

**M268**  
**The song of Du-bw, the dull one.**

***Sung by Wang Shi-cong.***

From out of scattered sky material came the dome,  
Woven from scattered earth material came the ranges.

It is said that this year the ruling Yi did no good.  
A relative of Lord Gi-myu arose, and together with,  
5 With several middle ranking Yi families sought a dwelling.  
Where did they seek to settle?  
They sought to settle on the plain of Fao-hniao.  
Now it is said that the plain of Fao-hniao  
Was a country both flat and wide.

10 Both the Yi and the Chinese were of evil intent,  
Pursuing and attacking, they fled to the lower side of the plain of Bu-yi.  
Now it is said that the plain of Bu-yi  
Was a plain both flat and wide,  
And on the plain of Bu-yi sumach trees thrived.

15 The ruling Yi did no good.  
A relative of Lord Gi-myu arose together with,  
With several middle ranking Yi families.  
Where did they seek to settle?  
They sought to settle on the plain of Fao-xieu.  
20 Now it is said that the plain of Fao-xieu  
Was a plain both flat and wide.

The ruling Yi did no good.  
A relative of Lord Gi-myu arose together with,  
With several middle ranking Yi families.  
25 In what place did they seek to settle?  
They sought to settle on the plain of Cho-zho.  
Now it is said that the plain of Cho-zho  
Was a plain both flat and wide,  
But behind the mountain was a region of range piled on range,  
30 While in front of the mountain and facing it was a region hemmed in by ranges.

Now the ruling Yi did no good.  
A relative of Lord Gi-myu arose and together with,  
With several middle ranking Yi families sought a dwelling.  
Where did they seek to settle?  
35 They sought to settle on the plain of Zhaotung.  
It is said that the Zhaotung plain is good land.  
It is said that rice will ripen on Zhaotung plain,  
Indeed upon the plain all kinds of crops will ripen.

40 Lord Gi-myu's relative together with,  
With several middle ranking Yi families

Deliberately went to found a settlement.  
 They got Chinese to drive,  
 To drive animals from the Elder Lord Shi-tru,  
 His water buffalo, to go and haul,  
 45 Haul softwood timber from the Bw country,  
 Haul pine and fir trees from the surrounding countryside.

Inside the City the Ruling Race,  
 Every day and every night beat drums,  
 Beat stick drums with an echoing sound.  
 50 Outside the City the Ruling Race,  
 Every day and every night beat drums,  
 Beat hand drums with a throbbing sound.

Inside the City the Ruling Race,  
 Every day and every night blew,  
 55 Blew bamboo horns with a reverberating sound.  
 Outside the City the Ruling Race,  
 Every day and every night blew,  
 Blew cow and buffalo horns with a resounding sound.

In front of the City hung the "silver ingots",  
 60 Glistening and bright like burnished silver.  
 Inside the City hung the "gold ingots",  
 Glistening and bright like burnished gold.

Lord Gi-myu's relative together with,  
 With several middle ranking Yi families,  
 65 Went and built houses, to live in their families,  
 Built timber-framed houses, to dwell in their families.  
 They built tile-roofed houses shining bright,  
 Shining bright as the blue sky,  
 They built timber-framed houses shining bright,  
 70 Shining bright as the clear sky.

Now a young woman, a cousin, together with,  
 With Du-bw the dull one, came to observe,  
 To observe the Zhaotung plain with its good land,  
 For the Zhaotung plain was both flat and wide.

75 The young woman, the cousin, opened her mouth, opened her lips and asked,  
 "Is it not said that Zhaotung plain is good land,  
 And on Zhaotung plain frosts do not last,  
 Nor, when it snows, does the snow settle long?"

Then Du-bw, the dull one, considered and said,  
 80 "It is said that Zhaotung plain is good land,  
 For the cotton plants on Zhaotung plain bear,  
 Bear heads as large as eggs,  
 Bear heads as large as basins".

The young woman, the cousin, opened her mouth, opened her lips and asked,

85 "The young Chinese women leave,  
Leave their babies on the bed every day,  
And taking round baskets carry them out of the City.  
The young Chinese women carry,  
Carry their round baskets for what purpose?"

90 Then Du-bw, the dull one, considered and said,  
"The young Chinese women carry,  
Carry their round baskets back to pick,  
They go to pick cotton every day,  
They go to pick cotton every month".

95 The young woman, the cousin, opened her mouth, opened her lips and asked,  
"For what purpose do the young Chinese women pick cotton?"

Then Du-bw, the dull one, considered and said,  
"The young Chinese women pick cotton for weaving into cloth,  
They pick cotton for making silk thread,  
100 They pick cotton for making silk fabric".

Then the young woman the cousin together with,  
With Du-bw, the dull one, came to consider and observe,  
To observe how the migrating birds, the cranes, bent,  
Bent their necks around into a curve and took,  
105 Took from the Yi women and Chinese women's fields,  
The ripening rice standing in the fields.

Those migrating birds, the cranes, bent  
Bent their necks around into a curve and took,  
Took from the Yi women and Chinese women's fields,  
110 The ripening beans standing in the valley.

Then Du-bw, the dull one, stretched,  
Sat and stretched his curved crossbow with his feet.  
But the young woman, the cousin, raised,  
Raised her hand to restrain him.

115 And the young woman, the cousin, opened her mouth, opened her lips and said,  
"Are you really going to stretch,  
To sit and stretch your curved crossbow with your feet?"  
Nevertheless Du-bw, the dull one, shot,  
Shot a crane in the midst of the fields,  
120 Shot a crane in the midst of the valley.

Now the ruling Yi did no good,  
They took Du-bw, the dull one, away.

Then the young woman, the cousin,  
With her tears dripping down,  
125 Every day, every night, the young woman, the cousin, was like,  
Like a crane which had lost its way.

The young woman, the cousin,  
With her tears falling fast,  
Every day, every night, as the young woman, the cousin, moved,  
130 They dripped and dripped at each step.

Thus it is ended.