

M384

**A song of spirit worship.
The Hmao-dang clan's song of offering an ox to the ancestors.**

Collected by Wang Ming-ji.

The seven communities of the Gi-dang clan,
The seven communities of the Gi-dang spirit,
Their forebears were sleeping mound by mound in their coffins.
But the great black ants all gathered together,
5 And the great black ants came gnawing,
Gnawing at the ancestors' bones, tormenting them,
Until the ancestors could not endure it,
And the ancestors rose up demanding an ox.

The seven companies of the Gi-dang clan,
10 The seven companies of the Gi-dang spirit,
Seven companies led seven sheep,
Led them, and with the man Li-dang,
They offered the great sacrifice.
So the man Li-dang killed,
15 Killed an ox for the ancestors.

When the morrow came,
The man Li-dang's daughter-in-law washed,
Washed the ancestors' feet and made them white,
And caused the ancestors to return to their home.

The names of the seven Gi-dang sub-clans are set out below.

Gi-dang tiger.
Gi-dang dragon.
Gi-dang Chinese.
Gi-dang who climb from the valley floor.
Gi-dang who climb up the land.
Gi-dang who plant bamboo.
Gi-dang wormwood.