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The Master Ndlie-za and the Master Ndlie-bang

Sung by Tao Zi-gai.

When the sky began,
The Master Ndlie-za came at first,
When the earth began,
The Master Ndlie-bang came later.

5 The Master Ndlie-za, his ability, his skill, his sagacity,
His strength, his cleverness, his wisdom, was more than sufficient for the world
to receive,
More than sufficient for the people's needs.
Of his strength, the community of people, even the foolish ones, all received.

10 While the Master Ndlie-za lived, people spoke without anxiety.
He taught them how to fill their time
So that all might be used and none wasted.
But by reason of the Master Ndlie-za's early passing,
The people all lamented.

15 While the sky remained constant,
Later the Master Ndlie-bang died,
Though the people were unaware.

The people lived,
Lived and multiplied all over the earth,
But everywhere, among the people, there were the foolish and the lazy,
20 People able to eat but unable to act,
So that everywhere people were trapped by hunger and by thirst.

Everywhere calamities occurred,
And though the people fled they did not escape.
As sickness among the people increased,
25 There was only the Master Ndlie-bang,
Who had taught the people to perform the shaman-healer's arts.

The shaman-healer, exercising his art, declared,
Declared the location of the Master Ndlie-bang's strong place,
Declared the location of the Master Ndlie-bang's standing place.

30 The shaman-healer, exercising his art, declared,
Declared, "Where is the Master Ndlie-bang?
The Master Ndlie-bang is in a cave";
Declared, "Where is the Master Ndlie-za?
The Master Ndlie-za is in a cavern".

35 The shaman-healer, exercising his art, made spirit traps long and short,
To draw out the Master Ndlie-za, his knowledge and uprightiness to the foot of
the rock,

To draw out the Master Ndlie-bang, his strength and firmness to the foot of the tree.

That the people might slaughter chicken and slaughter pigs and sacrifice,
 Sacrifice to the Master Ndlie-za at the foot of the rock,
 40 That the people might slaughter chicken and slaughter pigs and sacrifice,
 Sacrifice to the Master Ndlie-bang at the foot of the tree.

When ill fortune befell the people,
 The people went to perform the shaman-healer's arts,
 They performed the shaman-healer's rituals, they performed the shaman-healer's
 arts and received word
 45 Which caused the people to prepare,
 To prepare sacrifices to Yeu-su-mu,
 To sacrifice at the people's homesteads.

So the people reared cattle and reared pigs,
 And when the next year came, "the thirteenth year",
 50 They killed the cattle and killed the pigs and gave,
 Gave Yeu-su-mu food,
 Gave Yeu-su-mu water,
 Gave Yeu-su-mu wine.

Thus they ensured that Yeu-su-mu would watch over the people,
 55 Would give to the children length of life,
 Would watch over them, causing their descendants to fill the world,
 Causing their descendants to fill the earth.

The people exercising the shaman-healer's art called,
 Called the Master Ndlie-za to what place?
 60 They called the Master Ndlie-za to the hill top.

Performing thus, the shaman-healer exercised his art and declared,
 Declared that the Master Ndlie-za was in what place?
 He declared that the Master Ndlie-za was in a cavern.

So the people went and decided upon a way.
 65 The people broke off a curving stick and brought out,
 Brought out the Master Ndlie-za to the rock face,
 Brought out the Master Ndlie-za to the stone pillar.

On reaching Snake month or Horse month,
 The shaman-healer, exercising his art, caused the people to sacrifice to the
 Venerable,
 70 Caused the people to sacrifice to the Old.
 So the Master Ndlie-za and the Master Ndlie-bang would provide,
 Provide for the people, the children, protection,
 Making the Ruling Race's "mouths and tongues" turn back,
 Turn back at the foot of the Master Ndlie-za's tree,
 75 While the Master Ndlie-bang would divert,
 Divert the Ruling Race away to one side,
 And not let calamity overtake the children.

Thus it is ended.