

M302
Old Miao songs about marriage. 1.

The Woman Bang and the Man Bang-li-byu.

Collected by Wang Ming-ji.

From out of scattered sky material came the dome,
For the Woman Bang to come and live.
Woven from scattered earth material came the ranges,
For the Man Bang-li-byu to come and dwell.

- 5 This year we may know,
 Know that the Woman Bang has started marriage arrangements,
 Know that the Man Bang-li-byu has begun wedding preparations.
 Begun preparing for their son to go and be married,
 But they kept their daughter, the grown up young woman, at home.
- 10 This year we may know,
 Know that the woman Bang is about to build a house,
 Know that the man Bang-li-byu is about to build a home.
 So they sent their daughter, the grown up young woman, to go and fell timber,
 And they sent their daughter, the grown up young woman, to go and drag the
 timber in.
- 15 She dragged in pillars from below on the plain,
 She dragged in beams from above in the pass.
 The daughter, the grown up young woman, dragged in,
 Dragged in successfully the various timbers required,
 Except the three beams, the straight beams, from the mountain ridge.
- 20 When others get married they may return,
 But when their son got married he could not come.
 However, when their son did return and reach home,
 They sent their son to go and drag in the timber,
 And he dragged in successfully the three beams, the straight beams, from the
 mountain ridge.
- 25 Then they sent their daughter, the grown up young woman, to go and erect the
 timbers.
 She erected successfully the various timbers required,
 Except the three beams, the straight beams, from the mountain ridge, which she
 could not erect.
- 30 So their son, carrying his baby encircled in his arm,
 Stretching out his hand, went and erected,
 Erected successfully the three beams, the straight beams, from the mountain
 ridge.
- This year we may know,
 Know that this year the Woman Bang is arranging a marriage,

Know that this year the Man Bang-li-byu is arranging a wedding
They are arranging for their daughter, the grown up young woman, to go and be
married,
35 But they are keeping their son at home.

This year we may know,
Know that the Woman Bang has built a house,
Know that the Man Bang-li-byu has built a home.
In fact their son constructed,
40 Constructed the Woman Bang and the Man Bang-li-byu's house.

The interior of the house provided,
Provided their son with a place to hang his cross-bow,
While the exterior of the house provided,
Provided their daughter, the grown up young woman, with a place for growing
hemp.

45 Cold water is not the thing to offer to a guest,
Their daughter, the grown up young woman, is not the person to offer in
marriage!
Why have the Woman Bang and the Man Bang-li-byu taken,
Taken their daughter, the grown up young woman, and offered her in marriage?

50 Wild rice and wild millet are not the seed to plant in a garden,
Their daughter, the grown up young woman, is not the person to plant in a
home!
It is wasted effort to sow wild rice and wild millet on good soil,
It is wasted effort to send their daughter, the grown up young woman, on the
marriage road!