

M211
The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no.

Sung by Yang Zhi.

When the sky began,
And on earth the ranges were set in place,
The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no came into Ndlo-hlang-dleu-di,
To the Tracts of Mi-li, the Plains of Li-mo, and the Golden City.

5 The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no were the people's great sages,
The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no, the famous ones,
The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no were the people's great generals.

Who were fierce soldiers?
The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no were fierce soldiers.
10 Who were terrifying soldiers?
The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no were terrifying soldiers.

The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no trained soldiers without respect of day,
They made soldiers without respect of night.
They made soldiers who would slay to the end,
15 They trained soldiers who would slay as they went.
In rain the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no went training soldiers,
In sunshine the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no went exercising soldiers.

The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no maintained,
Maintained a great host of cavalry,
20 Maintained a great host of retainers,
Maintained a great host of soldiers.

Training soldiers, the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no filled the three plains of
the Tracts of Mi-li,
Exercising soldiers, they filled the seven river basins of the Plains of Li-mo.

In training the soldiers practised swordsmanship,
25 Practising on the three plains of the Tracts of Mi-li.
On exercise the soldiers laid ambushes,
Laying them in the seven river basins of the Plains of Li-mo.
In training all understood,
In ambushing each one succeeded.

30 While the sky remained constant,
The Chinese Leader Diao-jiao and the Chinese Leader Gi-yie threatened
menacingly,
Like a storm of rain, thunder and hail threatening and black,
Like a storm of rain, thunder and hail threatening to break.

The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no whispered together,
35 "As rain, thunder and hail damage crops,

So the business of making soldiers damages posterity".
 This, because the Chinese Leader Gi-yie and the Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao
 threatened to break out,
 To break out and come rushing from Cai-sie-mi-fu-di,
 To cross over and seize the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no's Ndlo-hlang-dleu-
 di,
 40 The Tracts of Mi-li, the Plains of Li-mo and the Golden City.

The Elder Gi-vu was heavy-hearted,
 The Elder Gi-no was sad at heart.
 Maidens and youths, and maidens betrothed were heavy-hearted.
 Married couples all were sad at heart.

45 When word came back to those seeking soldiers each one heard,
 Heard that it would be a life and death struggle with the Ruling Race.
 The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no went forth,
 With the Chinese Leader Gi-yie and the Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao to do battle,
 so they went.

50 Strapped on their backs the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no carried cross-bows,
 And they carried swords strapped to their belts.
 On the right, they carried carefully a quiver of arrows and a steel,
 On the left, they carried carefully that most useful article, a pouch.

That the retainers and soldiers might be distinguished by their officers,
 They all wore eagle plumes on their heads.
 55 That the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no would be recognized by the soldiers,
 The Elder Gi-vu rode a war-stallion, all red,
 And the Elder Gi-no rode a war-horse, all dappled.

For the Chinese Leader Gi-yie and the Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao they waited,
 Waited at the pass in the gorge of the Tracts of Mi-li,
 60 To fight at the meeting of the waters of the Plains of Li-mo.

The soldiers of the Ruling Race arrived in companies,
 Blowing echoing calls on their cow-horns,
 Blowing resounding calls on their bamboo horns,
 All to strike fear into the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no.

65 The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no were unafraid.
 The soldiers of the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no yelled from both sides.
 On horse-back and on foot they advanced from the far side,
 On horse-back and on foot they advanced from the near side.

They shot the companies of the Ruling Race's soldiers till everywhere was
 rotting flesh,
 70 They fought till everywhere was flowing blood.
 They crushed the Ruling Race down into the gorge,
 Fighting till the Ruling Race was floating down in the midst of the water.

.In a single day the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no encountered,
 Encountered the Ruling Race seventeen times,

75 Until the Ruling Race could fight no more.

 The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no crushed,
 Crushed them at the pass in the gorge of the Tracts of Mi-li, sparing none that
 breathed,
 Crushed them at the meeting of the waters of the Plains of Li-mo, sparing no
 one's life.

80 So the Ruling Race returned,
 Returned to the West of Cai-sie-mi-fu-di,
 And the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no remained in the Tracts of Mi-li, the
 Plains of Li-mo and the Golden City,
 Having crushed the Ruling Race for seven years.

 When the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no recalled the forced labour of training
 soldiers,
85 The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no smiled,
 But when they recalled the forced labour of the battle,
 The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no laughed aloud.

 For the reason that the Ruling Race coveted,
 Coveted the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no's meeting of streams on the Tracts
 of Mi-li,
90 Coveted the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no's broad plain of the Plains of Li-o,
 To traverse it, journeying without rest, took half a month,
 To cross it, journeying straight and without deviation, took six days,

 For this reason, the meeting of the streams of the Tracts of Mi-li and the Plains
 of Li-mo,
 Vexed the Ruling Race every day,
 Until the Ruling Race grew black at heart,
95 Ready to crush the bones of the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no.

