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Old Miao songs about marriage. 13.

Song of the old folk who had no children.

*Transcribed by Yang Yung-xin.*

Good level land produced a good plain,  
And good level land produced good rice fields.

5 The curving earth banks stood on the level plain,  
But on the curving earth banks stood no planted tree,  
Likewise the man, the father, had no son.

The man, the father, was like,  
Like a wild cat clinging to a partition,  
A wild cat which could not eat grain.  
So was the man, the father, anxious about his food supply.

10 The mountain stood in open mountain country,  
But on the mountain stood no lacquer tree,  
Likewise the woman, the mother, had no daughter.

15 The woman, the mother, was like,  
Like a fox trapped in a garden,  
A fox which could not eat grass.  
So was the woman, the mother, anxious about her water supply.

The man, the father, was like an ailing magpie,  
And the woman, the mother, was like a cawing crow.