

Song of the inspired maid from Hmao-ni-geu.

Sung by Yang Wang-shi.

The kinswoman Rice-flower, the inspired elder sister,
The hasting wonder maid in blue, sought,
Sought and found a way, a way of making soldiers.

5 Over a period she fattened a spotted pig and killed it,
Killed it to entertain the common soldiers on the plain,
Killed it to entertain the officers in the house,
Killed it to entertain the young men of Hmao-ni-geu.

10 The kinswoman Rice-flower, the inspired elder sister, ordered,
Ordered the common soldiers to march up and down,
Including a number on horse back,
And with thirty Miao on foot.

She ordered the common soldiers to march up and down,
So the common soldiers went forward and then turned about.

15 When they reached the river Gi-jiai it was just in spate,
Foaming in spate, boiling and foaming,
Foaming in spate, boiling and twisting.

20 The common soldiers could not cross,
So the common soldiers sought a way to go back,
But the kinswoman Rice-flower, the inspired elder sister would not allow it,
The hasting wonder maid in blue was unwilling.

The kinswoman Rice-flower, the inspired elder sister, ordered,
Ordered the common soldiers to march up and down.

25 They came on until they reached,
Reached the river Gi-trao.
Now the river Gi-trao was just in spate,
In spate and brimming its banks.

30 The common soldiers could not cross,
So the common soldiers sought a way to go back,
But the kinswoman Rice-flower, the inspired elder sister, would not allow it,
The hasting wonder maid in blue was unwilling.

The kinswoman Rice-flower, the inspired elder sister, ordered,
Ordered the common soldiers to march up and down,
And the common soldiers went forward and then turned about.

35 They went on till they reached,
Reached Hmao-trao-bw.
Hmao-trao-bw brought them breakfast,

But the Chinese robbers brought them lunch!
For the Kinswoman Rice-flower, the inspired elder sister,
Her common soldiers were armed only with pruning hooks,
40 And her officers were armed only with sickles.

They fought until lunch time.
Friends received no word,
Mothers, fathers and relatives heard no news.

Thus it is ended.