## M213 The descendants of the Elder Gi-yie

## Sung by Yang Zhi

Notes

This song is recorded in Document A (no. 7, page 18), Document E (no. 7, page 19), Document K (no. 7, page 24), and Document L (no. 15, page 52).

Line 8 . Document A reads  $\Delta^{\circ}$ , "black", instead of  $C\Delta^{\circ}$ , "fierce".

Lines 11 and 12. In the Miao text these appear as a single line.

Line 14. The common word for "mule" is  $C^{\circ} \mathfrak{Z}^{\mathfrak{z}}$ . In the songs this is frequently extended to a four-syllable expression,  $C^{\circ} \mathfrak{Z}^{\mathfrak{z}} \operatorname{D}^{\circ} \mathsf{L}_{\mathfrak{F}}$ . So it reads here in Document A. Document E accidentally omitted the word  $\mathsf{L}_{\mathfrak{F}}$ . Documents K and L followed suit, and then tried to restore some meaning to the expression by changing the word  $\mathfrak{Z}_{\mathfrak{v}}$ , "which was" into  $\mathfrak{T}^{\mathfrak{v}}$ , meaning "male", setting the Elder Gi-yie astride a "male mule".

Lines 16 and 18. These lines are metaphorical. The grass cape flying out behind the rider on a gallloping horse gave the impression of the wings of a bird.

**Line 17**. Documents A, K and L omit the initial  $\Box^{n} \exists_{u}$ .

Line 21 . Document E misreads CT<sub>"</sub> as T<sub>"</sub>.

Line 32 . Document E reads  $T_r$ , "carried on the back", instead of  $\dagger^r$ , "girded on". Line 33 . Document E changes  $CT_{\parallel} L^{\circ} \mathcal{D}_{\parallel}$ , "fighting as they went", to  $CT_{\parallel} \mathring{\mathcal{I}}' \mathcal{D}_{\parallel} \mathcal{D}_{\parallel}$ , "fighting wherever they went", as in line 67.

Line 49. In Document K the word  $E_{\neg}$ , "to ferry", was misread as  $E_{\circ}$ , and Document L restored some meaning by adding  $\exists_{\circ}$  so that it became  $E_{\circ} \exists_{\circ}$ , "to cause".

Line 75. Instead of  $J^{-}T'' S^{nc}$ , "high mountains", Document E has  $J^{-}CT^{\delta}T^{n}$ , "The middle of the land".