

M234
**The song of the Man Cao. How the Miao arrived in Byu-no
country.**

Sung by Yang Nggai-xing.

From out of scattered sky material came the dome,
For the Man Cao to come and live.
Woven from scattered earth material came the ranges,
For the Woman Cao to come and dwell.

5 The Woman Cao was beautiful,
As the man Cao soon came to know.
The Woman Cao together with,
With the Man Cao made a family to live,
With the Man Cao made a family to dwell.

10 They dwelt on the great plain of the river Ndu-gi-nzhe.
Now there on the plain of the river Ndu-gi-nzhe
There was paddy land from which to harvest rice,
There were paddy fields, flat and long, planted and secure,
And resembling their daughters, the grown up young women's skirts,
15 Cotton skirts, the skirts decorated with strips of applique sewn side by side.

They built houses with timber frames and tiled roofs for living in families.
The houses with timber frames and tiled roofs resembled,
Resembled their sons' felt capes gathered in thirteen folds.
They arranged for their sons to come and live in the houses,
20 And the sons also worked,
Worked the paddy fields, flat and long, making them secure.

The Woman Cao and the Man Cao discussed together,
"This year the season has been good; a good year.
We have harvested white rice and filled the granary,
25 We have harvested millet and filled the store,
We have harvested cotton and filled the place".

One day the Woman Cao and the Man Cao rose,
Rose early, before dawn,
Rose and set out to go,
30 To go to their parents' home.

Having reached the edge of the plain of the river Ndu-gi-nzhe
They met with nine robbers of the Ruling Race,
Who appeared suddenly and robbed,
Robbed the Woman Cao and the Man Cao of everything.
35 As a result the Man Cao took,
Took and killed the robbers nine headmen.

While the sky remained constant,
The Ruling Race came to know,

40 And the Ruling Race, uttering dark threats, reacted with menace.
The Woman Cao shook with fear,
The Man Cao trembled.

So the Woman Cao and the Man Cao took,
Took the children, the women with the young folk and fled,

Fled to the plain in the Nang-she country.

45 There the Woman Cao and the man Cao turned back to look,
To look at their homeland on the river Ndu-gi-nzhe.

The Woman Cao and the Man Cao lamented,
Lamented for the great plain of the river Ndu-gi-nzhe,
For the paddy fields, flat and long, planted and secure,
50 For the houses with timber frames and tiled roofs set in rows.

For the rice growing in the midst of the flat land,
And the cotton in the midst of the plain.
The Man Cao and the Woman Cao's tears dropped down.

While the sky remained constant,
55 The Woman Cao and the Man Cao discussed together,
"We are afraid that the Ruling Race
Will, in these surroundings, stir up trouble in the future".

So the Woman Cao and the Man Cao arose and fled,
Fled to Gha-nzhi-do-sha-lao, safe country,
60 But country at high altitude.

At Gha-nzhi-do-sha-lao one might plant maize but it would not ripen,
One might plant millet but it would not mature.
At Gha-nzhi-do-sha-lao all the roads were twisting,
Having rounded ninety nine bends there was no end in sight,
65 Having rounded ninety nine bends one had still not finished.

So the Woman Cao and the man Cao spoke out,
Saying that Gha-nzhi-do-sha-lao
Did not compare with the Woman Cao and the Man Cao's homeland,
And the Woman Cao and the Man Cao could not dwell there.

70 So the Woman Cao and the Man Cao arose and fled,
Fled away to the low-lying country of the Na-lu valley,
To the dry country of the Na-lu valley,
And secured it for their descendants,
Through nine stretches of time and through nine generations.

75 Thus it is ended.