

Old Miao songs about marriage. 5.

Song of collecting livestock from the bridegroom's family.

Collected by Wang Ming-ji.

Who has arranged for the middleman?
The man, the father has arranged for the middleman.
Who has arranged a marriage?
The man, the father has arranged a marriage.

5 He has arranged for three bridesmaids at the marriage,
And he has arranged for three brothers at the marriage.

He has arranged for three bridesmaids at the marriage,
Each wearing her leg bands properly adjusted.
He has arranged for three brothers at the marriage,
10 Each wearing his silk gown, the brightest garment.

The brightest garments had woven braids,
The flowing garments had woven tassels,
Woven tassels all properly knotted,
Woven braids all useful and fitting,
15 To accompany the daughter the adult young woman.

When the next day came,
As we followed one another,
Crossing the plain, in our opinion, our appearance,
Our appearance was worthy
20 Worthy from the outset of the marriage,
But we collected a marriage cow only the size of a deer!

As we followed one another,
Crossing the plain, in our opinion, our appearance,
Our appearance was worthy,
25 Worthy from the outset of the marriage,
But we collected a marriage sheep only the size of a small rabbit!

When the next day came,
The headman would collect,
Collect the daughter, the adult young woman's worth,
30 But the headman could not collect it.

Then for the daughter,
The debt was collected by the younger brother.
He collected for the marriage a piglet only as big as a small rat!
He collected for the marriage a kid only as big as a small rabbit!