

M216
The descendants of three Elders.

Sung by Yang Zhi.

The Elder Gi-yie, the Elder Gi-chi and Gha-sao-hmao-byu.

When the sky began,
And on earth the ranges were set in place,

Then Hmao-vu-gi-ndlw, the Elder Gi-yie, lived on Silver-plain,
And the Elder Gi-yie's clothing bore a pattern of spots.
5 Gi-chi-gi-no, the Elder Gi-chi, lived on Golden-plain,
And the Elder Gi-chi's clothing bore a checkered pattern.
Gha-sao-hmao-byu lived on Pewter-plain,
And Gha-sao-hmao-byu's clothing was also patterned.

10 The Elder Gi-yie was the people's Hmao-vu-gi-ndlw, A-yeu Hai.
The Elder Gi-chi was the people's Hmao-chi-gi-no, Yeu-ndro-ghai.
Gha-sao-hmao-byu was the people's Hmao-gi-jiai.
The Elder Gi-vu, the Elder Gi-no and Gha-sao-hmao-byu
Were thus the people's rulers, their high lords.

15 The Elder Gi-vu arrived at Golden City,
The Elder Gi-no arrived on the plain of the Yi-bang water, the land of seven
sweeping bends,
And Gha-sao-hmao-byu arrived on the great plain of the Ndu-na-yi-mo.

Among the people the Elder Gi-yie was a fierce soldier,
The Elder Gi-chi was a terrifying soldier,
And Gha-sao-hmao-byu was a tenacious soldier.

20 Among the people the Elder Gi-yie was a warrior, the one who handled the
cross-bow.
About his shoulders the Elder Gi-yie wore a grass cape.
Among the people the Elder Gi-chi was a fighter, the one who commanded
soldiers.
The Elder Gi-chi's voice carried like the crowing of a cock.
Among the people Gha-sao-hmao-byu was a fighter, the one who trained
horses.

25 While the sky remained constant,
The Rulers came from the Rulers' land, so the Rulers came,
The Race travelled from the Race's land, so the Race travelled,
The Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao came from the Chinese land,
The Chinese Leader Gi-yie came from the Chinese city,
30 Thus the Ruling Race came from Cai-sie-mi-fu-di,
Came to seize the heart of the Elder Gi-yie, the Elder Gi-chi and Gha-sao-hmao-
byu's land.

The Elder Gi-yie was heavy-hearted,

The Elder Gi-chi was sad at heart,
And Gha-sao-hmao-byu was cast down in heart.

35 Maidens and youths and maidens betrothed were heavy hearted,
Married couples all were sad at heart,
But they arose and went forth together to join,
To join in battle with the Chinese Leader Gi-yie and the Chinese Leader Dlao-
jiao, so they went,
Fighting by the Ndu-na-yi-mo, in the pass of Li-byu at the water's edge.

40 The companies of soldiers of the Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao and the Chinese
Leader Gi-yie embarked,
Embarked in seventy flat boats,
And embarked in seventy pairs of keeled boats.

Among the people the Elder Gi-yie was a warrior, the one who handled the
cross-bow.

45 The Elder Gi-yie stretched his cross-bow, black and curved,
His bow for waging war, carefully with his feet,
And carefully drew out his arrows with his hands.
In a pattern of curves the arrows flew and hit,
Hit the officers of the Ruling Race who fell in all directions.

Among the people the Elder Gi-chi was a fighter, the one who commanded
soldiers.

50 The Elder Gi-chi arose and went forth, running he attacked,
Attacked the companies of the Ruling Race's soldiers till they fell in heaps.

Among the people Gha-sao-hmao-byu was a fighter, the one who trained
horses.

Gha-sao-hmao-byu requisitioned war-horses to carry the soldiers,
Requisitioned horses, fine animals and bold.

55 Then Gha-sao-hmao-byu sprang up astride,
Astride the back of his stallion.
Gha-sao-hmao-byu drew his shining sword and struck down,
Struck down the Ruling Race's soldiers till all, to the youngest, dropped,
Struck down on to their backs the companies of the Ruling Race's soldiers.

60 The Elder Gi-yie and the Elder Gi-chi lifted up their voices, calling to the sky,
And the clouds arose exceedingly black in the sky above.

The Ruling Race could not overcome,
So the Ruling Race retreated.
Nevertheless the Ruling Race could not bear the thought.

65 Now the Ruling Race's hands were able.
What were their hands able to do?
Their hands were skilful, were able to make,
Were able to make fire-crackers which would fly into the sky.

While the sky remained constant,

70 The Ruling Race set off the fire-crackers which came flying,
Flying in clusters and arrived,
Arrived in the midst of the Elder Gi-yie, the Elder Gi-chi and Gha-sao-hmao-
byu's soldiers.

The fire-crackers exploded in the sky,
And the Elder Gi-yie trembled,
75 The Elder Gi-chi shook with fear,
While Gha-sao-hmao-byu found a way to flee.

The Chinese Leader Gi-yie was like a black tiger,
And the Chinese Leader Dlao-jiao was like a yellow lion,
Determined to fight the Elder Gi-yie, the Elder Gi-chi and Gha-sao-hmao-byu
and exterminate them.
80 Thus the Elder Gi-yie, the Elder Gi-chi and Gha-sao-hmao-byu could dwell
there no longer.

While the sky remained constant,
The descendants of the Elder Gi-yie, the Elder Gi-chi and Gha-sao-hmao-byu
were like:

Like an orphan driven away,
Because the orphan had no father;
85 Like ragged corn all beaten out,
Because the corn had been tilled amiss;
Like an orphaned calf without a mother.
Yet do not despair.

The day will come when the orphaned calf, grown into bull,
90 Will low three times in its own room in the house.
The day will come when the ragged corn will produce good seed,
To be stored in the grain-loft, all unbeknown.
The day will come when the orphan will be an honoured guest,
While the wealthy and the strong and the clever,
95 All unbeknown, will follow behind, ashamed.

Of old, when the Elder Gi-yie, the Elder Gi-chi and Gha-sao-hmao-byu lived at
Golden City,
There were at Golden City,
A tree called "hi-tru" where they sacrificed chicken,
And a tree called "go-mi-sie" where they sacrificed pigs,
100 For at Golden City stood the Elder Gi-yie, the Elder Gi-chi and Gha-sao-hmao-
byu's sacred hill.

This is sung that the descendants of the Elder Gi-yie, the Elder Gi-chi and Gha-
sao-hmao-byu may all remember,
This is sung that the descendants of the Elder Gi-yie, the Elder Gi-chi and Gha-
sao-hmao-byu may all recall.

Thus it is ended, aye!