

M390
The song of Du-bw the weak one.

Collected by Wang Ming-ji.

Who was it saw a crossbow tree, a mulberry tree,
Standing on the undulating ridges of Ngga-yi-gi-zai?
Who went and saw it?
Du-chi and Du-ndlw, two brothers-in-law, went and saw it.

5 Du-chi and Du-ndlw, two brothers-in-law, whetted,
Whetted the knives, which they carried to fell,
Fell a tree trunk for fashioning crossbows.

Du-bw the weak one carried.
Carried a knife, not extremely sharp,
10 And cut a branch from an immature tree.

Du-chi and Du-ndlw, two brothers-in-law, made,
Made bows and stocks, crossbows finished with lacquer.
Du-bw the weak one made,
Made a bow and stock, a crossbow fixed with wedges.

15 Du-chi and Du-ndlw, two brothers-in-law, found the trail of the animals,
Du-chi and Du-ndlw, two brothers-in-law, followed after the game,
And the old folk waited in the tracks of the game.
But Du-bw the weak one just waited in the road.

Du-bw the weak one built a hide in the road,
20 And at the time when breakfast is eaten,
The wild boar came warily by.

Du-bw the weak one shot,
Shot the wild boar beside the road.
He took off his grass cape and covered,
25 Covered the wild boar at the edge of the forest.

Du-chi and Du-ndlw, two brothers-in-law, together with,
Together with the old folk arrived.
Du-chi and Du-ndlw, two brothers-in-law, enquired,
“Have you seen the wild boar come out here?”

30 Du-bw the weak one spoke the truth,
“The wild boar has passed by,
And Du-bw the weak one has taken off his grass cape and covered,
Covered the wild boar beside the road”.

Du-bw the weak one got Du-chi and Du-ndlw to take the wild boar and carry,
35 Carry it, and go to drink wine,
To drink at Gha-sang-ya the Elder’s place.

Gha-sang the Elder poured,
Poured out the clear wine for,
For Du-chi and Du-ndlw, two brothers-in-law, to drink.

40 But Du-chi and Du-ndlw, two brothers-in-law, had not shot it,
So the two brothers-in-law could not drink.
Gha-sang the Elder asked Du-chi and Du-ndlw, “Who then did shoot it?”
“Du-bw the weak one shot it”.

Gha-sang the Elder would not believe it.
45 So Gha-sang the Elder took,
Took a ragged skirt for Du-bw the weak one to shoot.
Du-bw the weak one shot and hit it.

But still Gha-sang the Elder would not believe it.
Then Gha-sang the elder paid out,
50 Paid out shining silver to buy,
To buy a water buffalo from the Ruling Race.

Du-bw the weak one shot,
Shot the water buffalo away yonder,
The cow fell on the spot,
55 And the calf fell gently on the river bank.

Gha-sang the Elder poured out clear wine for,
For Du-bw the weak one to drink,
But Du-bw the weak one was unwilling to drink.
So Gha-sang the Elder asked what Du-bw the weak one wanted.

60 Du-bw the weak one wanted a family of his own.
Gha-sang the Elder let Du-bw the weak one pick,
Pick sour fruit to eat, climbing up beside the road.
“I will give you whoever requests some to eat”.

Now Gha-sang the Elder’s daughter, the Yi girl, came asking for some to eat.
65 So, in this way Du-bw the weak one gained,
Gained Gha-sang the Elder’s daughter, the Yi girl, in marriage.

But should a day come when Gha-sang the Elder’s daughter, the Yi girl, was
taken seriously ill,
And if Gha-sang the Elder’s daughter, the Yi girl, should die,
Du-bw the weak one would not know the rituals.
70 So Du-bw the weak one returned and asked,
Asked Gha-sang-ya the Elder.

Accordingly Gha-sang the Elder gave,
Gave a horse, the colour of frost, the colour of wood-ash,
For Du-bw the weak one to ride and perform,
75 Perform ancestor worship for the descendants of Gi-chi,
Perform spirit worship for the families of Gi-chi.

Thus it is ended.