

M262

Song of the inspired maid from Hmao-dleu-lao.

Sung by Yang Wang-shi.

- This year we may know,
May know that the inspired maid, young cousin Rice-flower, sought,
Sought and found a way, a way of making soldiers.
The inspired maid, young cousin Rice-flower, took,
5 Took a white felt cape to carry her baby on her back,
While high in the sky the patchy cloud horses were feeding.
- When the next day came,
The inspired maid, young cousin Rice-flower, sought,
Sought and found a way, a way of making soldiers.
10 She went on and reached the landlord's timber stacks,
And met with seven Yi slaves who were robbers.
The Yi slaves who were robbers did no good,
They poured cups of clear wine and offered it,
Offered it to the inspired maid, young cousin Rice-flower to drink.
- 15 When the next day came,
The inspired maid, young cousin Rice-flower, sought,
Sought and found a way, a way of making soldiers.
The inspired maid, young cousin Rice-flower, took
Took a white felt cape to carry her baby on her back.
20 She went on and reached the mountain ridges of Gi-la,
Where among the Miao she found a place to rest.
- When the next day came,
The inspired maid, young cousin Rice-flower, sought,
Sought and found a way, a way of making soldiers.
25 The inspired maid, young cousin Rice flower, took,
Took a white felt cape to carry her baby on her back.
She went on till she reached,
Reached the mountain ridges of Fao-tlyu.
- It is said of the mountains of Kao, that the mountains are hard to climb,
30 But the inspired maid, young cousin Rice-flower, climbed them grasping her
hip.
The mountains of Kao, the mountains are long to climb,
But the inspired maid, young cousin Rice-flower, climbed them grasping her
knee.
- The inspired maid, young cousin Rice-flower, sought,
Sought and found a way, a way of making soldiers.
35 The inspired maid, young cousin Rice-flower, went on till she reached,
Reached Hmao-nie, but there ran short of rations.
Hmao-nie contributed seven "dou",
But Hmao-zhu contributed seven "dan",
Enough for young cousin Rice-flower's Miao to eat to the end of the year.

40 The inspired maid, young cousin Rice-flower, went on till she reached,
Reached the far side of windy pass.
There she met the slaves who were robbers and they did no good.
The slaves who were robbers drew their swords,
And the slaves who were robbers killed,
45 Killed the inspired maid, young cousin Rice-flower, on the spot.

So the inspired maid, young cousin Rice-flower, led half her company away,
Away to the spirit world, there to make marriages.
The inspired maid, young cousin Rice-flower, sent half her company back,
Back to earth's people there to make families.