

**M153**  
**Nzyu-fao-lao, outwitting the Kha-woman.**

*Sung by Yang Zhi.*

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document N (no. 42/3, page 573).

**Note.** The Miao text as printed in Document N is full of mistakes. In practically every line some correction is needed. Most are errors in the printing, and a considerable number more are inconsistencies in the tone markings. In general the mistakes are obvious and have no bearing on the form or meaning of the text. It has therefore been thought unnecessary to list all the minor errors here, but to confine these notes to more important matters.

**Title.** The "h" is missing from the word "chid" which, in the narrower sense means "to deceive", but is also used for "to tempt", "to mislead" and "to outwit".

**Line 2.** In this line and at a number of other points in the song, the connector, which is variously written "nil", "nik" or "nis", also appears as "nyul".

**Lines 15 and 16.** In Document N, following line 14, comes a long, unpunctuated sentence printed on three lines, with 13 words on the first line, 2 on the second, and 4 on the third. Poetic form and the general sense of the passage suggest that this should fall into two lines of approximately the same length, but there is no obvious place to make the break. The most satisfactory solution is to take the first line as far as "mas tlik", "did change", and then to repeat these two words as the beginning of the second line.

**Lines 30 and 31.** These two are printed as a single line.

**Line 32.** The final word "hik", "said", is not in the text but has been added to provide a proper link with the next line.

**Lines 55 and 56.** These lines are identical with lines 36 and 37 but are printed as a single long line.

**Lines 87 and 88.** These are printed as a single long line.

**Lines 110 and 111.** These two lines are printed as a single long line.

**Lines 113 - 115.** In the text these lines are printed as two lines without any reference to balance or poetic form. They have here been divided into three to correspond with lines 15 -17.

**Line 123.** The word "dryus" would have to be written  $\text{T}_5$  in the Miao script. In fact the word is  $\text{T}_7$  and means "to promise", but there is no spelling for this final in the Pinyin script.

**Line 124.** A note at the end of the song explains in Miao and Chinese that "mob shid bwb" means "measles". There is another note, in Miao only, concerning the final two words of the line, "shit beul", although for some unexplained reason they appear as "shit beux" in the note. The note reads,

*shit beux: gul gik beux dlox leul hit zeux*  
*is rash disappear gone not able*

*mob dangl.*  
*suffer finish.*

This means, "shit beux is the rash, which will disappear, and then it is not possible to catch the disease again".

**Line 127.** A note at the end of the song explains in Miao and Chinese that "mob ndlangx lik deuk" means "smallpox".