

**M217**  
**The belongings of the Miao old folk.**

*Sung by Yang Zhi.*

When the sky began,  
And on earth the ranges were set in place,  
The Chinese Leader Gi-yie came from the Chinese land,  
The Ruling Race came from Cai-sie-mi-fu-di.  
5 Crossing over they seized the very heart of the Elder Gi-yie, the Elder Gi-chi  
and Gha-sao-hmao-byu's land.

The Chinese Leader Gi-yie came and took,  
Came and took the names of the Elder Gi-yie, the Elder Gi-chi and Gha-sao-  
hmao-byu and wrote them down,  
Wrote them down in the Chinese Leader Gi-yie's book of records,  
While their heads were drawn on painted boards.

10 The useful articles of all kinds belonging to the Elder Gi-yie, the Elder Gi-chi  
and Gha-sao-hmao-byu were there in profusion.  
The cross-bow, black and curved, hung in the middle,  
While the grass cape hung on the right  
And the quiver hung on the left.

The cross-bow, black and curved, the cross-bow for war, was painted,  
15 And the quiver was bound with copper.  
There was a good and useful article to the right of the quiver, a steel,  
And a good and useful article to the left, a tobacco pouch.

The costumes of the Elder Gi-yie, the Elder Gi-chi and Gha-sao-hmao-byu, the  
hlu-nza-nzyu, were there,  
There in the middle room of the Chinese Leader Gi-yie's house of books.  
20 The garments, the hlu-nza-nzyu, had a pattern of stripes,  
The hlu-nza-nzyu were gathered with nine threads,  
And they were patterned like the backs of tigers.

The ghang-li-yi had eight linen strands,  
The ghang-li-yi bore a "three-room" motive,  
25 The ghang-li-yi had bright applique on them,  
But the ghang-li-yi had an even pattern,  
For they were patterned like the backs of lions.

The hlu-dlang-nba were drawn up with five strands,  
The hlu-dlang-nba had a checkered pattern,  
30 The hlu-dlang-nba had white applique cut and fastened,  
But the hlu-dlang-nba had an even pattern,  
For they were patterned like the backs of eagles.

The tassels were bright,  
The tiny bells of copper and pewter tinkled,

- 35 And, hanging lower than the girdle, were bobbing beads, bright and new.  
The Elder Gi-yie's garment, his embroidered costume, hung down over his  
arms,  
The Elder Gi-chi's garment, embroidered with crosses, hung down over his  
hands.
- The garments, the hlu-nza-nzyu were on the right,  
The cotton materials the women left behind were on the left,  
40 With the blue skirts gathered with nine threads,  
The blue skirts bearing parallel strips of coloured cloth,  
The blue skirts, the best skirts for going out.
- The useful articles of all kinds belonging to the Elder Gi-yie, the Elder Gi-chi  
and Gha-sao-hmao-byu were there all together.  
The open display broke our hearts,  
45 For we had become ploughing oxen and pack horses to the limit of endurance.  
The open display broke our spirit,  
For we had become ploughing oxen and pack horses till we were exhausted.
- There were all kinds of things in the Chinese Leader Gi-yie's house of records,  
All kinds of things were there in profusion.  
50 Every sort of deer was living there,  
The stags all dwelt there.
- There was a pair of eagles seeking food,  
Seeking food as they flew up and down in their aviary.  
While tigers and lions prowled up and down in their cages.
- 55 The peacocks were marked and beautifully patterned,  
Patterned like the daughters', the adult young women's stitched applique work.  
They had graceful crests on the top of their heads,  
And their graceful tails bore many markings.  
Their graceful tails were patterned with spots,  
60 Patterned like the daughters', the adult young women's bright applique work.
- The hoopoes were patterned with spots,  
Patterned like the daughters', the adult young women's braids with the "three-  
room" motif.  
Their graceful tails were patterned with stripes,  
Patterned like the daughters', the adult young women's braids with the  
"jumping" motif.
- 65 The hoopoe was a bird with a horn,  
A large single horn on its forehead,  
Resembling the large horn of a unicorn.  
What kind of creature was a unicorn?  
A unicorn was a kind of wild animal.
- 70 The tigers were patterned with stripes,  
Patterned like the daughters', the adult young women's costumes,  
The hlu-nza-nzyu gathered with nine threads.

75 The lions had an even pattern,  
A pattern like the daughters', the adult young women's ghang-li-yi,  
The ghang-li-yi which was the garment of longing.

The tigers and lions were patterned with stripes on all four legs,  
Patterned like the daughters', the adult young women's braids with the "thorn"  
motif.

80 The ears of all the people have heard of it,  
But their eyes have not seen it,  
So this is sung that all the original families of the Elder Gi-yie, the Elder Gi-chi  
and Gha-sao-hmao-byu may recall.  
And this is sung that all the succeeding families of the Elder Gi-yie, the Elder  
Gi-chi and Gha-sao-hmao-byu may remember.

Thus it is ended.