

M313
Old Miao songs about Marriage. 12.

Transcribed by Yang Yung-xin.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document F (no. 6, page 4).

Line 3. In Document F this line is joined to line 4 in a single long sentence. The same is true of lines 5 and 6.

Line 3. The name $\Lambda\epsilon \text{ } \overset{\circ}{\text{C}} \text{ } \overset{\circ}{\text{J}} \text{ } \overset{\circ}{\text{S}}$ has exactly the same form as the name $\Lambda\epsilon \text{ } \overset{\circ}{\text{C}} \text{ } \overset{\circ}{\text{J}} \text{ } \overset{\circ}{\text{F}}$. There is no doubt that the latter means, “the man, the father”, and in this, and a number of other songs, it has been so translated. The meaning of the former name is not so clear. $\Lambda\epsilon$ is “man”, and $\overset{\circ}{\text{C}}$ in this context is a conjunction, but nowhere does the context suggest the meaning of $\overset{\circ}{\text{J}} \text{ } \overset{\circ}{\text{S}}$, and the name does not occur in other songs. In fact $\overset{\circ}{\text{J}} \text{ } \overset{\circ}{\text{S}}$ is the name used for a temporary hut of poles and rough thatch erected in the fields as a shelter from which to guard the ripening harvest. The name may therefore refer to the quality or condition of the man’s house, and so might be translated, “the man, the hovel dweller”, but it is safer simply to transliterate it as “the man Jio-gha-su”.

Line 63. A note in the Miao text explains that $\overset{\circ}{\Delta} \text{ } \overset{\circ}{\text{C}} \overset{\circ}{\Delta}$ means “to hang one’s self”.