

M321
Miao love songs.

Collected by Wang Ming-ji.

Song of a youth and a maiden.

The youth sings.

The young man is on the high hill,
The young woman there below.
The young man with sighing and yearning called,
Called to the young woman below.

- 5 Then the young woman below called back,
Called to the young man on the high hill,
And the young man was overcome with restless longing.

The maiden sings in response to the youth.

- 10 Young man, oh young man!
When you see a flower do not pluck it,
When you see maiden do not deceive her!
Just let the flower drop in the place where it stood.

So I will go round and about and return to my home,
And you shall go round and about and return to your place.

Youth, oh youth!
Do not be like dropping yellow leaves fallen in my way,
Do not be like drooping flowers fallen in my path!

For I, the maiden, the young woman, am like the rising sun,
While you, the youth, the young man, are like the full moon.
O youth, so it is!

A woman's song.

- From what landlord's estates do you come,
And of what clan are you a son?
Come let us two, maid and youth, check our names.
If careful checking shows us unrelated,
5 Let us two, maid and youth, go on together.
But if we are related,
Let us two, maid and youth, not hesitate to go our separate ways.

Song of a woman and a man.

The woman sings.

If you are a bachelor
I am willing to go with you,
But I fear your mother and the man, your father, will not approve of the bride!
That your mother and the man, your father, will bring out
5 The most complicated costumes to test me.

The man sings.

My mother is good and my father is good,
They are not people like that.
I am willing to marry you,
But I fear your mother and the man, your father, will not approve of the
 bridegroom!
10 That your mother and the man, your father, will bring out
The untrained ox out of doors,
And the untrained ox will drag me across three hills and three valleys.

A cautionary song.

Do not be another's husband and go ragged,
Just be a bachelor for her to long for,
Then you may stay or go as you please.

Do not be another's wife and go hungry,
5 Just be a spinster for him to grieve over,
Then you may go or stay as you please.

Busy bees.

While flowers bloom, for certain the bees will be busy,
But when flowers fade, the bees will return.
While the girls stay, for certain the young men will come,
But when the girls have gone, the young men will disperse.