

M156
Nzyu-fao-lao, channelling water and shooting the snake.

Recorded by Wang Jian-guo.

Notes

This song is found in Document N (no. 42/5, page 584).

Title. The word "nangb" meaning "snake" is incorrectly written "naob" meaning "bird".

Lines 4 and 5. These two lines are printed as a single line.

Line 5. The word walnut, "zid dleub" is misprinted "zid keub".

Line 7. There are two notes in Miao at the end of the song regarding this line. The first explains that the "bridge ploughshare" means that it was "like a ploughshare pushed in". The second says that it was "a stone bridge in which each block was bound to the rest to form a strong rounded building". That is to say that the bridge was an arch in which the keystone was shaped like a ploughshare.

Line 12. This line is missing from the text. It has been restored by reference to line 27 to preserve the proper parallel construction in the song.

Line 17. The initial "n" in the word "nkaol" meaning "curved" is missing in the printed text.

Lines 25 and 26. These two lines are printed as a single line.

Line 29. The word "nggak" in the name "Hmaob nggak chel" is missing in the text.

Lines 36 and 37. These two lines are printed as a single line.

Lines 37 and 38. The final two words in each of these lines gives the location of Nzyu-fao-lao's trance sleep. Document N seldom employs a capital initial letter by which proper nouns may be identified, and there is no explanatory note here as there is in line 50 that these are place names. Nevertheless, since it is not possible to make any sense of these words as descriptive phrases, it has been concluded that place names they must be.

Line 42. The word "jail" is missing from the name of the river.