

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

Sung by Yang Zhi.

This year Nzyu-fao-lao has qualified as a shaman-healer.
For three years Nzyu-fao-lao was qualifying before practising as a shaman-
healer
For three years he was qualifying before practising as a shaman-practitioner,
But this year Nzyu-fao-lao has gone to practise as a shaman-healer.

5 As Nzyu-fao-lao travelled he reached,
Reached the neighbourhood of Kha-woman and Kha-man.
Kha-woman and the Kha-man pressed,
Pressed Nzyu-fao-lao to come and stay the night.

Nzyu-fao-lao said,
10 "But where is your place of sitting, your place of sleeping?"
Kha-woman and Kha-man replied,
"Our place of sitting, our place of sleeping is the gourd".

So Nzyu-fao-lao said,
"You - the whole family - go into the gourd for me to see".
15 Kha-woman, Kha-man and the whole family changed,
Each actually changed into a wild bee
And flew straight into the gourd.

Nzyu-fao-lao took the gourd, put in the stopper and carried it away in his hand.
Nzyu-fao-lao travelled until he reached,
20 Reached a river, after thirteen days.

Then Nzyu-fao-lao took,
Took the gourd and threw it into a pool.
There the gourd remained,
Remained for twelve or thirteen days.

25 Now an old person went fishing.
Standing patiently on the top of a rock
He fished, splashing in the pool,
But the only thing he caught and pulled out was the gourd.

The old person drew out the stopper that blocked it.
30 Kha-woman, Kha-man and the whole family were alive,
Were alive and escaped outside.

Kha-woman, Kha-man and the whole family came out and said,
"Hungry are we, more than hungry,
Let us eat the old person!"

35 What should the old person do?
The old person gazed all around,

And noticed away in the gap,
A mother pig,
Approaching slowly, her snout nuzzling the ground.

40 The old person said,
"Before you start eating,
Wait until mother pig comes quietly by,
And ask mother pig if it is right to eat me.
After that you may begin eating.

45 When mother pig came quietly by,
Kha-woman and Kha-man opened their mouths and asked at once,
"Hungry are we, and more than hungry,
Is it right for us to eat the old person?"

Mother pig said,
50 "To eat the old person is right.
For three times a year I give birth,
But he takes my little ones, kills them to eat and drinks their blood.
He takes my little ones to sell for silver and gold money".

What should the old person do?
55 The old person gazed all around
And noticed, away in the gap,
Noticed a mother horse up in the gap itself.

The old person said,
60 "Before you start eating,
Wait for mother horse to arrive,
Then ask mother horse if it is right to eat me or not".

When mother horse arrived,
Kha-woman and Kha-man opened their mouths, opened their lips and asked,
65 "Hungry are we, and getting more hungry,
Is it right for us to eat the old person?"

Mother horse said,
"Once in three years I give birth,
But he takes my little ones to sell for silver and gold money,
And he takes my little ones and makes them beasts of burden.
70 To eat the old person is right".

What should the old person do?
The old person gazed all around
And noticed, away in the gap,
There was a mother cow coming along.

75 "You ask mother cow if it is right or not,
After that you may begin eating".

When mother cow came quietly up,
Kha-woman and Kha-man opened their mouths and asked at once,

80 "Hungry are we, and more than hungry,
Is it right for us to eat the old person?"
Mother cow made reply,
"To eat him is right, for once in three years I give birth,
But the old person takes my little ones to sell for silver and gold money,
85 And he takes my little ones and makes them beasts of burden.
To eat the old person is right".

What should the old person do?
The old person looked all around,
And saw, away in the gap,

90 Nzyu-fao-lao travelling astride,
Astride Nzyu-fao-lao's stallion, coming from the gap.

"You wait for Nzyu-fao-lao to appear, riding his horse,
And ask Nzyu-fao-lao if it is right to eat me or not".

When Nzyu-fao-lao's white horse quietly arrived,
Kha-woman and Kha-man opened their mouths and asked at once,
95 "Hungry are we, and more than hungry,
Hungry are we, and getting more hungry,
Is it right for us to eat the old person?"

100 Nzyu-fao-lao's white horse parted its lips to speak,
But Nzyu-fao-lao drew off his shoe as though to slap,
To slap the milk-white horse's mouth.

Nzyu-fao-lao enquired,
"For you to eat the old person is all right,
But where is your place of sitting, your place of sleeping?"
Kha-woman and Kha-man replied,
105 "Our place of sitting, our place of sleeping is the gourd".

Nzyu-fao-lao said,
"You, people as big as this,
How can you get into a gourd?

110 Go in and show me,
Then when you return,
I will let you take,
Take the old person and eat him".

115 Kha-woman, Kha-man and the whole family changed,
Changed into wild bees,
And flew straight into the gourd.

Nzyu-fao-lao took the stopper for blocking it,
And blocked up well the neck of the gourd.

Then Nzyu-fao-lao gave the old person a pat,
And Nzyu-fao-lao sent,

120 Sent the old person to collect firewood,
To collect firewood and bring it to burn.
He burnt the gourd and it exploded.
So Nzyu-fao-lao made a promise,
Promised that when the people had measles it would come out as a rash.

125 He burnt the gourd and it blew up.
So Nzyu-fao-lao made a promise,
Promised that when the people had smallpox it would come out as a rash.

He burnt the gourd and it exploded.
But Nzyu-fao-lao rode,
130 Rode Nzyu-fao-lao's milk-white horse straight to the gap.

For when the people had typhoid,
Nzyu-fao-lao had made no promise,
So when the people had typhoid, death was sharp.

When the people recalled Nzyu-fao-lao's free service,
135 Their tears dripped down.
When the people spoke of Nzyu-fao-lao's free service,
Their tears flowed down.

So it is that the old folks say,
"If the shaman-healer dies of typhoid,
140 A girl may die naked".

Thus it is ended.