

Song of Hmao-chi borrowing a drum for spirit worship.

Collected by Wang Ming-ji.

- This year we may know,
 Know that this year the man Chi, the man Gi-no, is worshipping the spirits.
 But the man Chi, the man Gi-no, had no drum.
 So the man Chi, the man Gi-no, went to borrow a drum,
 5 To borrow from the Hmao-gha-nzhi brothers.
- The man Chi, the man Gi-no, travelled till he reached,
 Reached a wrong stage on a wrong road.
 But he went on and on till he met,
 Met with a Hmao-gha-nzhi swineherd.
- 10 The man Chi, the man Gi-no, opened his mouth and asked,
 “Where is the mother-drum hanging?”
 “The mother-drum is hanging on the side of the sun’s rising”,
 “Where is the father-drum hanging?”
 “The father drum is hanging on the side of the sun’s setting”.
- 15 The Hmao-gha-nzhi brothers took,
 Took the mother-drum and lent it,
 Lent it to the man Chi, the man Gi-no, to carry away for worshipping the spirits.
- Carrying it, he returned and reached,
 Reached some Chinese on the road.
 20 As the Chinese examined it,
 The sound of the mother-drum carried back
- Then the Hmao-gha-nzhi mustered,
 Mustered their soldiers and went in hot pursuit.
 They seized the mother-drum and carried it back,
 25 While the man Chi, the man Gi-no, returned home.
- This year we may know,
 Know that the man Chi, the man Gi-no, has crossed over and will build a house.
 And the Man Chi, the man Gi-no went felling trees.
- 30 One which he felled completely,
 Was a sacred tree, an ancient tree,
 And when one struck the sacred tree it sounded,
 Sounded just like a drum.
- So the man Chi, the man Gi-no, felled a sacred tree, an ancient tree,
 Felled a sacred tree and made a drum,
 35 With which, the man Chi, the man Gi-no, could worship the spirits.
 After this what happened?
 After this the descendants of the man Chi, the man Gi-no, multiplied greatly.