

M253
How the Miao arrived in Sao-no land.

Sung by Yang Nggai-xing.

This year we may know,
May know that Lord Sao-no has opened marriage negotiations with Lord Byu-no.

Accordingly Lord Sao-no dispatched,
Dispatched the middleman who went and reached,
5 Reached Lord Byu-no's homestead.

The middleman opened his mouth, opened his lips and requested,
Requested Lord Byu-no's eldest daughter.
When Lord Byu-no heard it,
Lord Byu-no made the Miao people bring oats in preparation for the marriage.

10 For Lord Byu-no was black at heart,
Where formerly rent was measured by the "shen",
Latterly the measure was a "dou".

He made the foremen carve rounded spoons in preparation for the marriage.
They carved three hundred and thirty bundles of ten,
15 Thirty bundles of ten short, which they could not get carved.

Lord Byu-no was so impatient,
That he took rounded spoons already carved,
And stamped upon them, breaking them in pieces.
Then he gave the foremen a severe beating.

20 The foremen were most distressed,
So distressed they would not attend the marriage,
So distressed they would not attend the supper,
And when the foremen returned and got back home,
They alerted the whole village from the bottom to the top.

25 The young Yi Lady intended to take,
To take three hundred of our Miao young women and men
To escort her away from Lord Byu-no's house.

But now their parents and relations, the Miao people, would remain no longer,
And the foremen went and alerted,
30 Alerted the young Yi Lady saying they would accompany her too.

The young Yi Lady spoke,
"You go, take the fattened chicken, kill and eat them,
Leaving only hens and chicks in the house".

Then the young Yi Lady continued,
35 "Take your women and children and go on ahead,

The young Yi Lady will bring your three hundred young women and men and
follow after".
So when Lord Byu-no's stewards went to fetch,
To fetch the foremen to attend breakfast,
The fattened chicken had disappeared, only hens and chicks remained in the
houses,
40 And the Miao people had all gone.

The stewards returned, came back and said,
Said that the Miao people had all disappeared.

When Lord Hmao-byu heard it,
Lord Hmao-byu dispatched,
45 Dispatched retainers and soldiers in pursuit,
To block the way and turn the Miao people back.

The young Yi Lady asked them,
"What matter brings you following after us?"
The stewards replied,
50 "We want to compel the Miao people to return".

The young Yi Lady declared,
"Lord Byu-no is black at heart!

The Miao people have paid their rent,
But where formerly the measure was a 'shen',
55 Latterly the measure was a 'dou',
Making the Miao people work like locusts just to pay the rent.

Work in lieu of rent was heavy,
And compulsory, unpaid service, hard.
The Miao people are not going to return.

60 So the Miao people accompanied the young Yi Lady until they reached,
Reached the Weining plain, that high plain,
And stayed in the highlands of the Na-lyu mountain range.

But though the sky remained constant,
The Miao people could not dwell there.

65 Now one day the Miao people went hunting game,
Hunting through forests dark and wide-spread.
They set the spotted dogs to drive the game,
And they drove away yonder into a deep valley.

The Miao people did not know its name,
70 So the Miao people spoke together,
"Does the boundary of Lord Sao-no's estates reach that far?"

Then the Miao people's spotted dog came back dragging,
Dragging a shoot of clean black bamboo.
This they took for Lord Hmao-sao to inspect.

75 Lord Hmao-sao remarked,
"There is low-lying, dry land to be found,
To be found in the deep valley of the river Gi-trao".

So the Miao people removed,
Removed to "Cattle-drink" in the valley of the Gi-trao,
80 And settled along both sides of the Gi-trao valley.

Our Miao descendants spread,
Spread to fill the people's lands everywhere,
Spread to fill the people's places everywhere.

Thus it is ended.