

**M144**  
**The Leader Zhyu-zi-lao, a farming song.**

***Sung by Pan Xie.***

Notes

This song is found in Document E (no. 18, page 45), Document K (no. 3/2, page 12) and in Document L (no. 8, page 26). Some lines are also found in the conflated version in Document N (no.14, page 388).

**Line 10.** In Document E the word 𠄎 in the expression 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 is missing.

**Line 15.** A note in the text in Documents E, K and L explains in both Miao and Chinese that 𠄎 means "cucumber". The Miao grew ridge cucumbers which ripened to a yellow colour and were eaten either raw or cooked.

**Line 20.** Documents K and L have a note in the text in Chinese explaining that this means "she picked cucumbers".

**Line 21.** All three documents have a note in Miao which says that this means, "did not tell her father".

**Line 22.** A similar note explains that this means, "did not tell her mother".

**Line 25.** A note in Chinese in Document K gives the meaning as "the edge of the crops".

**Line 32.** In Document E a note in Chinese explains that '𠄎' 𠄎 means "lower place".

**Line 35.** A note in Chinese in Documents K and L explains that 𠄎 is a porcupine.

**Line 36.** Document E has a note that 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 means "the tiger's body". In subsequent lines in all three documents it some times appears as 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎.

**Line 37.** This line is not found in any of the documents but is demanded by the poetic form of the song. Its parallels are lines 43 and 52.

**Line 38.** Documents E and K read 𠄎 instead of 𠄎. A Chinese note explains that '𠄎' 𠄎 means "Higher place".

**Line 45.** In the copy of Document E annotated by Wang Ming-ji the meaning of 𠄎 𠄎 is given as 𠄎 𠄎, "like snow".

**Line 50.** All three documents have spelt 𠄎 𠄎 incorrectly as 𠄎 𠄎.

**Line 54.** Document E uses the alternative pronunciation  $\text{ㄓ}^{\text{u}} \text{ㄓ}^{\text{n}} \text{ㄓ}^{\text{'s}}$ . It also reads  $\text{ㄌ}$  instead of  $\text{ㄌ}^{\text{n}}$ .

**Line 62.** A note in Miao in Documents K and L gives the meaning of  $\text{ㄌ}^{\text{n}} \text{ㄏ}$   $\text{ㄏ}$  as "sharp knives". In fact  $\text{ㄏ}$  means "to take off", "to strip off" or "to pull to pieces". In the case of an animal skin it means "to flay".

**Line 63.** This line is missing from Documents K and L.

**Line 65.** In Document E the two words  $\text{ㄌ}^{\text{n}} \text{ㄌ}^{\text{n}}$ , "thus nine" have been mistakenly interchanged. Document K followed by Document L wrongly corrected the error to read  $\text{ㄌ}^{\text{n}} \text{ㄌ}^{\text{m}}$  which means 90, and thereby not only destroys the parallelism but makes a nonsense. There was no way that 90 portions could be made from a single carcass.

**Line 66.** In Document E  $\text{ㄓ}^{\text{n}} \text{ㄊ} \text{ㄓ}^{\text{'}}$  is written  $\text{ㄓ}^{\text{n}} \text{ㄊ} \text{ㄓ}^{\text{'}}$ .

**Line 67.** In Document E  $\text{ㄌ} \text{ㄊ}$  is written  $\text{ㄊ}$ .

The inserted lines.

**Line 5.** Documents E and K have a note in Chinese giving the meaning of  $\text{ㄌ}^{\text{n}} \text{ㄓ}^{\text{'}} \text{ㄌ}$  as "lark".

**Line 6.** In the Miao text this line and line 5 are joined together. So long a line upsets the balance of the stanza. This has been restored by splitting the line into two and repeating  $\text{ㄌ}^{\text{s}}$  at the beginning of line 6. The same has been done with the identical lines 17 and 18. In Document K there is a note in Miao in the text which explains that  $\text{ㄌ} \text{ㄌ}^{\text{u}}$  means "all around the sky".

**Lines 9 and 10.** In the documents these are joined into a single long line. This has been split into two to restore the balance of the stanza. The same has been done with the identical lines 21 and 22.

**Line 11.** This line is omitted from the text. It has been restored simply by copying line 23. Without it line 12 does not follow properly.  $\text{ㄓ}^{\text{'}} \text{ㄓ}^{\text{s}} \text{ㄌ}^{\text{'}}$  means "below the houses", but since Miao houses are nearly all built on a hill-side facing down the slope,  $\text{ㄓ}^{\text{'}} \text{ㄓ}^{\text{s}} \text{ㄌ}^{\text{'}}$  also means "the front of the houses".