

M155
Nzyu-fao-lao, catching robbers.

Sung by Zhang Xin-mi.

Notes

This song is found in Document N (no. 42/4, Page 580).

Title. Here, and throughout this song, the word "faot" in the name Nzyus faot laos is written "faod".

Note . There are many errors in the printing and in the tone markings in this song. The more obvious ones have been corrected in the process of transcribing and translating. The major ones only have been listed below.

Line 5. The last two words of this line in the printed text are difficult to decipher. They read "drb gkzes". Possibly "drb" is a misreading of "dub", meaning "the person who", in which case the second word must be a description of one of Nzyu-fao-lao's activities as in line 3. "gkzes" looks like two words which have been run together, for "k" and "s" could both be tone markers. At a number of points throughout this song the vowel "e" occurs when it should be "w", and in particular, the word "zws", "robbers", sometimes appears as "zes". There is another word which means "to harm", "to injure" or "to destroy" which is pronounced [ɛ̃] in some areas but becomes [ɔ̃] in others. The latter would be written "gik" in the Latinised script. Thus it is possible that "drb gkzes" is a corruption of "dub gik zws", which would mean, "the destroyer of robbers".

Lines 16 and 17. These are printed as a single line.

Line 22. Twice in this line the wrong classifier "lwb" is printed. It should be "lub".

Line 29. As printed this line reads "xangt yuf lwx cod faol bul". Every word except the first and fourth need correction.

Line 43. The second and fourth words are misprinted "draiek" and "duk" respectively.

Lines 44 and 45. These are printed as a single long line.

Line 76. "The Chinese robbers" is printed twice.