair of doves carried,  
 Carried a bunch of dry grass.
- 65 Flying back around they perched,  
 Perched on the top of Ndrao-ya's boat.  
 Ndrao-ya came out quickly and looked,  
 Looked for the people's flood water, but it had dried up completely.
- 70 The weather was very fine,  
 Swallows were flying to and fro,  
 Hawks were flying back and forth,  
 Ndrao-ya spoke up and called toward the sky,  
 Asking the Glorious King the Man Dlang-hnu,  
 "Will ever a day come when there will be so great a flood?"
- 75 The Glorious King, the Man Dlang-hnu spoke,  
 "A day will not come when I shall cause a flood to drown the earth,  
 But one day I will cause the enchanter to come to earth.  
 Then let Ndrao-ya gaze around about,  
 Gaze at the rocks and cliffs in the mountains as they change to dust,  
 Gaze and see the solid bed-rock itself burst into fire.

80 It will be exactly the same as the flood".

"On reaching Dog-month or Pig-month,  
From south to north, Thunder will roar, 'go-go!'

Do not let the children cry for milk,  
For fear that Thunder, drawing his shining sword, lightning, should slash them.  
85 Do not let the children cry aloud,  
For fear that Thunder drawing his shining sword, lightning, should strike them.

On reaching Sheep-month or Horse-month,  
From south to north, Thunder will rise and stretch his hands and feet,  
And the water from Thunder's mouth and nose will become,  
90 Become Spring rain, the mist and drizzle,  
Nurturing the people's green crops until they grow tall,  
Nurturing the trees of the forest until they burst into leaf,  
Nurturing the people's pine trees until the needles grow big and fine.

On reaching Rat-month or Ox-month,  
95 The water from Thunder's mouth and nose will become,  
Become rain, but no longer heavy,  
Nurturing the people's green crops until they ripen to yellow,  
Nurturing the leaves on the people's trees until they grow large and old,  
Nurturing the leaves on the people's trees until, stripped off, they fall.

100 On reaching Rabbit-month or Dragon-month,  
The water from Thunder's mouth and nose will become,  
Become an enfolding covering of snow,  
Become a freezing covering of snow".

Thus it is ended.