

M235
Concerning the Man Li-dao, section two.

Sung by Tao Zi-gai.

The Man Li-dao fled and was gone,
The Man Li-dao's women and children going ahead,
And the Man Li-dao's retainers and soldiers coming behind,
Until they reached the plain of Hmao-gha-nzhi.

5 Then the women and children turned round and gazed,
Gazed at the women and children's homeland,
And the women and children raised their voices and wept.

The Man Li-dao turned round and gazed,
Gazed at the Man Li-dao's circular city there,
10 There on the plain of the Ngga-yi-shi-lw.

The retainers and soldiers of the Ruling Race
Had hoisted glowing red flags like flames of fire.
The retainers and soldiers of the Ruling Race
Had hoisted shining white flags like whirling snow.

15 The Man Li-dao grieved,
Grieved for the Man Li-dao's houses with timber frames and tiled roofs, now
 irrecoverable,
The Man Li-dao grieved,
Grieved for the Man Li-dao's circular city, now beyond reclaim,
So the Man Li-dao's tears came welling up.

20 The Man Li-dao's women and children grieved,
Grieved for the Man Li-dao's streams of water flowing past,
Flowing strongly past the lower side of the gardens.

The women and children grieved,
Grieved for the Man Li-dao's streams of water flowing past,
25 Flowing strongly past the lower side of the dwellings,
So the women and children raised their voices, weeping aloud.

The Man Li-dao led the way ahead,
Making the women and children, in fact the whole community,
Press forward till they reached,
30 Reached the cliff top above the Hmao-gha-nzhi gorge.

The Man Li-dao turned round and gazed,
Gazed at the plain of the Ngga-yi-shi-lw.

The Man Li-dao wept bitterly calling to the sky,
The women and children wept bitterly calling to the earth,
35 For the Man Li-dao's home and dwelling under the blue sky,
For the women and children's streams of water under the clear sky.

The Man Li-dao turned round and gazed back
At the country of the Ngga-yi-shi-lw with long, flat rice-fields side by side,
With row upon row of houses, timber framed and tiled,
40 And it wrenched at the Man Li-dao's heart.

He gazed at the plain of the Ngga-yi-shi-lw and in the midst of the deserted
ricefields
Was the cotton crop filling the plain,
And it wrenched at the Man Li-dao's spirit,
So the Man Li-dao wept bitterly calling to the sky.

45 When the Man Li-dao looked back,
The Man Li-dao's way shone bright,
But when the Man Li-dao looked forward,
The Man Li-dao's way was dark.

The Man Li-dao came on till he reached,
50 Reached the region of the Lord Shi-byu,
Reached the neighbourhood of the Lord Shi-byu.

The Lord Shi-byu opened his mouth, opened his lips and asked,
Asked the Man Li-dao everything.
The Man Li-dao, raising his voice answered,
55 Telling things of nine kinds, things of ten sorts as well,
Telling things of every kind and every sort together.

The Lord Shi-byu listened and followed the story,
The Lord Shi-byu listened and took the point.
The Lord Shi-byu pitied the Man Li-dao, truly pitied him.

60 The Man Li-dao grieved,
As the Man Li-dao told the Lord Shi-byu the truth,
Gave the Lord Shi-byu an accurate account.

The Man Li-dao had founded a circular city,
On the plain of the Ngga-yi-shi-lw, there on the flat plain.
65 The Man Li-dao had built houses, timber-framed and tiled,
On the plain of the Ngga-yi-shi-lw, there on the level land.

But the recollection broke the Man Li-dao's heart,
The recollection broke the Man Li-dao's spirit.
The Man Li-dao's tears poured down unchecked,
70 Unchecked, his tears fell,
And the women and children's tears, likewise unchecked, dripped down.

The Lord Shi-byu judged that the Man Li-dao spoke the truth,
So the Lord Shi-byu treated,
Treated the Man Li-dao as a member of the family.

