

M495

**Song of the crab-apple tree of Njiao-tai.**

*Collected by Wang Ming-ji.*

The girl took her mother's staff and struck the water,  
The water boiled till it foamed, boiled foaming,  
And the foam boiled away in twisting lines.

5 Where do they say that the crab-apple tree of Little deer family grew?  
It grew below the road beside the bridge,  
With its branches hanging down into the water.  
Where do they say that the wild pepper of Little deer family grew?  
The wild pepper of Little deer family grew among the hills.

10 Now the people said,  
Said that the people had not seen them,  
But Gi-yw, the blind girl, said,  
Said that Gi-yw, the blind girl, has been and has seen them.

15 "The crab-apple of Little deer family puts out,  
Puts out blossom as big as a basket.  
And its fruit as big as a small bowl,  
But when I, Gi-yw, the blind girl, picked,  
Picked one and put it to my lips,  
It soured Gi-yw, the blind girl's mouth till night!

20 The wild pepper of Little deer family puts out,  
Puts out flowers as big as a basin,  
And fruit as big as cupped hands,  
But when I, Gi-yw, the blind girl, picked,  
Picked one and put it in my mouth,  
It made Gi-yw, the blind girl's mouth burn all day!"

25 Where do they say the doors of Little deer family's herb garden stood?  
The doors of Little deer family's herb garden stood on the plain.  
The people said,  
Said that the people had not seen them,  
But Gi-yw, the blind girl, said,  
30 Said that Gi-yw, the blind girl, had been and had seen them,

"The doors of Little deer family's herb garden are bound with copper,  
And when Little deer family open,  
Open the doors of Little deer family's herb garden wide,  
It resounds to the cross-roads in Ngga-sha country.

35 When Gi-yw, the blind girl, opened,  
Opened the doors of Little deer family's herb garden wide,  
It resounded to the crossroads on the Ngga-sha plain.  
So Gi-yw, the blind girl, grieves,  
Grieves for the doors of Little deer family's herb garden, bound with copper".

40 Where do they say the pine-clad range of Little deer family stood?  
It stood up there in the mountains,  
Up there, where people might expect a wild creature.  
Where was it that the pine clad-range of Little deer family stood?  
It stood up there among the ridges,  
45 Up there, where people might expect a fierce creature.

Yet Gi-yw, the blind girl said,  
Said that Gi-yw, the blind girl had been and had seen them.

Where do they say that the patches of azalea grow?  
The patches of azaleas grow in the mountains.  
50 With the coming of Sheep month and Monkey month,  
The patches of azaleas in the mountains come out into flower,  
Come out in clusters every where.

Where do the patches of bracken grow?  
The patches of bracken grow up in the pass,  
55 And in Cockerel month and Monkey month,  
The patches of bracken grow up beautifully green,  
The patches of bracken grow green in the pass.

Now the people said,  
Said that the people had not seen them,  
60 But Gi-yw, the blind girl said,  
Said that Gi-yw, the blind girl, had been and had seen them.

Thus it is ended.