

M381
A song of spirit worship.
Offering a chicken and a pig to the ancestors.

Collected by Wang Ming-ji

The man Li-dao slept,
Slept in the midst of the man Li-dao's bed,
And the man Li-dao had an evil dream.

5 The man Li-dao went to consult the shaman-healer,
The man Li-dao went to consult the enchanter.
He consulted the shaman-healer, consulted the enchanter, who revealed,
Revealed that the man Li-dao must offer the great sacrifice,

The man Li-dao prepared rations to carry on his back,
He went out and about and reached the zu-mu.

10 The man Li-dao together with,
With the zu-mu went and fixed the time.
They fixed a time and fixed a date which fell
In Dragon or Rabbit month,
And upon an Ox-day or a Horse-day.

15 The zu-mu arrived early,
And the brothers forgathered.
The brothers came together with
With the man Li-dao to make,
To make the man Li-dao's great sacrifice.

20 The zu-mu used,
Used a shining knife so as to slice,
To slice open a section of bamboo
And make divining sticks, in order to enquire,
To enquire if the forebears had come.

25 The forebears had arrived on a spider's web,
For the divining sticks fell spread apart.

30 So call the forebears and offer a chicken,
Call the ancestors and offer a pig.
The forebears will carry their chicken in their hands,
The ancestors will carry their pig on their backs.

35 The women prepared food for the forebears' journey,
While the men were making,
Making sandals for the ancestors,
So the forebears wore hemp sandals,
And the ancestors wore sandals made of hemp.

The forebears and ancestors climbed together,

Climbed the mountain of caterpillars in the abode of the spirits.
Wearing their hemp sandals, sandals made of hemp, they trod down,
Trod down the crawling caterpillars, as big as small sheep,
40 Trod down the caterpillars on the farther side.

Where was the forebears' dwelling place?
It was in the red earth of the land of the abode of spirits.
Where was the ancestors' place of sleeping?
It was in the coloured earth of the land of the abode of spirits.