

M160
How the spotted dog obtained seed.

Sung by Yang Xiu.

The woman and the man took possession of the land,
Took possession of the low land and the steep land.
But the woman and the man had no seed,
What should the woman and the man do?

5 They would send the spotted dog to obtain,
 To obtain for the people all kinds of abundant seed corn,
 To obtain it from the sky, away above.

 The spotted dog went and reached,
 Reached a fine clear road for flying,
10 And the flying beetle did no good.
 The flying beetle flew round and round and struck,
 Struck the spotted dog on the nose.

 So the spotted dog forgot,
 That the spotted dog had gone to obtain,
15 To obtain for the people all kinds of abundant seed corn,
 To obtain it from the sky, away above.

 The spotted dog obtained,
 Obtained for the people all kinds of abundant seed corn.
 Then he returned, came back and reached,
20 Reached the house of the woman and the man.

 But what the spotted dog had obtained,
 Obtained and brought back when he arrived, was maize seed!
 He had obtained just maize seed, the cob a span long,
 And the plant a fathom high!

25 So the woman and the man declared,
 "You shall always eat your maize after everyone else!"

 Thus it is ended.