

M206
The descendants of Zie-gha-lao.

Sung by Yang Zhi.

Notes

This song is recorded in Document A (no. 4, page 8), Document E', part only, (no. 4, page 8), Document E (no. 4 page 8), Document K (no. 4 page 16), Document L (no. 11, page 35), and Document N (no 23, page 442).

Title. The title adopted is that in Document E and subsequent documents. Document A has the name 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 only.

Lines 3 and 4. The various documents run these two together into a single cumbersome line. By simply repeating 𠄎 at the beginning of line 4 they become a balanced couplet of eleven syllables each.

Line 5. Document K omits 𠄎 𠄎. Document L restores 𠄎 𠄎 but omits 𠄎.
Document N follows Document L, but misreads the 𠄎 as 𠄎.

Line 7. Documents E, K, L and N change "...𠄎 𠄎 𠄎..." to "...𠄎 𠄎 𠄎..."

Line 8. Document E' omits this line altogether. Document N misspells the word "nzit" (𠄎) as "nait".

Line 10. Document A reads 𠄎 𠄎 instead of 𠄎 𠄎.

Line 11. Document A alone retains the 𠄎 after the word 𠄎. Documents L and N omit the initial 𠄎.

Line 13. Document N omits "niux aob", (𠄎).

Line 14. Document A inserts another 𠄎 after 𠄎. In different documents the word 𠄎 is variously written, 𠄎, 𠄎, and "zieb".

Line 15. Documents A and L insert another 𠄎 before 𠄎.

Line 16. Document A omits 𠄎. Later documents confuse the final words 𠄎 𠄎, omitting one or other of them.

Line 17. Document A reads 𠄎 𠄎. Document E and subsequent documents change it to 𠄎 𠄎. The meaning is the same.

Line 18. This and the following line are omitted in Document A.

Line 22. In Document A 𐰇' is written 𐰇'.

Line 30. Here and in succeeding lines Document L has 𐰇ⁿ instead of 𐰇^{nc}. This is followed by Document N, "ndlit" instead of "ndliet".

Line 31. Documents L and N omit 𐰇^s 𐰇^{no} 𐰇^r 𐰇^{..}.

Line 32. Document N has changed 𐰇ⁿ 𐰇^{nc} 𐰇ⁿ to "draot ndlaif liex", i.e. "in the midst of the field".

Line 39. In Document L lines 39 to 49 inclusive are missing. This is a case of haplography since lines 39 and 50 are identical.

Line 40. After the word "shied", (𐰇) Document N inserts, "gik bud draob bud hxwx", that is, "filled the mountains and filled the ranges". This addition cannot be original since it completely destroys the parallelism and balance of the whole passage.

Line 41. Document E misread the text and substituted 𐰇^r for 𐰇^r. The error was repeated in Documents K and N. In the latter the word appears as "zis" that is, 𐰇^r.

Line 44. This line is omitted in Document E and by Documents K and N.

Line 46. Document A omits 𐰇^r 𐰇ⁿ.

Line 61. This line ends with the word 'C^u, "days", while line 62 begins with the word 𐰇^u, which in this context means "that" or "so that". This gives a perfectly straightforward meaning to the two lines. Unfortunately in the earlier documents A and E, where the songs are not written out in lines but as though they were continuous prose, the comma is misplaced, coming after 𐰇^u instead of after 'C^u, thus attaching 𐰇^u to the end of line 60 and creating a nonsense. In Document K 𐰇^u has been changed to 𐰇^u so the line reads, "Vexed the Ruling Race 'C^u 𐰇^u, " that is "stars", which is also a nonsense. However a note in parenthesis in the text explains that here "stars" mean "eyes"! Document L follows Document K as does Document N, but without the explanation.

Lines 75 and 77. Document L followed by Document N uses the full name of the river, that is adds a 𐰇^o at the end. This upsets the balance of the lines.

Lines 77 and 79. A note in Chinese in Documents K and L explains that 𐰇^o 𐰇^u is a raft, and 𐰇^o 𐰇^u is a boat.

Line 83. In all the documents lines 83 and 84 are run together as a single long line. The balance is better preserved by making them two lines.

Line 87. Document A ends at line 86 right at the bottom of a page. Whether the writer omitted line 87 because it was not in the manuscript he was copying, or whether he did

not think it was worth starting a new page with this odd line, is a matter for conjecture. This line was not in the version of the song as collected by Lu Xing-fu but it is found in Document E, and so must have been present in the source that Yang Yung-xing was using. However, he was not happy with it, for four years later, when he was compiling Document K, he deliberately altered the text to read: Ƨ̄ Δ̄ S̄ Ƨ̄ Ƨ̄' L̄ Ƨ̄ Ƨ̄ CΔ̄ Ƨ̄. . "They went south to the borders of Bw-bw." This reading is repeated in Documents L and N, but is obviously secondary.