

M204
Concerning the Elder Gi-myu's search for the Elder Gi-zi.

Narrated by Wang Da-lu.

Notes

This narrative is recorded in Document N (no. 17, page 404). There is considerable inconstancy in the tone markings throughout this piece. d and b are sometimes confused, x and t are often interchanged, and there is little discrimination in the marking of the low tones, t, k, l and s.

Title. The word "nuf", meaning "work" or "business" is printed "nruf".

Line 1. A foot note gives the meaning of "nek zel" as "evil" or "oppression".

Line 4. The word "niob", "to live", is printed "niox". The same mistake occurs in line 64.

Line 22. The expression "ghad jiax", "the time", is printed "ghak jiak". The same expression in line 23 is printed "ghad jiab", and in line 38, "ghak jia"

Line 26. The printed text reads, "Zid shis ndlis", "hawthorn berries", but in the following line it is "zid shis dlob", "bamboo seeds". The gathering of hawthorn berries belongs to lines 54 and 55. Here it is the edible seed of a kind of wild bamboo that was being collected, and the text has been corrected accordingly.

Line 33. The first element of the expression "gid yais gid las" meaning "friend" or "comrade" is wrongly written "gid hxais". This error is repeated several times throughout the piece.

Line 34. An explanatory note in brackets at the end of the line gives the meaning as, "They got on together very well".

Line 42. The final word "dax" is printed "dat".

Line 52. The word "nyul", "his", in this and the following line is printed "nis". (Cf. lines 23 and 24.)

Line 75. The word "nzhik" is printed without the initial "n". The same omission occurs in line 81.

Line 80. The word "ab", "two" is missing from the printed text.

Line 90. The name "Gid zib yeul laol" has been added in this line because the text as printed implies that the Elder Gi-myu went off on his travels alone, but from what follows it is clear that the Elder Gi-zi also went.

Line 92. The printed text reads "...leul faot nad, dliel draik drod..." It is hard to see what the word "dliel" may mean in this context. "dlie", read in various tones, has a whole series of meanings from "spoon" to "clean clothing", but none make any sense here. It seems likely, therefore, that this is a misprint of "ad liel", the initial "a" having

got lost. "ad liel" means "afterwards" or "later", and implies that it was some time later, a meaning which fits the context perfectly.

Line 111. The compositor misread his manuscript and printed "aleuk" instead of "dleuk".

Line 113. The word "dros" in the expression "bal dros", "fighting", has been left out. The word "hxul", meaning "very much", "extremely", is printed "hwd".

Line 120. The expression "vangt dib ndub", "environs" is here printed, "vangx dib ndux".

Line 121. The word "khad", "whenever" is printed "khud".

Line 152. In this line and again in line 138 the word "fait", "to distinguish", appears as "fa".