

M311
Old Miao songs about marriage. 10.

Transcribed by Yang Yung-xin.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document F (no. 4, page 3).

Lines 12, 13 and 14. In the Miao text these line are written as a single long sentence without any punctuation.

Line 17. The word 𑏃, “that”, is missing in the Miao manuscript. It must be restored to maintain the parallelism with line 21.

Lines 19 and 23. The form of the two four-line stanzas comprised in lines 16 to 23 requires that lines 19 and 23 should be exactly parallel to one another. To achieve this, line 23 must be restored by adding the first three words, 𑏃ⁿ 𑏃^r 𑏃^v, which have been lost in Document F. However, the main textual problem with these lines is that both have also lost the main operative verb, and as they stand, neither makes good sense. Literally they read, “the parents were grieved that their daughter in the prime of her youth shelter of the home”. Fortunately the song is here using a conventional form of words which also occurs in several other marriage songs. By reference to these the missing verbs can be restored with confidence by adding 𑏃^l 𑏃^l, “rise leave” in line 19, and 𑏃^l CT^l, “rise go away” in line 23.