

M236
The Miao homeland of Nzhi-mi-li.

Sung by Zhu Zhai-ming.

Where, is it said, that, of old, the Woman and the Man lived?
It is said that, of old, the Woman and the Man lived in the land of Nzhi-mi-li.
The land of Nzhi-mi-li was level land, land for farming,
It was low-lying, land for tilling rice.

5 Where is it said that cotton grew?
 It grew in the land of Nzhi-mi-li,
 And the heads of the cotton were as large as ducks' eggs.

 The Woman and the Man sent out,
 Sent out young women bearing,
10 Bearing large and small baskets to pick,
 To pick the cotton for spinning into yarn,
 For spinning into yarn in order to weave cloth.

 They wove cloth for the Woman and the Man to wear as protection through the
 seasons,
 They wove cloth for the Woman and the Man to wear as protection from the
 old.

15 In the land of Nzhi-mi-li the plain was level, the plain was wide,
 And the land of Nzhi-mi-li was good land,
 For there the swaying millet ripened,
 There ripened the richly clothed rice,
 And there ripened cotton, blowing in the wind.

20 This so pained the heart of the Ruling Race,
 That the Ruling Race led out companies of soldiers to fight,
 To fight against the Woman and the Man year by year,
 Until the Woman and the Man could live there no longer.

25 The Woman and the Man sought a way to flee,
 The Woman and the Man sought a way to go.
 The Woman and the Man fled till they reached,
 Reached the land of Hmao-gha-nzhi.

30 Where, is it said, that the land of Gha-nzhi is located?
 The land of Gha-nzhi is located on the plain of the Ngga-yi-shi-lw,
 And there the Woman and the Man founded,
 Founded a circular City on the level land.

35 From within, the City was like a circle,
 From within, the City was like the rising sun.
 From without, the City was like the setting sun,
 With rice fields, long and flat, laid out side by side.

This so pained the heart of the Ruling Race,
That the Ruling Race led out companies of soldiers to come and fight,
To fight against the Woman and the Man year by year,
A contest that the Woman and the Man could not win.

40 So the Woman and the Man sought a way to flee,
The Woman and the Man sought a way to go.
The Woman and the Man fled till they came and reached,
Came and reached the estates of the Lord Shi-byu.

The Woman and the Man lived,
45 Lived on the estates of the Lord Shi-byu.

Here they became the Lord Shi-byu's ploughing oxen and pack horses to the
limit of endurance,
They became the Lord Shi-byu's ploughing oxen and pack horses until they were
exhausted.
They performed the Lord Shi-byu's interminable forced labour,
And paid the Lord Shi-byu's unending demands for rent.

50 While the sky remained constant,
The Woman and the Man could dwell there no longer,
So the Woman and the Man followed,
Followed after the Lady-bride and reached,
Reached the estates of the Lord Gha-sao

55 They came and lived by the river Gi-lyu, by that wide river,
They lived by the river Gi-lyu, there in the deep valley.

There came a day when the Woman and the Man told the Lady-bride the truth.
They told how the Woman and the Man's native land
Was located in the Gha-nzhi country,
60 And that there they had founded a circular City on the level land,
And had laid out long, flat rice fields side by side in that place.

The Lady-bride sympathized,
Sympathized with the Woman and the Man day by day,
And the Lady-bride accompanied,
65 Accompanied the Woman and the Man to return and look,
Look at the Woman and the Man's City, there in the Hmao-Gha-nzhi country.

So the Lady-bride was convinced.
The Lady-bride concluded that the Woman and the Man were really great
people,
Concluded that the Woman and the Man were really competent people.

70 Thus it is ended.