

The run-away girl and the run-away youth. 1.

(The woman running away from a man)

Sung by a man from Hmao-go-ndlao.

This year we may know,
Know that the eligible girl
Has tossed away her neighbours and relations.

5 The time when the dogs barked was the time she was waiting for,
The eligible girl went out quickly to look.
The unmarried youth Yang-nca, well dressed,
Very finely dressed, was coming along the valley below.

The eligible girl drew up the cape and clothing to cover,
To cover the bullying middleman upon the bed.

10 Then the eligible girl returned and took,
Took her skirts and aprons,
And, very early, ran away with the unmarried youth Yang-nca.

15 The eligible girl together with,
With the unmarried youth Yang-nca travelled,
Travelled three nights in the dark.

The eligible girl together with,
With the unmarried youth Yang-nca travelled,
Travelled three nights under the waning moon.

20 The unmarried youth Yang-nca together with
With the eligible girl travelled,
Travelled and reached a river,
The Ndu-na-yi-mo, but could not cross.

25 The unmarried youth Yang-nca cut down,
Cut down pine trees to aid their crossing,
And the unmarried youth Yang-nca together with,
With the eligible girl crossed right over.

The unmarried youth Yang-nca together with,
With the eligible girl went,
Went safely on, reciting together,

30 “The couple, the maid and the youth,
Came upon a strong stake and stood firm,
Stood good and firm trusting to the stake.
They came upon a strong stake and stood firm,
Stood good and firm trusting to the soft-wood tree”.