

M218
The old native land which was lost.

Sung by Yang Zhi.

Notes

This song is recorded in Document A (no. 12, page 33), Document E (no. 12, page 31), Document K (no. 14, page 41), Document L (no. 22, page 87), and Document N (no. 38, page 540).

Title. All the song titles were supplied by the editors of the various documents, and are not part of the original text. The one chosen for this translation is that which appears in Document E. Document A has 𐄂𐄃𐄄𐄅𐄆𐄇𐄈𐄉𐄊𐄋𐄌. "The Miao land seized by the Chinese". Documents K, L and N have 𐄍𐄎𐄏𐄐𐄑𐄒𐄓𐄔𐄕𐄖𐄗𐄘. "Song lamenting the land that was lost".

Line 2. In Document N "lad jid", "Great-grand-daughters", is misprinted "lad hid". This is the first of a number of similar mistakes in this document. Only those which have a bearing on the meaning will be noted here.

Line 6. The last three words of this line and the whole of line 7 is missing in Document A. The Miao text in all the documents inserts 𐄙𐄚𐄛, "to four corners" in this line after the name "Ndlo-hlang-dleu-di", and in so doing makes line 7 pointless and also upsets the balance with line 5. The phrase has therefore been omitted.

Line 8. Documents L and N, which set out the text in lines, split this line into two.

Line 11. In Document N the word "xied", "ripened " is incorrectly printed, "sieb", and the same word in lines 12 and 14 appears as "shied". It is a convention in the Pinyin writing that whenever the initial "sh" is followed by the final "i" it becomes "x"

Line 12. Documents E, K, L and N all read 𐄜𐄝 instead of 𐄜𐄞 in this line. 𐄜𐄝 makes good sense applied to cotton plants in line 14, but is not an appropriate description of rice. Comparison with the same expression in several other songs confirms this.

Line 15. This line is omitted in Document N.

Line 22. Document N omits "to four corners".

Line 23. This line is missing in Document E.

Lines 35 and 36. These lines are missing in Document A.

Line 36. In Documents K, L and N the expression 𐄟𐄠𐄡𐄢 is incorrectly written 𐄟𐄠𐄡𐄣, but the error is corrected in line 38.

Line 39. Documents A and E add a second, superfluous ㄐㄥ, "round" at the end of this line.

Line 42. In Documents K, L and N the final word ㄐ is missing. Added notes in Miao and Chinese fail to make any reasonable sense of the corrupted text.

Line 43. This line occurs only in Document A, added in pencil after the manuscript had been completed.

Lines 44 and 45. These lines are missing in Document A.

Line 68. Documents K, L and N detach the final phrase ㄐㄥ ㄐㄥ from the end of this line and join it to the beginning of line 69. Also the word ㄐ, "to appear" is incorrectly written ㄐㄥ.

Lines 79 and 82. In both these lines the expression, ㄆㄥ ㄐㄥ ㄐㄥ ㄐㄥ, "valued things", occurs, but in Document A line 79 it appears as ㄆㄥ ㄐㄥ ㄐㄥ ㄐㄥ and in both entries in Document E as ㄆㄥ ㄐㄥ ㄐㄥ ㄐㄥ.