

M137

**The foolish Miao man who twisted up cones of grass for his  
boundary marks.**

*Sung by Wang Jian-chuai.*

This year we may know,  
Know that a foolish Miao man has taken,  
Taken strands of grass and made boundary marks for his land.

Who was the crafty one?  
5 The man of the Ruling Race was the crafty one,  
For the man of the Ruling Race chiselled out,  
Chiselled out jet-black stones as boundary marks for his land.

The sunshine shone brightly,  
And the sunshine was good.  
10 In the sunshine the old man led,  
Led the children out to pasture the cattle.

The old man would not allow,  
Allow the children to make fires,  
For fear of burning the foolish Miao man's  
15 Boundary marks of land and place and destroying them.

But the children did not believe it,  
The children gave it no thought,  
The children went and made fires,  
Hot fires to warm themselves,  
20 And burnt the foolish Miao man's  
Boundary marks of land and place and destroyed them.

The foolish Miao man was sad at heart,  
The foolish Miao man was dispirited.  
The foolish Miao man took,  
25 Took the man of the Ruling Race and sued him,  
Sued him before the paramount Yi lord.

The paramount Yi lord called,  
Called the foolish Miao man to speak,  
To speak about the boundary marks of land and place, and tell,  
30 Tell the paramount Yi lord.  
But the foolish Miao man had no way of speaking,  
The foolish Miao man had no way of answering.

So the paramount Yi lord bade,  
Bade the foolish Miao man show,  
35 Show where the foolish Miao man's  
Boundary marks of land and place were located,  
But the foolish Miao man had no way of answering.

40      The paramount Yi lord bade,  
          Bade the man of the Ruling Race show,  
          Show where the man of the Ruling Race, his  
          Boundary marks of land and place were located.  
          The man of the Ruling Race could say,  
          That the man of the Ruling Race, his boundary marks of land and place,  
          The jet-black stones were there in position.

45      How could the paramount Yi lord establish the right?  
          The paramount Yi lord bade,  
          Bade the man of the Ruling Race return,  
          And bade the foolish Miao man go back.

50      "You go and look into the matter,  
          Observe the un-burnt black pillars, and be there peace between you,  
          Pay your agreed rent, and let there be peace between you".

          Thus it is ended.