

M311
Old Miao songs about marriage. 10.

Transcribed by Yang Yung-xin.

- Who had a daughter early?
The woman, the mother, and the man, the father, had a daughter early,
And the woman, the mother, and the man, the father,
Their daughter, the adult young woman, grew,
5 Grew to maturity and was fully trained,
- She had grown to maturity and was spinning,
Spinning hemp, and the squeaking of the wheel
Carried as far as the in-law's land,
For there the in-laws heard it.
- 10 So the in-laws arranged,
Arranged for the middleman to come,
To come and ask the woman, the mother, and the man, the father,
That the daughter, the adult young woman, might go,
Go to the in-laws as their daughter-in-law,
15 But the woman, the mother, and the man, the father, were unwilling.
- The woman, the mother, and the man, the father, grieved,
Grieved that the daughter, the adult young woman,
Looking so well and being so capable,
Being so capable, should rise and leave the shelter of the home.
- 20 The woman, the mother, and the man, the father, grieved,
Grieved that the daughter the adult young woman,
Looking so well, and being so capable,
Being so capable, should rise and quit the shelter of the door.
- 25 So at first the woman, the mother, and the man, the father, decided,
Decided that the daughter, the adult young woman should hold fast,
Hold fast the ancestral spirits of the woman, the mother and the man, the father.
But the daughter, the adult young woman could not hold fast,
So they let the daughter the adult young woman go,
Go as the in-laws' daughter-in-law.
- 30 She went to the in-laws like a great bee, like a great wild bee!
She took charge of the in-laws' water and meal tubs setting them firm,
She took charge of the in-laws' farmlands with diligence,
And she set up the in-laws' homestead making it spacious within and without.