

M134
The song of the Flood.

Sung by a grandmother from Hmao-zu-mu.

This year we may know,
May know that Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya have gone to dig their land,
For Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya were digging their land every day.

5 The Old-one did no good,
The Old-one, carrying his slender staff, came,
Came and turned back Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya's sods, closing the ground.

Ndrao-yiu was impatient.
"Hold the Old-one, let us beat him!"
But Ndrao-ya was simply good-hearted.
10 "Hold the Old-one for me to question!"

When Ndrao-ya went and questioned the Old-one,
The Old-one said,
"Do not waste your strength, Ndrao-yiu and Ndrao-ya, digging the land,
For this year the water will rise to a flood".

15 Out of simple pity, Ndrao-ya brought his small sister,
And Ndrao-ya took a white, chicken's egg,
For Ndrao-ya to carry,
To carry as a measure of time.

20 Ndrao-ya "brooded" it into nearly the third zhu¹,
But on Ox-day or Tiger-day,
The baby chick hatched.

Then Ndrao-ya opened,
Opened the peep-hole in Ndrao-ya's "drum",
The water had risen to a flood.
25 The water had risen, the water had taken,
Had taken the people away completely.

It was bright sunshine.
Ndrao-ya went out and lay down in the sun.
A gha-njiw bird came stalking on the top of a rock,
30 And Ndrao-ya picked up a wrought iron bar to hit it.
The wrought iron came down sharply, but hit the rock,
Striking from it sparks which caught on some tinder-moss.
So Ndrao-ya got fire, to kindle and warm himself,
And made smoke which rose into the sky.

35 The sky people above then said,
"The water has risen to a flood,

¹ A zhu is a period of twelve days.

The water has risen, and the water has drowned,
Has drowned earth's people and they are all dead.
What now? Who of earth's people is lighting a fire?"

40 So the sky-people caused,
Caused the Old-one to come and look.
It was Ndrao-ya who had kindled a fire to warm himself.
Then Ndrao-ya asked the Old-one.

45 "This time the water has risen to a flood,
And has taken the people away completely,
So that Ndrao-ya alone is left.
what is the right thing for Ndrao ya to do?"

50 The Old-one caused Ndrao-ya to carry a stone from the river,
To carry it and climb through ninety-nine valleys.
When Ndrao-ya dropped the stone from the river,
It fell from the mountain top, fell on its way, a single stone,
But leaving the mountain range, it emerged a pair,
So the Old-one caused Ndrao-ya and his small sister to form a family and live.