

M256
Song of the Woman Cao and the Man Cao.

Recorded by Wang Ming-ji.

Notes

This song is recorded in Document M (no. 15, page 88) and Document N (no. 40, page 551).

Origin. Document M says that it was sung by "a man from ..." Unfortunately the name of the place cannot be read in the manuscript. Document N says that it was "Sung by Wang Ming-ji". It is much more likely that it was collected and written down by Wang Ming-ji.

Line 9. In the Miao text this line is joined directly to line 10. However, by breaking it into two, lines 10 to 13 form two exactly parallel couplets.

Line 12. In Document M the word 𑏃𑏂, "ranges", is incorrectly written 𑏃𑏂.

Line 15. Document N omits the name Shi-byu.

Lines 18 and 19. These lines are missing in Document N.

Line 21. In Document M the name is written 𑏃𑏂 𑏃𑏂 𑏃𑏂, while Document N has 𑏃𑏂 𑏃𑏂 𑏃𑏂, with similar variations in line 30. These are probably all incorrect. The name should read 𑏃𑏂 𑏃𑏂 𑏃𑏂 𑏃𑏂, "Lord Shi-byu" as in line 15.

Line 23. Document M reads 𑏃𑏂, "went" instead of 𑏃𑏂, "lived".

Line 27. Document M has "companies of soldiers" instead of "thousands of soldiers".

Lines 28 and 36. Both these lines are missing in Document N.

Line 37. In Document N the last word of the line is 𑏃𑏂, making it identical with the ending of line 38.

Line 46. In both documents there is a note explaining that 𑏃𑏂 𑏃𑏂 means "to the higher side".

Line 65. A footnote explains that 𑏃𑏂 𑏃𑏂 𑏃𑏂 𑏃𑏂 means "going along without thinking of anything at all". The implication is that, with a little forethought they could have avoided going anywhere near the robbers' hide-out. In the Miao text the following pairs of lines are joined up as single lines, 82 and 83, 85 and 86, 87 and 88, 93 and 94, 95 and 96, 97 and 98.

Line 90. A footnote in Document N explains that the expression 𑏃𑏂 𑏃𑏂 𑏃𑏂 𑏃𑏂 means 𑏃𑏂 𑏃𑏂 𑏃𑏂 𑏃𑏂, "gone road silence", which presumably means that, having left, there was no further word from them.

Line 93. In Document N this line contains an additional nine words, a repetition from the previous line, inserted between the words †^{h} and CTv .

Line 96. A footnote in Document M gives the meaning of $\text{J}^{\text{r}} \text{T}^{\text{r}}$, CT^{r} as "asked each other's names".

Line 101. Document M reads the final word as J^{b} , "slave" instead of J^{f} , "food".

Line 105. This line is missing in Document M.

Line 108. In Document N this and the next line are shortened and combined into a single line.

Lines 116, 124 and 125. These lines are missing in Document N.

Line 129. This line is missing in Document M.

Line 141. Document M has this line twice, at the bottom of one page and repeated at the top of the next, but in both the final word is wrongly written $\text{†}\text{o}$, "reached" instead of †^{b} , "built". The same error occurs in Document N.