

M269
The Master's able daughter.

Collected by Lu Xing-fu

From out of scattered sky material came the dome,
For Gha-sao's youngest daughter to come and live.
Woven from scattered earth material came the ranges,
For the Elder Shi-byu to make a family and dwell.

5 While the sky remained constant,
The Elder Shi-byu and Gha-sao's youngest daughter had,
Had a daughter late in life.

Having no way to give a name,
Let the daughter be called,
10 "The Master's able daughter,
The Lady who led and cared".
For she led in weaving rolls of cloth,
And she led in weaving the cotton.

While the sky remained constant,
15 Du-no-vang wrote,
Wrote in large characters on the outside of the paper,
And in small characters on the inside of the paper,
Wrote to the Elder Shi-byu's secretary,
Requiring the Elder Shi-byu to lead out the soldiers.

20 The Master's able daughter,
The Lady who led, devised,
Devised patterns to weave silk cloth for king Du-no-vang,
Devised patterns to weave silk material for king Du-no-vang.

When the time for midday meal approached,
25 The Master's able daughter,
The lady who led, with her shuttle spool rattling away,
The Master's able daughter
The Lady who led, pondered.

30 "Alas, that Master's able daughter,
The lady who led, has no brother-in-law!
Alas that Gha-sao's youngest daughter and the Elder Shi-byu had no son!
The Master's able daughter,
The lady who led, is no longer willing to weave,
She will take command of the soldiers for the Elder Shi-byu".

35 The Master's able daughter,
The lady who led, opened her mouth, opened her lips and requested,
Requested the black stallion with white feet,
For she would ride the black stallion to recruit soldiers.
So she went to the southern market and bought a bridle,

40 And she went to the northern market and bought a saddle.
 When the next day came,
 In the early morning at daybreak,
 The Master's able daughter,
 The Lady who led, sprang into the saddle,
 45 Sitting upon the black stallion's back.

From Gha-sao's youngest daughter and the Elder Shi-byu the tears fell fast,
 But the Master's able daughter,
 The Lady who led, was smiling,
 As she comforted the Elder Shi-byu and Gha-sao's youngest daughter.

50 The companies of soldiers she commanded were like,
 Like skeins of cranes in flight,
 But the time was passing and the sun sinking,
 The sun was sinking slowly down,
 Sinking with sloping rays, for it was growing late,

55 But, commanding the companies of soldiers, she reached,
 Reached the banks of the great river Ndu-na-yi-mo,
 And the Master's able daughter,
 The Lady who led, was not disheartened.

The Master's able daughter,
 60 The Lady who led, paid no heed,
 No heed to the voices of the Elder Shi-byu and Gha-sao's youngest daughter
 calling,
 She heeded only the muttered grumbling of the Miao people by the great river
 Ndu-na-yi-mo.

When other people commanded soldiers, they would return,
 But when the Master's able daughter,
 65 The lady who led, commanded soldiers, she could not return.

When the next day came,
 In the morning early, at daybreak,
 The Master's able daughter,
 The Lady who led, commanded
 70 Commanded the companies of soldiers as they reached,
 Reached the clear river of Black otters.

The Master's able daughter,
 The Lady who led, paid no heed,
 No heed to the voices of the Elder Shi-byu and Gha-sao's youngest daughter
 calling,
 75 She heeded only the disputing of the Yi robbers.

The Master's able daughter,
 The Lady who led, commanded,
 Commanded the companies of soldiers for a cycle of twelve years.

She established peace in the people's neighbourhood,

80 Then commanding the companies of soldiers she returned and reached,
Reached the borders of Du-no-vang's estates.

Du-no-vang brought out gold and shining silver,
For the Master's able daughter,
The lady who led, to take home,

85 But the Master's able daughter,
The Lady who led, did not want it,
Did not want Du-no-vang's silver.

The Master's able daughter,
The Lady who led, did not want it,
90 Did not want Du-no-vang's gold.

The Master's able daughter,
The Lady who led, wanted only,
Wanted only Du-no-vang's camel that travelled a thousand li,
To drive back and show,
95 Show the Elder Shi-byu and Gha-sao's youngest daughter there at home.

So Du-no-vang took,
Took the camel that travelled a thousand li, and gave it,
Gave it to the Master's able daughter,
The Lady who led, to return home.

100 The Master's able daughter,
The Lady who led, driving,
Driving the camel that travelled a thousand li, returned and reached,
Reached the Elder Shi-byu's borders.

The sisters of the Master's able daughter,
105 The lady who led, were all smiles,
The sisters of the Master's able daughter,
The Lady who led, clapped their hands.

"Today, the Master's able daughter.
The Lady who led, has come again!"

110 The sisters of the Master's able daughter,
The Lady, who led, drove,
Drove the spotted pig out of doors,
To be killed that the soldiers of the Master's able daughter,
The Lady who led, could be entertained
115 Then the companies of soldiers might return home.

The Master's able daughter,
The Lady who led, spoke,
Spoke words to all and each,
Spoke words for all to hear.

120 "When you take off your uniform, do not discard it,

When you take off your tunics, do not lay them aside.
When you go to the people, within the community act uprightly,
When you go to the people, within the community act wisely.

125 If a day for conscription and fighting should come,
The Master's able daughter,
The Lady who led, will return,
Will return word clearly to tell you, so it will be".

130 When the next day came,
The Master's able daughter,
The Lady who led, commanded,
Commanded the companies of soldiers to go outside,
And bade the companies of soldiers disperse.