

M322
Song of maidens and a youth.

Collected by Wang Ming-ji.

A song of coaxing.

(A guest has come to the village, so the girls go and sing to the youth.)

The sun is shining brightly,
And in the sunshine we saw,
Saw a youth, strong and well-dressed, pass along the road.
Bending his head he entered,
5 Entered his aunt's house.

His cape with the black tie-cord, he took off and hung with care,
Hung it with care on his aunt's hand-loom.
Separating and gathering the skirt of his gown, he has taken his seat,
And his songs are like bundles of wheat, spread out and filling,
10 Filling his aunt's hearth.

Thus it is ended.

A song of responding.

(The youth, that is the guest, sings a song in response to the girls.)

Like the haws on the hawthorn, which take so long to ripen,
The hawthorn standing on the river bank,
Through the evening of this day,
15 You have taken so long at your family meal,
That the songs could not wait!

The whole flock has scattered, disappearing behind the hill.
Let the children go and gather them up,
Gather all the songs from the midst of the plain.

20 Thus it is finished.

A song of scolding.

(When the guest is unwilling to sing to them, the girls scold him in song.)

Even a mushroom has its roots,
And its fan has its point of growth.
Throughout the evening of this day,
We cousins, the early maids, have loosed,
25 Loosed the dogs, but they did not follow the porcupines,

For the group of porcupines have scattered, and crossed over the river.

Throughout the evening of this day,
We Miao girls, the early maids, have put on,
Put on our brightest countenances to cheer,
30 To cheer the strong young man, entertaining him as though cheering a lord.

We Miao girls, the early maids, have put on,
Put on our brightest countenances to cheer,
To cheer the strong young man, entertaining him as though cheering an
overlord.

Thus it is ended.