

M154

**Nzyu-fa-lao, song of the Kha-man and woman who ate people.**

*Singer not recorded.*

When the people lived,  
Lived in the people's Lao-gi-jiai,  
Kha-woman was living outside.

5 When the people lived,  
Lived by the people's stretch of water,  
Kha-man was living out in the open.

10 Kha woman and Kha man, they ate,  
Ate the people and kept on doing it.  
Kha-woman and Kha-man, they ate,  
Ate the people till everyone was gone.

15 Nzyu-fa-lao rode,  
Rode Nzyu-fa-lao's horse of clouds,  
Going on till he met,  
Met Kha-woman on the sheep path,  
Met Kha-man on the sheep track.

Nzyu-fa-lao spoke,  
Opened his mouth, opened his lips and asked,  
Asked, "Where is Kha-woman's house?"  
"Kha-woman's house is outside".

20 Nzyu-fa-lao opened his mouth, opened his lips and asked,  
Asked, "Where is Kha-man's place of sitting, place of sleeping?"  
"Kha-man's place of sitting, place of sleeping is out in the open".

25 Again Nzyu-fa-lao spoke,  
"Where, outside, is Kha-woman's house?"  
"Kha-woman's house, outside, is in a gourd".  
"Where, outside, is Kha-man's house?"  
"Kha-man's place of sitting, place of sleeping, outside, is within a pot".

30 Nzyu-fa-lao let Kha-woman and Kha-man  
Enter quietly through the top of the gourd,  
Then Nzyu-fa-lao firmly blocked the top of the gourd with a stopper.  
Nzyu-fa-lao took the gourd-pot slinging it at his waist,  
And Nzyu-fa-lao sprang up on to his horse.

35 Nzyu-fa-lao's horse of clouds,  
Went on till it reached,  
Reached the dragon pool of Ndu-nzhi,  
Reached the fish pool of Ndu-nzhi.  
There Nzyu-fa-lao took the gourd-pot and threw it,  
Threw it into the fish pool of Ndu-nzhi.

40 This year we may know,  
Know that this year the man has gone fishing.  
The man has caught,  
Has caught the gourd-pot,  
And the man has opened it wide to have a look.

45 Kha-woman came outside,  
And Kha-man came out into the open.  
Kha-woman and Kha-man caught, intending to eat,  
To eat the man and finish him off.

50 But the man saw,  
Saw the pig coming on the far side.  
"Let the pig come quietly and arrive.  
The pig shall speak the truth.  
After that Kha-woman and Kha-man may eat me".

55 When the pig, coming quietly reached them,  
Kha-woman and Kha-man spoke.  
"Is it fitting for Kha-woman and Kha-man to eat the man?  
Let the pig speak the truth".

60 "It is right and fitting for the man to be eaten,  
For the man has taken,  
Has taken the pig's little ones and sold them for silver,  
Has taken the pig's little ones and sold them for gold.

The man has taken the pig's flesh to eat,  
And drunk the blood of the pig's little ones.  
It is right and fitting for the man to be eaten".

65 Then the man saw,  
Saw the cow coming on the near side.  
"Let the cow come quietly and reach us.  
The cow shall speak the truth.  
After that Kha-woman and Kha-man may eat me".

70 So the cow came quietly and reached them.  
"Let the cow speak the truth".

"It is right and fitting for the man to be eaten,  
For the man has eaten,  
Has eaten the flesh of the cow's little ones,  
And has drunk her little one's blood.

75 The man has taken,  
Has taken the cow's little ones and sold them for gold,  
Has taken the cow's little ones and sold them for silver.

The man has taken the cow, forcing her to till the crops,  
He has taken the cow, forcing her to gather the harvest.

80 The man has whipped,  
Has whipped the cow's back  
Until it is all twisted".

So the cow spoke.  
"It is right and fitting for the man to be eaten".

85 Then the man saw,  
Saw Nzyu-fa-lao riding his horse of clouds yonder in the gap.  
"Let Nzyu-fa-lao come quietly and reach us.  
Nzyu-fa-lao shall speak the truth".

So Nzyu-fa-lao riding his horse of clouds came quietly and reached them.  
90 "Let Nzyu-fa-lao speak the truth".

"Where is Kha-woman's house?"  
"Kha-woman's house is within the gourd".  
"You go quietly inside for me to see".  
Kha-woman and Kha-man entered quietly through the top of the gourd,  
95 And Nzyu-fa-lao firmly blocked the top of the gourd with a stopper.

Nzyu-fa-lao sent,  
Sent the man to collect firewood,  
And Nzyu-fa-lao took,  
Took the gourd and put it into the fire.

100 But the gourd-pot exploded,  
And showered the people with a thousand and six hundred kinds of disease.  
So Nzyu-fa-lao had to distribute,  
Distribute to the people a thousand and six hundred kinds of potion.

The gourd-pot exploded,  
105 And showered the people with measles and smallpox.  
So Nzyu-fa-lao ordained that measles and smallpox should be eased by a rash.

Then Nzyu-fa-lao sprang quickly up on to his horse,  
And rode his horse of clouds away yonder over the gap of Ndu-nzhi.

Thus it is ended.