

**M308**  
**Old Miao songs about marriage. 7.**

*Transcribed by Yang Yung-xin.*

- The stars circle the sky,  
And cold water circles the earth,  
But cold water is not the thing to offer to a guest,  
And the daughter, the adult young woman is not,  
5 Is not the person to offer in marriage!
- Who, on the bride's side, initiated the marriage?  
The woman, the mother, and the man, the father, initiated the marriage.  
Who, on the bridegroom's side initiated the wedding?  
The woman, the aunt, initiated the wedding.
- 10 The woman, the mother, and the man, the father, have caught,  
Caught the fattened chicken in order to kill it,  
And they have called in the old folk to determine a time.
- They have determined a time and determined a season, but when?  
They have determined a time and determined a season in,  
15 In Dragon month or Rabbit month,  
And on the fifteenth day.
- The middleman having eaten,  
Eaten the chicken and drunk the broth,  
The visit for fetching the bride was agreed.
- 20 The proposed time has come,  
We hear it is today,  
Today the marriage party is coming from yonder,  
From yonder the marriage party will make its winding way,  
So people from all around will be watching.
- 25 The door of the woman, the mother, and the man, the father,  
The outer door, the door of planks, faced which way?  
It faced directly toward the sunrise,  
It faced directly toward the clump of variegated bamboo.
- 30 The woman, the mother, and the man, the father, have opened,  
Opened the door of planks for the arrival of the marriage party.  
The way was very smooth as though paved with silver,  
The way was very smooth as though the threshold were gold.
- 35 The woman, the mother, and the man, the father, first arranged,  
Arranged for two attendants to go out with lighted torches.  
The woman, the mother, and the man, the father, next arranged,  
Arranged for two youths bearing wine horns to go and pour wine.
- So the two attendant youths went and poured wine,

Pouring clear wine they mingled with the guests,  
Pouring clear wine they mixed with the guests.

40 The daughter, the adult young woman, saw it all,  
And the daughter, the adult young woman, trembled.

The marriage party came, and the marriage party drank,  
Drank well the clear wine from fine cups.  
The marriage party came, and the marriage party drank,  
45 Drank well the clear wine from new cups.

The man, the father, replenished,  
Replenished well the new baskets with white rice,  
Replenished well the basins with white pork.

50 So the marriage party came and the marriage party ate,  
Ate an evening meal of hot rice before departing,  
Ate an evening meal of white pork before departing.

The woman, the mother, grieved,  
Grieved for the woman, the mother's, daughter,  
The daughter, the adult young woman,  
55 As she arose and left the shelter of the door,  
As she departed from the shelter of the home.

The bridegroom's family also grieved,  
Grieved for the bridegroom's family, their fine long horned ox,  
Their long horned ox which had crossed over, but would not be driven back.

60 When the next day came,  
Very early in the morning,  
The woman, the mother, and the man, the father, drove out,  
Drove out the fine cattle and horses on to the plain,  
Drove out the fine cattle and horses to graze,  
65 Drove out the jostling sheep and goats to pasture.

Now those people arranged with their in-laws,  
And those folk came from their place,  
For those folk had remembered.

70 We might not take along a pig, if the journey is long,  
But, though the journey is long, we must remember to meet our in-laws.