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The descendants of Gha-sao-hmao-byu.

Sung by Yang Zhi.

When the sky began,
And on earth the ranges were set in place,
At what place did Gha-sao-hmao-byu arrive?
They say Gha-sao-hmao-byu arrived in the midst of the Ndu-na-yi-mo plain.

5 They say that the plain of the Ndu-na-yi-mo was wide.
Straight across it was seven days travel,
And, they say, from the foot of the plain to the head, was half a month's
journey.

Of the great plain of the Ndu-na-yi-mo they say,
That the swaying millet ripened,
10 And there too ripened the richly clothed rice.
From millet folk made yeast,
And from wild millet they fermented wine.

They say that on the great plain of the Ndu-na-yi-mo,
The cotton bore heads as large as ducks' eggs.

15 They say that the rice fields were arranged together in curves,
Like the patterns on the adult daughters' skirts.
The level rice fields were long and curved,
Like the patterns on the adult daughters' aprons.

Gha-sao-hmao-byu lived in the midst of the Ndu-na-yi-mo plain,
20 Where folk built timber-framed houses to settle in their families and live,
And built tiled houses, row on row, to settle in their families and dwell.

Gha-sao-hmao-byu's countenance
Was round, like the rising sun,
Was round, like the shining sun.

25 Gha-sao-hmao-byu lived at a distance from the edge of the Ndu-na-yi-mo water
Which could be covered in the time it takes to prepare a mid-day meal.

While the sky remained constant,
The Chinese Leader Diao-jiao came from the Chinese city,
To cross over into the midst of Gha-sao-hmao-byu's land.

30 Gha-sao-hmao-byu was heavy-hearted,
Maidens and youths and maidens betrothed were heavy-hearted,
Married couples all were sad at heart.

Gha-sao-hmao-byu led out the soldiers in companies to block the way.
They waited for the Chinese Leader Diao-jiao there,
35 At the pass of Li-byu by the edge of the waters of the Ndu-na-yi-mo.

Seven thousand hid on the right side,
Motionless on the right hand side.
Three hundred hid on the left side,
Kneeling on the left hand side.

40 All waited for the companies of the Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao's soldiers to
arrive,
Ready to drive the Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao's soldiers down into the water.

The soldiers of the Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao arrived in companies,
A detachment of cavalry,
And a thousand four hundred following,
45 A thousand four hundred on foot.

The Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao's companies of soldiers blew,
Blew echoing calls on their cow-horns,
Blew resounding calls on their bamboo horns,
To strike fear into Gha-sao-hmao-byu.

50 Gha-sao-hmao-byu was unafraid.
Ghao-sao-hmao-byu sprang up astride,
Astride the back of his stallion,
While Gha-sao-hmao-byu's soldiers on both sides moved as a body,
Crushing the soldiers of the Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao between them.

55 The troops of Gha-sao-hmao-byu stretched,
Carefully they stretched their curved cross-bows with their feet,
And carefully they drew out their arrows with their hands.

The arrows flew in a pattern of curves, their target the officers of the Chinese
Leader Dlao-jiao,
And they drove his companies of soldiers down into the water,
60 So the Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao could not overcome,
And the Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao retreated.

The Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao could not bear the thought,
So the Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao came by a round about way,
A round about way, bounded by the head waters of the Ndu-na-yi-mo,
65 To crush Gha-sao-hmao-byu in the middle.

Gha-sao-hmao-byu was unafraid.
Gha-sao-hmao-byu requisitioned war-horses, well-fed beasts,
And requisitioned stallions, fine animals and bold.

70 Then Gha-sao-hmao-byu sprang up astride,
Astride the back of his stallion.
Gha-sao-hmao-byu drew his shining sword and cut,
Cut to death the companies of the Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao's soldiers.

Gha-sao-hmao-byu's stallions charged from one side,
His soldiers fought on the other side,

75 While the Ndu-na-yi-mo flowed full on the third side.
So the Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao could not overcome,
And the Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao went back.
The Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao was heavy hearted,
The Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao was sad at heart.

80 But the Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao's hand was able.
What was his hand able to do?
His hand was able, his hand was skilful to make,
To make fire-crackers which would fly into the sky.

85 While the sky remained constant,
The Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao set off the fire-crackers which came flying,
Flying in clusters and arrived,
Arrived in the midst of Gha-sao-hmao-byu's soldiers.

90 The fire-crackers exploded in the sky,
And Gha-sao-hmao-byu trembled,
While his troops shook with fear.

Gha-sao-hmao-byu sought a viable, a satisfactory way for them to go where?
A satisfactory way for them to go to the great plain of Rice City,
Where the land was level and flat,
Where the swaying millet ripened,
95 And rice too ripened, blowing in the breeze.

Now at Rice City there were to be found,
A hill by the name of Hmao-gang,
And a hill-ridge which was called Hmao-ji.

Thus it is ended.