

M310
Old Miao songs about marriage. 9.

Transcribed by Yang Yung-xin.

With winter past and warm weather coming,
People were at their farming early,

5 So, come Sheep-month and Horse-month,
The woman, the mother, and the man, the father, began
Raising all kinds of crops and filling the land,
Planting millet broadcast and filling the place.

Come Ox-month and Rat-month,
All the crops of broadcast millet ripened,
Ripened golden yellow, an excellent harvest.

10 The woman, the mother, and the man, the father, discussed and debated,
Discussed a marriage union,
Discussed a marriage bond.

15 Then the woman, the mother, and the man, the father, arranged,
Arranged for the middleman to go till he reached,
Reached the in-laws' family home.

The middleman opened his mouth, opened his lips, and asked,
Asked that the daughter, the adult young woman might come and be,
Be daughter-in-law for the woman, the mother, and the man, the father.

20 But the woman, her mother, and the man, her father grieved,
Grieved that their daughter
Should arise and leave the shelter of the door,
Should arise and quit the shelter of the home.

25 She was such an attractive person,
The woman, her mother, and the man, her father, would not give an answer.
But the middleman was undaunted,
He kept arguing vigorously until nearly midnight.

The woman, her mother, and the man, her father, whispered together then said,
"All right, let our daughter, the adult young woman reply".
Thus it was she who replied to the middleman's proposal.

30 So when the next day came,
Early, as soon as it grew light,
The woman, her mother, and the man, her father, returned,
Returned word for the middleman to convey to the in-laws,
Who thus received the woman, her mother, and the man, her father's response.

35 The woman, her mother, and the man, her father, fed,
Fed the fattened chicken in preparation for the marriage,

And fed the spotted pig in preparation for the wedding.
The woman, her mother, and the man, her father, called,
Called the neighbours to come,
40 To come and determine a time and determine a date,
And they settled on Dragon-month and Rabbit-month.

The woman, her mother, and the man, her father, arranged,
Arranged for cooks to prepare the meat and vegetable dishes,
And they called people to come and cook the rice.

45 They called the children to come and wait upon the guests,
And called the daughters, the adult young women, to come and carry water.
They called the old folk to come and eat meat,
The called the old folk to come and drink wine.
So they called their relatives to come and congratulate the bride.