

M313
Old Miao songs about marriage. 12

Transcribed by Yang Yung-xin.

- Who was it desired clear wine to drink,
And who was it desired meat to eat?
The woman, the mother, and the man, the father, desired,
Desired the man Jio-gha-su's wine to drink,
5 And the woman, the mother, and the man, the father, desired,
Desired the man Jio-gha-su's meat to eat.
- So the woman, the mother, and the man, the father, took,
Took the daughter, the child, and betrothed her,
Betrothed her into the family of the man Jio-gha-su.
10 Thus the daughter, the child, arose and went,
Went yonder to carry fresh water for the man Jio-gha-su.
- But from first thing in the morning the man Jio-gha-su scolded,
Scolded the daughter, the child, for not carrying enough water to fill the tub.
Every day the man Jio-gha-su cursed,
15 Cursed the daughter, the child, till she wished to die.
- The man Jio-gha-su made,
Made the daughter, the child, go and pound millet.
But the man Jio-gha-su scolded,
Scolded the daughter, the child, declaring,
20 That the pounded millet was coarse.
- The daughter, the child, went out to pasture the cattle,
But when the friends of the daughter, the child, raised,
Raised their voices in song,
The daughter, the child, raised,
25 Raised her voice and wept.
- The daughter, the child, could not remain there,
And the daughter, the child, arose to go. So she rose up,
She arose to go, and returning, she came back and reached,
Reached the outskirts of the woman, the mother, and the man, the father's place.
- 30 The daughter, the child, looked around and about,
And she looked at the woman, the mother, and the man, the father's door.
Then the daughter, the child, opened,
Opened the woman, the mother, and the man, the father's door,
But, opening it she did not allow it to rattle.
- 35 When the woman, the mother, and the man, the father, rose,
Arose to go, they came and saw,
Saw the daughter, the child, standing there,
Standing at the woman, the mother, and the man, the father's door.

40 The woman, the mother, opened her mouth and asked,
“What is the reason for your coming?”
The daughter, the child, answered her,
“Of the man Jio-gha-su’s meat and meal,
And of the man Jio-gha-su’s water and wine, does much remain?”

45 Then the man, the father began to scold,
Scold the daughter, the child, to make her return.
The daughter, the child, said,
That the daughter, the child, could not stay there,
But the man, the father would not listen.

50 The man, the father scolded,
Scolded the daughter, the child, to make her return.
So the daughter, the child, went till she reached,
Went and reached the man Jio-gha-su’s place youder.

55 The man Jio-gha-su made,
Made the daughter go to carry water,
But the man Jio-gha-su scolded,
Scolded the daughter, the child, for not carrying enough to fill the tub.

60 The man Jio-gha-su made,
Made the daughter, the child, go and pound millet,
But the man Jio-gha-su complained,
Complained that the daughter, the child,
Her pounded millet was coarse.

Every day the man Jio-gha-su scolded,
Scolded the daughter, the child, till she wished to hang herself.

65 When the daughter, the child, went to carry water,
And the daughter, the child’s friends raised,
Raised their voices and sang,
The daughter, the child, raised,
Raised her voice and wept.

70 So the daughter, the child, took,
Took a girdle and looped it,
Looped it in the man Jio-gha-su’s loft.
So the daughter, the child, died.

75 The man Jio-gha-su took,
Took the daughter, the child, and buried her.
Then the man Jio-gha-su sent back,
Sent back word of the daughter, the child,
Yonder to the woman, the mother, and the man, the father.

80 Thus the daughter, the child,
Her relations and cousins, with their mothers and fathers all got to hear,
And the daughter, the child,

Her relations and cousins, with the woman, the mother, and the man, the father
all arrived together,
Arrived yonder at the man Jio-gha-su's place.

The man Jio-gha-su escorted,
Escorted the relations and cousins with the woman, the mother, and the man, the
father,
85 Escorted them till they reached,
Reached the daughter, the child's burial place.

The relations and cousins with the woman, the mother and the man, the father
Looked carefully around and about,
Examining the daughter, the child's grave.

90 At the foot of the grave of the daughter, the child, there stood,
Stood only a clump of reeds,
And at the head of the grave of the daughter, the child, there stood,
Stood only a clump of wormwood.

The woman, the mother, and the man, the father
95 Walked around the whole area,
And the relations and cousins with the woman, the mother and the man, the
father,
Within the area took possession,
Took possession of the man Jio-gha-su's partly trained ox.

So they returned and reached,
100 Reached the woman, the mother, and the man, the father's home.
Then the woman, the aunt, opened her mouth, opened her lips and said,

“When others go as brides, they may return,
When others go as brides they may come back,
But when the daughter, the child, went,
105 Went as a bride, she could not return,
Went as a bride, she could not come back”.

Thus it is ended.