

M255
Song of how the Miao living with Byu-no fled.

Sung by Li Nggai-guang.

Notes

This song is recorded in Document A (no. 15, page 43), Document F (no. 7/1, page 6), Document G (no. 1, page 423), Document K (no. 20/2, page 60) Document L (no. 28, page 122).

Title. The title varies from document to document. This is the one used in Documents A and F.

Document G. The Miao text in this document is written in a unique form of Romanization, and it is not always easy to be sure what the words are. It would appear that Document A was derived from Document G by transcribing it back into Miao script. However, from time to time the scribe simply did not know what he was writing. This is particularly true in the first half of the song.

Line 8. Documents K and L alter the end of this line to read, 𑜇𑜨 𑜇𑜨^{no} 𑜇𑜨 𑜇𑜨^o 𑜇𑜨, "opened his mouth, opened his lips and asked", which is the normal conventional form.

Line 10. In Documents K and L this line is missing.

Line 13. The word 𑜇𑜨^o is missing in Document K.

Line 16. In the earlier documents this line finishes with the question 𑜇𑜨 𑜇𑜨^o 𑜇𑜨, "how should he arrange this?" Documents K and L have again substituted the conventional form 𑜇𑜨 𑜇𑜨^o 𑜇𑜨, "how should he act correctly?"

Line 33. Document A has "three years" instead of "thirteen years".

Line 35. In Documents K and L this line has been expanded, and an extra line added, probably derived from another song,

𑜇𑜨 𑜇𑜨^o 𑜇𑜨^o 𑜇𑜨^o 𑜇𑜨^o 𑜇𑜨^o 𑜇𑜨^o 𑜇𑜨^o 𑜇𑜨^o,
did flee go to the river great the forest black,

𑜇𑜨 𑜇𑜨^o 𑜇𑜨^o 𑜇𑜨^o 𑜇𑜨^o 𑜇𑜨^o 𑜇𑜨^o 𑜇𑜨^o 𑜇𑜨^o.
did dwell at the river great river two sides.

"They fled to the black forests of the great river,
Dwelling along both sides of the great river".