

**M500**  
**Song of the Master Hmao-sao's daughter Nggubang-nzeu.**

*Recorded by Wang Jian-guo.*

All the people declare,  
"Among the fine young men,  
Alone outstanding is Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu".

5 All the people declare,  
"Among the fine young women,  
Alone outstanding is the Master Hmao-sao's daughter Nggubang-nzeu",  
But Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu had never heard.

10 Though praised by all the people,  
"Among the fine young women,  
Alone outstanding is the Master Hmao-sao's daughter Nggubang-nzeu",  
Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu had not seen her.

Now Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu played,  
Played upon pipes with nine finger holes,  
Played upon long pipes with nine sections.

15 So Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu played,  
Played his musical pipes resounding through the valleys.

20 He played his musical pipes till they resounded.  
Resounded over ninety nine mountains,  
Resounded over ninety nine ranges,  
Resounded over ninety nine plains,  
Resounded over ninety nine flat lands.

25 Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu's pipes were lacquered and polished,  
Inside the pipes had been rubbed down and smoothed well,  
So well that posterity took and used them to copy.  
Inside the pipes had been rubbed down, well rubbed,  
So well that posterity took and used them as the norm.

30 At the time when morning meal was eaten,  
The Master Hmao-sao's daughter Nggubang-nzeu was weaving,  
Busily weaving, sitting at home,  
When she heard Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu,  
Heard the smooth cadence of his pipes.

35 Then the Master Hmao-sao's daughter Nggubang-nzeu arose,  
Arose at once and laid aside her weaving,  
Arose at once and put on her leg bands,  
Arose at once and put her sandals on.

She wrapped her rounded felt cape about her shoulders,  
Having wound her hair in attractive plaits around her head,

And fixed them in place with lacquered combs.  
 Then she led the cattle back and forth through the gap in the hills,  
 40 Driving the cattle back and forth over the ridges,  
 So she pastured the cattle back and forth on the mountain.

At the time of eating the midday meal,  
 Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu was playing,  
 Playing his musical pipes when he came,  
 45 Came face to face with the Master's daughter Nggubang-nzeu.

The Master's daughter Nggubang-nzeu spoke,  
 "Are you Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu of whom they speak?"  
 Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu replied,  
 "They speak of Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu, but it is not I.  
 50 I am the lazy one, the stupid one, the one who slacks on the plain!"

Then Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu stretched out,  
 Stretched out his hand and took hold of the young woman.  
 "Let us openly go on together,  
 I am the stupid one the one that slacks under the sky!"  
 55 But the Master's daughter Nggubang-nzeu simply did not believe him.

Then Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu spoke,  
 "Are you the Master Hmao-sao's daughter Nggubang-nzeu they speak about?"  
 The Master's daughter Nggubang-nzeu, choosing her words, replied,  
 "I am not the Master's daughter Nggubang-nzeu.  
 60 I am just the girl sent everywhere, the girl pasturing the cattle.  
 I follow about, I trail after the Master Hmao-sao's daughter Nggubang-nzeu.  
 I am the girl who follows, the girl who trails, the girl companion,  
 I am the girl who follows, the girl who trails, the girl in charge of clothing".  
 But Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu simply did not believe her.

65 Again Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu spoke,  
 "I am the stupid one, the one that slacks on the plain, the wanderer on the road".  
 But still the Master's daughter Nggubang-nzeu simply did not believe him.

In the evening with night approaching,  
 Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu could not leave,  
 70 But went with "the girl sent everywhere",  
 Went to "the girl sent everywhere's" home.  
 And Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu smiled,  
 Smiled a broad smile of pleasure.

In the evening with night approaching,  
 75 The Master's daughter Nggubang-nzeu drove,  
 Drove the cattle up and down, going on ahead,  
 While Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu, playing,  
 Playing his musical pipes, followed after,  
 The musical pipes tucked under his arm.

80 The woman, her mother, all smiles, stretched out,

Stretched out her crippled hand and took,  
Took Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu's hand and caressed it.  
The woman, her mother stretched her crippled hand and stroked,  
Stroked Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu's head affectionately.

85 Then the woman, her aunt, took from Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu  
His musical pipes and hung them up,  
Hung them upon a hook in the partition wall.

In the evening, with night approaching,  
All the family members arrived home.

90 Then the woman, her mother spoke,

“The Master's daughter Nggubang-nzeu went to pasture cattle,  
The Master's daughter Nggubang-nzeu found a fine husband!”  
The man, her father, was extremely pleased,  
And all the family members were full of praise.

95 In the evening, with night approaching,  
Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu,  
All his relatives took,  
Took their musical pipes, passed them around, and played,  
Affording the woman, her mother, a source of pleasure,  
100 And affording the man, her father, a source of laughter.

This year we may know,  
Know this year the Overlord is sacrificing to the spirits.

The Overlord's invitation,  
His invitation for a piper, has been extended,  
105 Extended to Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu alone.  
So Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu has become,  
Has become piper for the Overlord.

Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu was gone,  
Was gone for a twelve day period, or for thirteen days  
110 Before he returned, came back and reached home.  
Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu stayed,  
Stayed for a twelve day period, or for thirteen days  
Before he returned, came back and arrived home.

This year we may know,  
115 Know that this year the Overlord is going on a visit.

The Overlord's invitation,  
His invitation for a piper, has been extended,  
Extended to Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu alone.  
So Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu served as piper.

120 He served at the Overlord's spirit worship,  
And served when the Overlord went on a visit,  
But now Do-hmao-byu, Yao-hmao-dlu was gone for a long time.

The Master's daughter Nggubangnzeu was going to fetch water,  
 When she met with the Hmong controller by the river.  
 125 The Hmong controller took,  
 Took the Master's daughter Nggubangnzeu and carried her off.

Dohmaobyu, Yaohmaodlu having served,  
 Having served as the Overlord's piper,  
 Now returned, came back and reached,  
 130 Reached the homestead of the woman, her mother, and the man, her father.

But the family members did no good,  
 The family members took and beat,  
 Beat Dohmaobyu, Yaohmaodlu, driving him away.  
 So Dohmaobyu, Yaohmaodlu had to go and work,  
 135 Work as a cattle herdsman for the Ruling Race.

Pasturing the cattle back and forth on the mountain side,  
 Dohmaobyu, Yaohmaodlu chanced to meet.  
 To meet the Master's daughter Nggubangnzeu, out cutting green fodder.

Dohmaobyu, Yaohmaodlu spoke,  
 140 "Where has the Master's daughter Nggubangnzeu gone?"  
 The Master's daughter Nggubangnzeu replied,  
 "The Hmong controller abducted,  
 Abducted the Master's daughter Nggubangnzeu to become,  
 To become the Hmong controller's wife".

145 Then Dohmaobyu, Yaohmaodlu returned.  
 Returned, went back and reached,  
 Reached the Ruling Race's home,  
 And Dohmaobyu, Yaohmaodlu led out,  
 Led out the Ruling Race to go and to attack,  
 150 Attack and kill the Hmong controller.

Dohmaobyu, Yaohmaodlu then took,  
 Took the Master's daughter Nggubangnzeu and confronted,  
 Confronted the woman, her mother, and the man, her father.

The woman, her mother could make no reply,  
 155 And the man, her father had nothing to say,  
 While the members of the family could offer no excuse.

So Dohmaobyu, Yaohmaodlu took,  
 Took the Master's daughter Nggubangnzeu back to live together.  
 Dohmaobyu, Yaohmaodlu took,  
 160 Took the Master's daughter Nggubangnzeu and settled down as a family.

Thus it is ended.