

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.