

M222

Concerning the Man Li-dao, section one.

*Sung by Tao Zi-gai.*

When the sky began,  
From the very first the Man Li-dao was there.  
When the earth began,  
The able hands of the Man Li-dao were there.  
5 From the time that the sky came to be,  
The skilful hands of the man Li-dao were there.

The Man Li-dao went through the lands that were there,  
The Man Li-dao went through the places that were there,  
And secured the country of the Ngga-yi-shi-lw,  
10 Secured the plains of the Ngga-yi-shi-lw,  
To make a place for the Man Li-dao to dwell,  
To make a place for the Man Li-dao to live.

The Man Li-dao could not settle his mind.  
Though through nine nights the Man Li-dao had thought of nine ways,  
15 And through nine days he had thought of nine schemes,  
The Man Li-dao was sad at heart.

So the Man Li-dao ordered,  
Ordered the Miao people to forgather,  
Ordered all the Miao people to gather,  
20 That the Man Li-dao together with,  
With the elders of the Miao people might discuss and reach a conclusion.  
With the elders of the Miao people might discuss and complete the matter.

The Elder Li-dao would build houses with timber frames and tiled roofs where  
families might live,  
Would build houses with timber frames and tiled roofs where families might  
dwell.

25 The Man Li-dao took,  
Took the Miao people to lay out the city.  
Laying it out they went right across and completed the task,  
Laying it out they went right across and concluded the work.

The Man Li-dao's circular city would be,  
30 Would be the place where the Man Li-dao would dwell.  
There the Man Li-dao would build a house with timber frame and tiled roof to  
be,  
To be the place from which the Man Li-dao would exercise control.

The Man Li-dao called,  
Called the Miao people to drive out,  
35 To drive out water buffalo to haul,  
To haul great, black rocks to build,  
To build the Man Li-dao's circular city,

On the plain of the Ngga-yi-shi-lw, that level plain.

40 The Man Li-dao ordered,  
Ordered the Miao people to carry,  
To carry pine trees to build,  
To build the Man Li-dao's houses with timber frames and tiled roofs,  
On the plain of the Ngga-yi-shi-lw, that flat country.

45 The Man Li-dao was sad at heart,  
For the Man Li-dao could not settle his mind.  
So the Man Li-dao called,  
Called the Miao people to forgather,  
Called all the Miao people to gather.

50 The Man Li-dao called,  
Called the elders of the Miao people to discuss and reach a conclusion.  
The Man Li-dao together with,  
With the elders of the Miao people discussed and completed the matter.

55 The Man Li-dao then selected,  
Selected Miao people to go and level the fields,  
And led out Miao people to go and level the place.

Then the Man Li-dao channelled,  
Channelled clear water to come flowing freely over the plain,  
To come nourishing the Man Li-dao's fields.

60 Thus in the midst of the Man Li-dao's fields was water,  
Water shining and fresh, water to nourish the rice,  
And support the Man Li-dao's descendants through all the generations.

65 He also caused clear water, shining and fresh, to nourish,  
To nourish the Man Li-dao's peas and broad beans on the plain,  
Peas and broad beans to support,  
Support the Man Li-dao's descendants through all the years.

70 The Man Li-dao was sad at heart,  
For the Man Li-dao could not settle his mind.  
So the Man Li-dao called,  
Called the Miao people to forgather.  
The Man Li-dao ordered,  
Ordered all the Miao people to gather.

75 They discussed and reached a conclusion,  
They discussed and completed the matter,  
The Man Li-dao arranged for the Miao people to go,  
To go to the plain of the Ngga-yi-shi-lw, that level plain  
To go to the plain of the Ngga-yi-shi-lw, that flat plain.

He caused the Miao people, going together, to plant,  
To plant cotton for spinning the warp,  
To plant cotton for spinning the weft,

80 That the descendants of the Man Li-dao might have sufficient to wear.  
  
The Man Li-dao could not settle his mind,  
So the Man Li-dao was sad at heart.  
The Man Li-dao together with,  
With the elders of the Miao people discussed and reached a conclusion.  
85 The Man Li-dao together with,  
With the elders of the Miao people discussed and completed the matter.  
  
The Man Li-dao and the elders having considered it,  
The Man Li-dao and the elders gave,  
Gave to the Man Li-dao's circular city the name "City of Gi-jiai".  
  
90 The Man Li-dao's ricefields gathered there on the plain,  
His ricefields grouped there on the flat land,  
Gave the Ruling Race cause to be sick at heart,  
While his cotton there on the plain,  
Gave the Ruling Race cause to be sick in mind.  
  
95 The Ruling Race declared,  
Declared this to be the Ruling Race's opportunity for a show of strength.  
The Ruling Race declared,  
Declared this to be the Ruling Race's opportunity to take control,  
Yet the Ruling Race was heavy hearted.  
  
100 When the rain fell, who was evil hearted?  
The Ruling Race was evil hearted.  
When the sun shone who was hard hearted?  
The Ruling Race was hard hearted.  
  
The Ruling Race ordered,  
105 Ordered their retainers and soldiers to advance from the north,  
Ordered their retainers and soldiers to advance from the south,  
To do battle with the Man Li-dao.  
  
The Man Li-dao could not settle his mind,  
For the Man Li-dao was sad at heart.  
  
110 The Ruling Race declared,  
Declared this to be the Ruling Race's opportunity for a show of strength,  
But the Man Li-dao would not be frightened.  
The Man Li-dao declared,  
Declared this to be the Man Li-dao's opportunity to take control.  
  
115 So the Man Li-dao ordered,  
Ordered the Man Li-dao's retainers and soldiers to mount a concerted attack,  
To attack the Ruling Race's retainers and soldiers who fled back whence they  
came.  
Thus the Ruling Race was heavy hearted.  
  
120 The Ruling Race then went and ordered,  
Ordered their retainers and soldiers to advance from north and south,

And the Man Li-dao's retainers and soldiers could not resist,  
So the Man Li-dao fled and was gone.