

M136
The Flood, Section three.

Sung by Zhu Zhi.

Ndrao-ya got fire to kindle,
Ndrao-ya kindled a fire and made smoke,
Smoke which soared into the sky above.
So that the Master spoke,
5 And the Master said,

"This year the water has risen to a flood,
The water was so great that the water has stripped,
Stripped earth's people and they are caught,
Stripped the sky above of everything".

10 The Master sent retainers and soldiers to look.
The only one left was Ndrao-ya alone.

This year we may know,
May know that the Master has arranged a betrothal,
But the Master had no heir.
15 So the Master's household piper
Singled out Ndrao-ya, him alone.

Ndrao-ya climbed until he reached piled stone pass to the sky,
There he met a tiny mouse, very thin indeed.
Weeping bitterly the tiny mouse said,
20 "Ho! Ndrao-ya, where have you come from and where are you going?"

Ndrao-ya made response,
"In a few days time,
The Master will be performing the ancestral sacrifice,
And I am going to the sky as a guest".

25 The mouse, weeping bitterly, said,
"Ndrao-ya, oh Ndrao-ya,
I have been driven to despair; not you as well!

When I was the Master's sickle maker,
I was hungry to the point of starvation,
30 And the Master gave me nothing to eat,
So I made a hole in the bottom of the Master's grain bin,
I made a hole indeed.

Then the Master beat me most severely,
In very truth he drove me to despair!
35 So I took his large ancestral token, the big one,
And hid it under the cattle shed step,
And I took the little ancestral token,
And pushed it under the stone at the door of the great enclosure.

40 If you want to become the Master's heir,
 First you will need clear wine to drink and then spew out,
 Spew piff, spew puff, when you go in search.

Take a slave to follow and to dig,
 Dig for the big ancestral token under the cattle shed step.
 So you will recover the Master's large ancestral token.

45 You will then need to carry the clear wine in your hand,
 Clear wine to drink and then spew piff, spew puff, as you go in search.
 Return, come back until you reach,
 Reach the outer door, the Master's large door by the herb garden.

50 Drink the clear wine and spew it under the stone step,
 Then let the slave dig,
 Dig out the Master's small ancestral token from under the stone step".

Having found the large ancestral token and the small, he returned, he came
 back,
 Came back and showed the large one to the Master.
 And the Master offered him high praise.

55 "Ndrao-ya! Oh Ndrao-ya,
 You are the world's great spirit worker!
 We will establish you as my heir.

When we had lost my family's ancestral tokens,
 You came and found them.

60 The large ancestral token and the small, you found them both.

In the past we have celebrated in pretence,
 This time we will celebrate anew,
 And this time we will celebrate in truth.
 With the company of my family spirit guests fully complete,
 65 We will perform the ancestral celebration and bring contentment".

Ndrao-ya responded,
 "Your ancestral tokens I know,
 Your guests I have seen.
 I have come to the sky as your heir,
 70 And bring you good health and well being."

The Master had nothing for Ndrao-ya,
 But since Ndrao-ya had no partner,
 The Master caused Ndrao-ya to go,
 To go to where the Master's guests were gathered and there to choose a bride.

75 Ndrao-ya chose, singling out the bride betrothed to Thunder,
 Chose, in fact, the Master's youngest daughter.
 What could the Master do for the best?
 He let the Master's youngest daughter

Make a family and live with Ndrao-ya.

80 As a result Thunder was not pleased,
And, on reaching Snake-month or Horse-month,
Thunder, hiding within the clouds, came to look.

In the daytime Ndrao-ya made rope of twisted hemp,
At night Ndrao-ya forged chains of copper and iron.
85 So Ndrao-ya laid a snare for Thunder on the road,

And Ndrao-ya laid another snare for Thunder on the path.
Thunder went to attend a festival,
And also to seek his bride.

The result was that Ndrao-ya snared,
90 Snared Thunder by the hands, neck and arms.
Then Ndrao-ya brought Thunder along,
And tethered him well to the underside of the loft.

Ndrao-ya warned the children not to stay inside,
And Ndrao-ya warned the children not to make a noise.
95 Ndrao-ya also warned the children,
"Do not come in stamping your feet to dip up water".

But the children paid no heed,
In they came, stamping their feet, to dip up water.

Thunder suddenly sprang up and landed,
100 Landed on the branch of a gi-za plant,
And the next day the gi-za plant could not rise again.

Then Thunder suddenly sprang up and safely landed,
Landed on the topmost branch of a high shi-lu tree,
The next day the high shi-lu tree, springing back again,
105 Catapulted Thunder away into the sky above.

On reaching Rabbit-month or Dragon-month,
Thunder, folding his arms and legs into a ball, will sleep.
Thunder's heavy breathing will make the strong winds blow,
And water, dripping from Thunder's mouth and nose,
110 Will become a frozen covering of snow.

Ay! Just fancy! Oh!
Then, approaching, though not yet having reached,
Reached Horse-month or Sheep-month,
Thunder, folding his arms and legs, will sleep.
115 Thunder's heavy breathing will make the gentle winds blow,
And water, dripping from Thunder's mouth and nose, will become rain.

Then people will till the rice and till the paddy that they may have food to share,
And people will farm the rice and farm the paddy that they may have drink to
share.

Thus it is ended.