

M214

The descendants of the Elder Gi-chi.

Sung by Yang Zhi.

When the sky began,
And on earth the ranges were set in place,
At what place did the Elder Gi-chi arrive?
The Elder Gi-chi arrived on the wide plain of the Yi-bang.

5 The plain of the Yi-bang was good land,
But where, is it said, was the plain of the Yi-bang situated?
It was situated in seven sweeping bends of the river Yi-bang.

10 It is said that the plain of the river Yi-bang was good land,
For there the swaying millet ripened,
There ripened the richly clothed rice,
And there, it is said, cotton ripened, blowing lightly in the breeze.

The folk built timber-framed houses to settle in their families and live,
They built tiled houses, row on row, to settle in their families and dwell.
So the clan of the Elder Gi-chi spread abroad.

15 The Elder Gi-chi lived on the great plain of the river Yi-bang
At a distance from the river Yi-bang which could be travelled in the time that it
took to prepare breakfast.

20 So it was, while the sky remained constant,
The Chinese Leader Gi-yie came from the Chinese country,
To cross over to the Elder Gi-chi,
To the plain of the Yi-bang water, the land of seven sweeping bends.

The Elder Gi-chi was heavy-hearted,
Maidens and youths and maidens betrothed were sad at heart.

25 The Elder Gi-chi was the people's commander of soldiers,
So the Elder Gi-chi led out the soldiers in companies to block the way,
To block it at the pass of Ji-sha on the river Yi-bang at the edge of the plain.

30 While the sky remained constant,
The Chinese Leader Gi-yie's soldiers arrived in companies.
They let off exploding fire-crackers,
Stamping hard with their feet,
To strike fear into the Elder Gi-chi.

The Elder Gi-chi was unafraid,
The Elder Gi-chi arose and went, running, he attacked,
Attacked the companies of the Chinese Leader Gi-yie's soldiers who fell in all
directions,
So the Chinese Leader Gi-yie could not overcome.

35 The Chinese Leader Gi-yie sought a viable way to return.
To return where?
To return in a direction mid-way between the setting sun and the North wind,
For there lay the Chinese Leader Gi-yie's native land.

While the sky remained constant,
40 The Chinese Leader Gi-yie came by a round about way,
By a round about way, he came to the foot of the plain of the river Yi-bang.
The Chinese Leader Gi-yie boarded flat boats which went straight across,
Boarded keeled boats which went by a devious course,
And ferried the companies of the Chinese Leader Gi-yie's soldiers over.

45 The Elder Gi-chi could not bear the thought,
The Elder Gi-chi took the soldiers in companies to block the way,
To block it at the foot of the plain of the river Yi-bang.

The Chinese Leader Gi-yie's soldiers blew,
Blew echoing calls on their cow horns,
50 Blew resounding calls on their bamboo horns.
They beat the hand drums until they sounded aloud,
They beat the stick drums until they sounded true, sounded near and far.

The Elder Gi-chi could not overcome,
For when the Chinese Leader Gi-yie's soldiers arrived in a body,
55 The Elder Gi-chi's soldiers in a body fled.

The Elder Gi-chi sought,
Sought a viable way, a satisfactory way for them to go where?
Satisfactory to go to the people's Rice City.

The people say,
60 Say that in the middle of the Rice City plain
There stood a hmang-bi-da tree.

Its trunk was nine fathoms around,
And nine was the number of its branches.
The branches were a place for hawks to nest,
65 And the trunk, a resting place for the Elder Gi-chi.

The original family of the Elder Gi-chi lived at Lao-u.
While the sky remained constant,
The succeeding family of the Elder Gi-chi lived at Rice City.

70 This is sung that all the Elder Gi-chi's original family may recall,
This is sung that all the Elder Gi-chi's succeeding family may remember.

Thus it is ended.