

M231
Twelve families of Miao, fleeing, reached Nuo country.

Sung by Yang Zhi.

Notes

This song is recorded in Document N (no. 29, page 483).

Normally in Document N a list of numbered footnotes is printed at the end of the song. In the text, references to these notes are indicated by index numbers set in circles. There are over twenty circles printed in this song, however, all but the first three are blank, and the footnotes, which should appear at the end, are missing altogether. There are also a number of errors in the transcription and printing. These have been corrected but not listed here in detail.

Line 13. The word "zyul" has been omitted in the text.

Line 15. The verb "gul" is missing in the text.

Line 21. In Document N the third element in the expression meaning "practically" is printed "cheb" instead of "shib", and the final element is given the wrong tone letter "b" instead of "l". This is probably due to the compositor misreading a hand written manuscript.

Line 30. The meaning of the end of this line is obscure. The final three words, as printed, read, "at ndryut shat" which make no kind of sense. They are followed by a blank circle where there should appear a reference number to a footnote which is also missing as explained above. The editor of the text had offered some elucidation, but this, in the printing of the book, was lost. It is possible that the second word should be "ndyut", which can mean "a clan", and this was misread as "ndryut", either in the original Miao script or in the process of transcription into Latinized writing. This reading yields a reasonable meaning and fits well into the context. It has accordingly been adopted in the present translation.

Lines 67 and 68. In the printed text these lines are identical. They should be a couplet of two parallel lines. Fortunately they are very nearly a repetition of lines 28 and 29, so that the correct reading can be readily restored.

Lines 70 to 75. In Document N these six are printed in three very long lines.

Lines 76 and 77. These final lines appear to have been detached from this song at some point in the transmission of the manuscripts and added to the text of another song, also by Yang Zhi, describing how the twelve Miao clans settled in the Gi-chi-na-lu country. In that song they are meaningless, and have therefore been restored to this, their proper context.