75 The Lord Shi-byu judged that the Man Li-dao gave an accurate account,
So the Lord Shi-byu treated,

Treated the Man Li-dao as an equal.
But the Man Li-dao could not settle his mind,
The Man Li-dao was sad at heart.

80 For the Man Li-dao was afraid,
Afraid that the Ruling Race
Around and about would stir up trouble in the future.
The Lord Shi-byu could give no reassurance,
So the Man Li-dao fled.

85 The Lord Shi-byu showed the Man Li-dao the way,
Bidding the Man Li-dao go,
Go to the region of the Lord Gha-sao,
Go on to reach the neighbourhood of the Lord Gha-sao.

90 The Lord Shi-byu judged that the Man Li-dao spoke the truth,
So the Lord Shi-byu urged the Lord Gha-sao to treat,
To treat the Man Li-dao as a member of the family.

The Lord Shi-byu spoke,
Requesting the Lord Gha-sao to treat,
To treat the Man Li-dao as an equal.

95 However, the Lord Gha-sao insisted,
Insisted that the Lord Gha-sao's hand was able,
Insisted that the Lord Gha-sao's hand was skilful.
So the Man Li-dao was heavy hearted,
The Man Li-dao was sad at heart.

100 The Man Li-dao opened his mouth, opened his lips to reply,
For the Lord Gha-sao questioned the Man Li-dao's identity,
And the Lord Gha-sao asserted,
Asserted the Lord Gha-sao's authority,
So the Man Li-dao spoke.

105 "The Man Li-dao built nine large houses, nine buildings,
Erecting nine on nine sites.
Unfortunately, while the sky remained constant,
The Man Li-dao could not dwell there.

110 Yet the Man Li-dao's circular city stands on the level ground,
His houses, timber framed and with tiled roofs stand on the plain,
And his cotton crop is there on the land.

In the Man Li-dao's ricefields, long and flat,
Are the leaves of the rice plants, the leaves growing long,
As you see they grow long on the Lord Gha-sao's estates".

115 Then the Man Li-dao added,
"As the Lord Gha-sao's buckwheat leaves grow large,
If the Lord Gha-sao cared to pay a visit,
He would see that so it is also on the Man Li-dao's land".

120 The Lord Gha-sao was heavy hearted,
So the Lord Gha-sao took,
Took the Lord Gha-sao's retainers and soldiers, travelling until he reached,
Reached the homestead of the Lord Shi-byu.

125 The Lord Gha-sao opened his mouth, opened his lips and asked,
Asked the Lord Shi-byu for the truth,
And the Lord Shi-byu told him the truth.

The Lord Shi-byu spoke,
"The Lord Shi-byu will organize,
Organize an escort to take,
To take the Lord Gha-sao to go and look".

130 The Lord Gha-sao gazed,
Gazed at the Man Li-dao's circular city standing on the plain,
At his deserted ricefields on the level ground,
And at his crop of cotton there on the land.

135 When the Lord Gha-sao returned, came back and reached,
Reached the homestead of the Lord Shi-byu,
The Lord Shi-byu opened his mouth, opened his lips and asked,
Asked, "Was there any kind of deception?"

140 The Lord Gha-sao shook his head and replied,
"There are the Lord Shi-byu, the Lord Gha-sao
And the Man Li-dao of one mind.

145 If the Ruling Race
Around and about cause disturbance in the future,
The Lord Shi-byu, the Lord Gha-sao and the Man Li-dao
Should muster their forces and, with common aim, go forth,
Should muster their forces and, with common aim, unite".

The great forests of the A-na river
Were lairs for the tigers.
The extensive forests of the A-na river
Were haunts for the deer.

150 Then the Man Li-dao said,
"Let the Man Li-dao go and live in the forests".
So the Man Li-dao's descendants settled,
Settled in the woodlands of the A-na river.

155 The descendants of the Man Li-dao went and cleared the forests.
They sowed yellow millet, sowed millet for the Man Li-dao to eat,
They sowed glutinous millet to feed the Man Li-dao's children.
So the Man Li-dao remained there,
Remained there a full cycle of twelve, even for thirteen years.