 Among the people the Elder Gi-vu's garments bore a design of spots,
 And the Elder Gi-no's garments bore a checkered design.

 Who maintained a great host of soldiers in their companies?
 The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no maintained,
100 Maintained a great host of soldiers in their companies.
 So the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no remained in the Tracts of Mi-li and the
 Plains of Li-mo.

 In sunshine the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no led out the soldiers,
 In cloud the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no deployed the soldiers,
 Filling the three plains of the Tracts of Mi-li,
105 And filling the seven river basins of the Plains of Li-mo.

 When the soldiers were led out they turned together,
 When the soldiers were deployed they moved together,
 When the soldiers were deployed they lay down together,
 When the soldiers were led out they rose up together.
110 So they were taught to avoid the swords and spears of the Ruling Race.

While the sky remained constant,
The Chinese Leader Gi-yie and the Chinese Leader Diao-jiao threatened to fill
the land,
Like billowing clouds that fill the sky with blackness.
They would cross over and seize the Tracts of Mi-li and the Plains of Li-mo,
crushing them flat.

115 The Elder Gi-vu was heavy hearted,
The Elder Gi-no was sad at heart.

The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no led out,
Led out the soldiers in companies and returned to block the way,
To block the way at the pass in the gorge of the Tracts of Mi-li and the Plains of
Li-mo,

120 And to fight at the water pool of the Tracts of Mi-li and the Plains of Li-mo.

When the companies of soldiers of the Ruling Race came,
They came aboard flat boats built of straight timbers,
They came aboard keeled boats built of curved timbers.

The officers of the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no just waited,
125 Waited for the companies of soldiers of the Ruling Race to arrive.
Then carefully they stretched their bending cross-bows with their feet,
And carefully drew out their arrows with their hands.

In a pattern of curves the arrows flew and hit,
Hit the flat boats which sank in mid-stream,
130 Hit the keeled boats making them sink too,
And hit those destined as food for the fish, more than could be counted.

The Ruling Race wept together,
But the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no laughed aloud.
The Ruling Race could fight no more,
135 So the Ruling Race returned home.

Nevertheless the Ruling Race did not lose heart,
But came again into the borders of the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no,
Like tigers with much cunning,
And like lions with great cunning,
140 To savage the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no to death.

The companies of soldiers of the Ruling Race were like driving sand,
When the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no returned with their companies of
soldiers to block the way,
And with apprehension the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no conferred.

"It were better to abandon the Tracts of Mi-li with the Plains of Li-mo,
145 For the Tracts of Mi-li and the Plains of Li-mo are filled,
Filled as a river in spate about to burst out".

So the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no led,

Led the companies of soldiers back to crush,
To crush the Ruling Race in the deep valley,
150 So the little ones and the women might flee ahead,
Might flee to the Plain of Li-vu and the Rice City.

The Rice City stood,
Stood on the fertile banks of the southern river,
And the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no founded a settlement on the flat land
there,
155 Building thatched houses in Rice City.

There the swaying millet ripened,
There a fine rice harvest matured.

While the sky remained constant,
The Chinese Leader Gi-yie and the Chinese Leader Diao-jiao came threatening,
160 Like rain with thunder clouds flying, threatening to break,
To cross over and seize the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no's Rice City.

The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no led out,
Led out the companies of soldiers and returned to block the way,
To block the way at "the lion's throat" in the Plain of Li-vu,
165 And to fight at "the lion's gullet".
They fought until all the officers of the Ruling Race fell.

The ancestors considered this great forest resembled,
Resembled the throat of a lion,
There they fought the Ruling Race,
170 And crushed the Ruling Race for half a year.

But the officers of the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no were not on the alert,
And the Ruling Race came to fight at "the lion's throat",
And they seized "the lion's gullet".

The Elder Gi-vu was heavy hearted,
175 The Elder Gi-no was sad at heart.

The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no led out,
Led out the companies of soldiers and returned and fought,
Fought the Ruling Race as far,
As far as the banks of the river Hmao-shi.

180 The companies of soldiers of the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no rode,
Rode on stallions, on war-horses and pursued,
Pursued the Ruling Race right down to the great river Hmao-shi where they
perished.
So the Ruling Race could fight no more.
The Ruling Race was black at heart,
185 The Ruling Race made mines and came, burying them in place,
In place for the arrival of the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no's companies of
soldiers.
The Ruling Race detonated the mines blowing up the ground.

So they destroyed the soldiers of the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no. Every man fell.

190 The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no wept together,
The Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no abandoned the place,
For the Ruling Race was like a great shining river flowing in full spate,
Flowing until it filled Ndlo-hlang-dleu-di to its four corners and to the very foot
of the plain.

195 So the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no fled together.
They fled to the high mountain range of Drao-li-na,
They stayed at Dli-na-lu, Drao-zi-go and Die-zi-gyu,
Finally reaching Hmao-lu-li-jieu in sight of the lord Gi-myu.

This is sung that all the descendants may recall it,
This is sung that posterity may all remember.

Thus it is finished.