

**M141**  
**Zhyu-shi-lao.**

***Sung by Yang zhi.***

Notes

This song is recorded in Document A (no. 3, page 6), Document E' (no. 3, page 6), Document E (no 3, page 6), Document K (no. 3/1, page 10), Document L (no. 7, page 22) and Document N (no. 14, page 388). In Document N it is conflated with Pan Xie's version of the same song. Lines 1 - 32 only come from Yang Zhi.

**Lines 3, 4, 5 and 6.** Documents K, L and N add  $\bar{\tau}'' V^? C\bar{\tau}''$ , in each of these lines. For a comment see introduction to "The song of Zhyu-shi-lang", sung by Zhang Ming, (M143)

**Lines 4, 5 and 6.** Documents E' and E both read  $C_0$  instead of  $G_0$  in these lines.

**Line 7.** In Document A this line follows line 9.

**Line 10.** In Document N, the name of the bird is given as "dlangd yik lik", i.e.  $\bar{\Delta} \bar{\Lambda}_n L_n$  instead of  $\bar{\Delta}^{\bar{s}} \bar{\Lambda}^n \bar{T}^n \bar{C}^n$ .

**Line 20.** In Document A this line follows line 21.

**Line 26.** In Documents A and E' the word  $\bar{\tau}'_i$  is written  $C\bar{\tau}'_i$ .

**Lines 28 - 31.** These four lines form two couplets, with lines 28 and 30, 29 and 31 exactly parallel to each other, yet in the different documents omissions and mistakes abound, as set out in detail below. There seem to have been difficulties in understanding the final words in lines 28 and 30,  $\bar{\tau}'$ , "swamp" and  $\bar{\tau}''$ , "rushes". The expression  $\bar{\tau}_c \bar{\tau}^c$ , which represents the sound of axe strokes, has a considerable variety of tone markings from  $\bar{\tau}_c \bar{\tau}_c$  to  $\bar{\tau}^c \bar{\tau}^c$

**Line 28.** The final word  $\bar{\tau}'$  is missing in Document A, while in Documents A, E' and E the expression  $\bar{\tau}^o \bar{\tau}'$  has been detached and joined to the beginning of line 29. Document K, followed by Documents L and N, has changed  $\bar{\tau}'$  to read  $\bar{\tau}^?$ .

**Line 29.** Documents E' and E omit  $L^- L''$ .

**Line 30.** Document A has  $L'' L''$  by mistake for  $L^- L''$ . In Documents A, E' and E the final word  $\bar{\tau}''$  has been detached and added to the beginning of line 31. Document E' has the name  $\bar{C}^1 J^r L''$  twice. Documents E' and E both omit  $L^- L''$ . Documents K, L and N all omit  $\bar{\tau}_c \bar{\tau}^c$ . In Documents K, L and N the word  $\bar{\tau}''$ , "rushes" has been changed to  $\bar{\tau}'' \bar{\tau}^{\bar{s}}$ , "mountain valley".

**Line 31.** Documents E', E, K and L have written the final word as 𠄎' instead of 𠄎. This mistake is corrected in Document N.

**Line 32.** Document A renders 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎, "to lay flat" as 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎.

**Line 37.** Document L mistakenly reads 𠄎 instead of 𠄎.

**Line 38.** In Yang-zhi's original manuscript the penultimate word was evidently difficult to decipher. Document A read it as '𠄎', which means "to hear", and makes no sense. Documents E' and E changed it to '𠄎', "night", copying line 41. Documents K and L correctly read it as '𠄎', "day", preserving the proper parallelism with line 41.

**Line 40.** In Documents E' and E the word '𠄎', "sun", has been lost, and the following word 𠄎, "to shine", has been written 𠄎, that is the conjunction "thus". It is difficult to see what possible meaning can be ascribed to the resulting line. In Documents K and L the word '𠄎' has been restored, but given the meaning "a day" by the addition of 𠄎, "one", placed in front of it, while the 𠄎 that follows is still a conjunction, so that the meaning remains equally obscure. Only the text of Document A makes proper sense.

**Line 41.** The word 𠄎, "to go into", has been changed in Document E' to 𠄎, copying the parallel line 38, while in Documents E, K and L it has been read as 𠄎. At the end of the line in Documents K and L there is a note in Miao which seeks, but fails, to elucidate the obscurities of this and the previous line. It reads, "That is it went two days and two nights without dying".

**Line 42.** In Documents E' and E '𠄎', "to sing", has been written '𠄎, and in Documents K and L, '𠄎.

**Line 51.** Document K reads 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎' instead of 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎.

**Lines 55 to 63.** Among the various documents, and also within individual documents, there is no consistency in the writing of the expression meaning "descendants". It appears as either 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 or 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎. In the present text the former has been used throughout, but in Yang Zhi's autograph either might have appeared, possibly even both.

**Lines 58 and 59.** In Document A the word 𠄎 is wrongly written 𠄎.

**Line 61.** Documents E' and E read 𠄎 instead of 𠄎.

**Lines 61 and 62.** In Document A there is a case of haplography by which the second half of line 61, from the word 𠄎, together with the name 𠄎 𠄎 at the beginning of line 62, are missing.

**Line 62.** In Documents E, K and L  $\mathfrak{D}_8$   $J^8$  is missing, and Documents K and L add an extra line following line 62. It reads:

$\mathfrak{D}_8$        $J^8$        $\overset{u}{J}$        $C\Delta^{nc} T^n$        $\Lambda_$        $C\Delta^{nc} T_{ii}$ .  
did   spread   fill   earth   oh   everywhere.

**Line 63.** This final line is not included in Document A.