

M105
The work of setting sky and earth in order.

Sung by Yang Zhi.

From out of scattered sky material came the dome,
For the Miao maid, the bride, to come and live.
Woven from scattered earth material came the ranges,
For the Miao maid, the bride, to come and dwell.

5 The Miao maid, the bride, was chaste,
 The Miao maid, the bride, was pure.
 The Miao maid, the bride, had given birth to no son,
 The Miao maid, the bride, had given birth to no seed.

10 When the Miao maid, the bride, gave birth, she bore two children only.
 The elder having no name,
 Let the elder be called, Heaven's Nzha-di-ao.
 The younger having no name,
 Let the younger be called, Earth's Ngggu-nzai-shao.

15 Earth's Ngggu-nzai-shao wore a gathered apron,
 A gathered apron with a pattern of spots.
 Heaven's Nzha-di-ao simply wore a striped gown,
 A striped gown with a dyed pattern right round it.

20 Earth's Ngggu-nzai-shao, Heaven's Nzha-di-ao,
 Their hands were able, their hands were skilful.
 What were their hands able, what were their hands skilful to do?
 Their hands were able, their hands were skilful to write,
 To write a volume recorded in patterns like spots.
 They wrote the front of the book in patterns like spots,
 They wrote the back of the book recorded in patterns like squares.

25 Earth's Ngggu-nzai-shao, Heaven's Nzha-di-ao,
 Their hands were able, their hands rolled the book,
 Rolled the volume recorded in patterns like spots,
 Waiting to be carried onward through earth and sky,
 Waiting for Earth's Ngggu-nzai-shao to arise and accompany,
30 Accompany Heaven's Nzha-di-ao. So they went,
 Went setting sky and earth in order, and they reached,
 Reached the wide shores of the Nine Lakes of Gi-nzyu.

35 Where, do they say, that the Nine Lakes of Gi-nzyu were located?
 They say that the Nine Lakes of Gi-nzyu were located in nine places.
 The Nine Lakes of Gi-nzyu were deep and clear as the sunrise,
 The Nine Lakes of Gi-nzyu were deep and clear as the sunset.
 There was the place where the crane reared its young,
 There was the place where the crane brooded its eggs.

Earth's Ngggu-nzai-shao arose and accompanied,

- 40 Accompanied Heaven's Nzha-di-ao and they went, setting the sky in order.
Setting Sky and Earth in order, so they reached,
Reached the dwelling of Sun-maid and Moon-youth.
- Earth's Nggü-nzai-shao and Heaven's Nzha-di-ao
Urgently sent back word,
- 45 Back to the town of Hmao-shi, "Come and build a town!"
So they built for Earth's Nggü-nzai-shao a town of solid rock,
They built for Heaven's Nzha-di-ao a Miao town of cut rock,
Built it deliberately at the dwelling of Sun-maid and Moon-youth.
- The sun came and the sun shone,
50 The sun came burning,
Burning the town of Earth's Nggü-nzai-shao till it grew fiery red,
Burning the town of Heaven's Nzha-di-ao till it glowed red hot.
- Earth's Nggü-nzai-shao and Heaven's Nzha-di-ao
Urgently sent back word
- 55 To the town of Hmao-shi, their native land, bidding them come to divide the
country,
Separating Sun-maid and Moon-youth and setting them on separate roads.
- On reaching Snake-month or Horse-month,
Sun-maid and Moon-youth separate their roads.
Sun-maid travels the far road,
60 While Moon-youth travels the near road.
- On reaching Ox-month or Rat-month,
Sun-maid and Moon-youth separate their roads.
Moon-youth travels the far road,
While Sun-maid travels the near road.
- 65 So Sun-maid travels in circles, measuring out the sky,
And Moon-youth travels in circles, measuring out the plains.
- Earth's Nggü-nzai-shao and Heaven's Nzha-di-ao,
Setting sky and earth in order, travelled all around,
Setting sky and earth in order, they went everywhere.
- 70 Earth's Nggü-nzai-shao and Heaven's Nzha-di-ao,
Promoting the well-being of the homeland, setting sky and earth in order,
travelled all around,
Encompassing the boundaries of Ndlo-hlang-dleu-di,
The four-square country of Ndlo-hlang-dleu-di.
- There was the great shining river with interweaving streams flowing in its
current,
- 75 There was the great Hmao-shi river with parallel streams flowing in its current,
Spreading as it flowed smoothly away into the distance,
- Flowing away to the pools along the shores of the Nine Lakes of Gi-nzyu,
Flowing through the rapids of the Di-njio mountains.

80 All the people have heard of it with their ears,
But their eyes have never seen it.

Earth's Nggü-nzai-shao and Heaven's Nzha-di-ao
Counted the days and counted the times and their results agreed.
To the spring of each year they added the fall,
And to three full years an intercalary month.

85 Earth's Nggü-nzai-shao and Heaven's Nzha-di-ao
Counted the days and counted the times and their results tallied.

On reaching Snake-month or Horse-month,
All kinds of birds of the bright skies follow their mating customs,

90 On reaching Sheep-month or Monkey-month,
Cuckoos call to one another,
And swallows fill the earth.

On reaching Cockerel-month or Dog-month,
All kinds of birds of the bright skies are living in families,
All kinds of birds of the bright skies are rearing their growing young.

95 On reaching Pig-month or Rat-month,
All kinds of birds of the bright skies leave their mating customs,
All kinds separate from their partners.

On reaching Ox-month or Tiger-month,
The frost arrives and the frost cuts the plants,
100 Cuts down the wild plants and lays them flat.

On reaching Dragon-month or Rabbit-month,
The people have a covering of snow, freezing and glistening.

Earth's Nggü-nzai-shao and Heaven's Nzha-di-ao,
Setting sky and earth in order, promoting the well being of the homeland,
returned and reached,
105 Reached the town of Hmao-shi, their native land.

Where do they say that the town of Hmao-shi was sited?
It was sited on a fine plain of small rice fields, a plain of sumach trees, with
roads of stone paving,
So that ahead the road shone bright into the face,
And also shone bright upon the feet.

110 The town of Hmao-shi was a fine town.
Within, it shone bright as satin braid,
While without, it shone bright as silk braid.

Earth's Nggü-nzai-shao and Heaven's Nzha-di-ao
Established securely the people's homeland,
115 And governed the people's homeland in peace.

Earth's Nggü-nzai-shao and Heaven's Nzha-di-ao

Were the people's great prophets.

They promoted the well-being of the homeland, set sky and earth in order, and counted days and counted times for posterity.

120 Earth's Nggü-nzai-shao and Heaven's Nzha-di-ao

Counted all the seasons of earth and sky.

They counted all things for the people, the common folk, the ordinary folk, to copy.

Thus it is ended.