

**M257**  
**Song of the surroundings of the Sao-no family.**

***Sung by Li Xing-zhen.***

Notes

This song is recorded in Document M (no. 16, page 93). The following pairs appear as single lines in the Miao text, 77 and 78, 158 and 159, 239 and 240, 248 and 249, 253 and 254, 273 and 274, 366 and 367.

**Line 6.** In the Miao text the expression 𐄂<sup>ꜜ</sup> CT<sup>ꜜ</sup>, "south", is repeated from the previous line. It should read 𐄂<sup>ꜛ</sup> CT<sup>ꜜ</sup>, "north", to avoid the contradiction in the length of time, "seven days" and "seven months", and also to establish the proper parallelism.

**Line 11.** In the Miao text this line has been displaced to follow line 13.

**Line 43.** The word T<sup>ꜛ</sup>, "land", is missing in the Miao text.

**Line 70.** Here, and in succeeding lines, the word for "arch", L<sup>ꜛ</sup> L<sup>ꜛ</sup> 𐄂<sup>ꜛ</sup>, is incorrectly written L<sup>ꜛ</sup> L<sup>ꜛ</sup> 𐄂<sup>ꜛ</sup>.

**Lines 70 and 71.** In Document M line 70 extends as far as the classifier, †<sub>r</sub>, leaving only four words in line 71.

**Line 148.** In the Miao text the last two words 𐄂<sup>ꜛ</sup> 𐄂<sup>ꜛ</sup>, "did speak", are repeated. In the identical line 232 there is no repetition, this appears therefore to be a copyist's error.

**Line 173.** Here and in succeeding lines the word l<sup>ꜛ</sup>, "saddle", is incorrectly written, Y<sup>ꜛ</sup>.

**Line 201.** In Document M, following this line, lines 196 to 201 are printed again verbatim, clearly a mistake.

**Lines 224 and 225.** In both these lines the word for "root", 𐄂<sup>ꜛ</sup> 𐄂<sup>ꜛ</sup>, has been wrongly written, 𐄂<sup>ꜛ</sup> 𐄂<sup>ꜛ</sup>.