

M213
The descendants of the Elder Gi-yie.

Sung by Yang Zhi.

When the sky began,
And on earth the ranges were set in place,
At what place did the Elder Gi-yie arrive?
The Elder GI-yie arrived at Lao-u.

5 Among the people the Elder Gi-yie was a great sage,
The Elder Gi-yie was famous,
The Elder Gi-yie was a man of great wisdom.

10 Among the people the Elder Gi-yie was a fierce soldier,
The Elder Gi-yie was a tenacious soldier,
For the Elder Gi-yie was a man of war.

They say of the Elder Gi-yie,
That among the people he was a great archer.
The Elder Gi-yie wore a grass cape about his shoulders,
And the Elder Gi-yie rode a mule, a steed ash-coloured.

15 With whirling hooves they crossed the flat land,
As though flying with spread wings against a blue sky.
With whirling hooves they crossed the plain,
As though flying with spread wings within a clear sky.

20 So the Elder Gi-yie lived at Lao-u,
Seventeen li from the Ndru-na-yi-mo.

25 While the sky remained constant,
The Chinese Leader Gi-yie came from Cai-sie-mi-fu-di,
To cross into the midst of the land of the Na-yi-mo.
The Elder Gi-yie was heavy hearted,
Maidens and youths and maidens betrothed were sad at heart.

The Elder Gi-yie saw a whet-stone for honing swords,
Sharp swords, swords for thrusting.
The Elder Gi-yie saw a hard stone for honing spears,
Sharp spears, spears to be used.

30 The Elder Gi-yie led out the soldiers in companies to block the way.
The Elder Gi-yie took his cross-bow, black and curved, slung on his back,
He took his quiver of arrows girded at his waist,
And he drove the Chinese Leader Gi-yie, fighting as they went.

35 Carefully the Elder Gi-yie stretched his bending cross-bow with his feet,
And carefully he drew out his arrows with his hand.
In a pattern of curves the arrows flew and hit home,

Until the Chinese Leader Gi-yie sought a viable way, a way to return,
To return to the Chinese Leader Gi-yie's native land.

40 But the Chinese Leader Gi-yie could not bear the thought.
The Chinese Leader Gi-yie's hands were able.
What were his hands able to do?
His hands were able to build boats.

He built flat boats which went straight across.
He built keeled boats which went by a devious course.
45 Now the Ndru-na-yi was spanned by a rope of yarn,
And the Na-ji-mo by a rope of bamboo.

The flat boats floated lightly on the surface,
The keeled boats sank down in the water,
And they ferried the companies of the Chinese Leader Gi-yie's soldiers across.

50 The Elder Gi-yie was heavy hearted.
The Elder Gi-yie took the soldiers in companies back to block the way,
But the soldiers of the Chinese Leader Gi-yie were very numerous indeed,
Like swarming ants they arrived.

The Elder Gi-yie could not overcome.
55 The Elder Gi-yie's stallions were seized,
And the Chinese Leader Gi-yie drove the Elder Gi-yie fighting as they went.

The Chinese Leader Gi-yie's soldiers blew,
Blew echoing calls on their cow-horns,
Blew resounding calls on their bamboo horns.
60 They let off exploding fire crackers
Stamping hard with their feet.

So the Chinese Leader Gi-yie vanquished the Elder Gi-yie,
And pinned him down on the top of a rock,
Though the Elder Gi-yie struggled like a bull.
65 The companies of the Elder Gi-yie's soldiers all fled.

The Elder Gi-yie's family had lived at Lao-u,
But the Chinese Leader Gi-yie drove them on wherever they went,
So the Elder Gi-yie's family sought,
Sought a satisfactory way for them to go where?
70 Sought a satisfactory way for them to go to Rice City.

While the sky remained constant,
The family of the Chinese Leader Gi-yie came on and reached Rice City,
So the family of the Elder Gi-yie arose and fled.

To what place did they flee?
75 They fled to Gi-chi-na-lu, to Dli-gi-trao and Drao-zi-go, the high mountain
range.
Here they multiplied until they filled twelve villages.

Thus it is ended.