

M206
The descendants of Zie-gha-lao.

Sung by Yang Zhi.

When the sky began
And on earth the ranges were set in place,
The people's Zie-gha-lao reached,
Reached the Plains of Li-mo beside the waters of the Ndu-na-yi-mo.

5 Then ordinary people filled the earth,
And common folk had become a multitude.

The people's Zie-gha-lao was a great sage,
Indeed Zie-gha-lao was famous,
For Zie-gha-lao understood the methods,
10 And Zie-gha-lao would teach the ordinary people to farm,
Zie-gha-lao would teach the common folk to till.

There came a day when Zie-gha-lao drove out,
Drove out the water buffalo to level the fields,
He levelled rice fields, grouped along the banks of the river,
15 He levelled flat, long rice fields in the midst of the plain.

Zie-gha-lao brought clear water to irrigate the wet fields,
He brought streams of water to irrigate the dry fields.

Zie-gha-lao drove out the water buffalo to go and drain,
To drain the flat lands of the Ndu-na-yi-mo, the great river Hmao-shi.
20 Zie-gha-lao drove out the yellow oxen to plough the dry fields,
And drove out the water buffalo to plough the wet fields.

Zie-gha-lao drove out the yellow oxen to harrow the dry fields,
He harrowed the dry fields fine and flat,
Zie-gha-lao drove out the water buffalo to harrow the wet fields,
25 He harrowed them flat and smooth as the bottom of a large grain basket.

Zie-gha-lao drove out the camels across the water,
Zie-gha-lao drove out the camels to carry the seed corn.
The camels were not for ploughing the land,
Rather the camels were used for carrying loads.

30 Zie-gha-lao planted millet in the dry fields,
Zie-gha-lao planted rice in the wet fields,
Zie-gha-lao put wheat, put barley in the tilled fields.
Zie-gha-lao's corn sprang up and the land grew green,
Beautifully green like moss.

35 Now Zie-gha-lao's corn was good, it covered all parts,
And his crops were good as they covered each place.
Zie-gha-lao's millet grew high to the waist,

And his rice grew high to the girdle, even higher, to the arm pit.
While the sky remained constant,
40 Zie-gha-lao's corn ripened in all parts,
His crops ripened in each place.
When Zie-gha-lao gathered his corn, gathered his crops, it filled the estate.

Then Zie-gha-lao took,
Took millet and made yeast,
45 Took wild millet and made wine.

Zie-gha-lao carried his slender yellow staff,
Zie-gha-lao pounded the extract of wild herbs,
Zie-gha-lao gave it to those who were sick and they all grew well,
Zie-gha-lao gave it to those who were ill and they all recovered.

50 While the sky remained constant,
The ordinary folk among the people knew,
For thus the common people used,
Used many kinds of wild herbs for sickness,
Knew many kinds of wild herbs for illness,
55 And the origin of their tradition lies here.

On reaching Snake-month or Horse-month,
Zie-gha-lao's corn stood bright green in the fields on his land,
Zie-gha-lao's corn stood bright green in the fields in his place.

While the sky remained constant,
60 Zie-gha-lao's corn, standing bright green, vexed,
Vexed the Ruling Race day by day,
Until the Ruling Race grew black at heart,
Ready to gnaw, ready to crush Zie-gha-lao's bones.

So the Rulers arrived from the Rulers land, thus the Rulers arrived,
65 The Race came from the Race's land, thus the Race came,
The Ruling Race came from Cai-sie-mi-fu-di,
To drive Zie-gha-lao out and make him flee.

So Zie-gha-lao left,
Left his corn standing bright green in the fields on his land,
70 Left his corn standing bright green in the fields in his place.

So Zie-gha-Lao left,
Left his corn. left his crops there on the estate,
And, gathering all his family, Zie-gha-lao fled.

The banks of the Ndu-na-yi-mo were far apart,
75 But the Ndu-na-yi was spanned by a rope of yarn,
And the Na-yi-mo by a rope of bamboo.

The Ndu-na-yi was crossed by a ferry,
And the Na-yi-mo by a boat.
The ferry floated lightly on the water,

80 While the boat sank down deep in the water.
The ferry went straight across,
The boat by a devious course.

85 So Zie-gha-lao with his descendants crossed,
With all his posterity crossed over,
Crossed over and went forward,
Went forward to the south of Ndu-zhi,
Went forward to Sao-nchang and the borders of Bw-bw.

Thus it is ended.