

M220

The song of a woman and a man called Ndlw.

Sung by Tao Zi-gai.

The villages of the woman Ndlw filled five regions,
And the hamlets of the man Ndlw filled five districts.

The woman and the man took staffs and went to the river bank,
Took staffs and beat the water,
5 Beat the water, hitting and striking the water.

The woman and the man took staffs and went to the river bank,
Took staffs and beat the water,
Beat the water, hitting and striking the fish.

To fly along the river Shi, the river Gi-bang, a crane would take half a day,
10 For the river Shi, the river Gi-bang, flowed through nine basins,
Flowed smoothly to the nine lakes of Gi-nzyu,
The nine lakes of Gi-nzyu on their nine flood plains.

Nine stretches of the river Shi, the river Gi-bang, flowed away through nine
localities,
Dividing the people's land.
15 Nine stretches of the river Shi, the river Gi-bang, flowed away through nine
areas,
Dividing the people's territory.

The people's rocks and cliffs formed,
Formed curving cliffs all around,
A place where the river Shi, the river Gi-bang, was held back,
20 Causing the river Shi, the river Gi-bang, to flow smoothly,
And pay its dues to the rocks and cliffs.

Even the wild geese and the cranes had to pay.
The wild geese and the cranes were calling,
Calling on all their family to pay dues to the sky people,
25 When the sky season came round again,
And the earthly time returned once more.

For the people, too, there were dues to pay.
This year the Chinese king,
In all the domains is stirring trouble,
30 For the Chinese king has determined that the people,
The Miao nation in all its families should pay,
Should pay dues to the Chinese king.

As a strong wind blowing,
Blowing the clouds above which carry,
35 Carry rain and showers everywhere,
So the retainers and soldiers of the Chinese king advanced.

As the clouds which carry,
Carry rain and showers all over the earth,
So the retainers and soldiers of the Chinese king arrived,
40 And the tears of the fathers fell fast.

Thus it is ended.