

M212
The soldiers of the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no.

Sung by Yang Zhi.

Notes

This song is recorded in Document A (no. 6, page 15), Document E (no. 6, page 16), Document K (no. 11, page 35), Document L (no. 19, page 74), Document M (no. 5, page 25) and Document N (no. 27, page 473).

Title . The title used is that found in Documents A and E. Documents K, L and M have "The descendants of the Elder Gi-vu and the Elder Gi-no (2)". Document N drops "the descendants of" and the number (2), so that this and the previous song (allowing for printing errors) have identical titles consisting simply of the two names.

Double lines . The following pairs of lines appear as single long lines in some documents: 3 and 4, 17 and 18, 20 and 21, 23 and 24, 41 and 42, 86 and 87.

Line 8 . The Miao text reads 𠄎^{nc} 𠄎 𠄎, "thousand six hundred" not stating how many thousands there were. The word 𠄎^r, "three", has been supplied by reference to a similar expression in line 26.

Line 12 . Document K, followed by Documents L, M and N read 𠄎³, "horses" instead of 𠄎𠄎³, "swords" in this line.

Lines 15 and 16 . These follow the text of Document A which says that the leaders knew the 𠄎^{''} 𠄎𠄎, that is the general strategy to be followed, and the soldiers knew the 𠄎^{''} 𠄎^{''}, that is the methods to be employed. All subsequent documents have wrongly interchanged the two.

Lines 38, 39 and 40 . The Miao text in these lines has lost three numerals. The information which is being given is a repetition of that in lines 6, 25 and 26 respectively, so that the missing words, 𠄎ⁿ, "ten-thousand", 𠄎^r, "three", and 𠄎³, "seven", can be readily supplied.

Lines 51 and 52 . In the Miao text these two lines have been displaced to follow line 54. This upsets the sequence of the of the description of the fighting and the balance of the stanzas.

Line 82 . In the Miao text this line has been conflated with line 81 and the words 𠄎ⁿ 𠄎ⁿ 𠄎^{ns}, "of twisted boards", has been lost.

Lines 86 - 91 . Although the general sense of this stanza is clear, the exact meaning of one or two phrases is a little obscure, particularly in line 88 and its parallel, line 90. In the copy of Doc E in which Wang Ming-ji made certain comments and corrections, the whole of this stanza is set in brackets, indicating that he was not quite sure what it meant. Documents M and N both have footnotes purporting to explain the expressions

