

M258
Song of the landlord's hard compulsory labour.

Recorded by Wang Jian-guo.

Notes

This song is recorded in Document N (no. 43, page 592).

Title. The word "zhyud", "lord", is wrongly printed " 'zyux ". This is the first of a large number of similar errors in the text, particularly in respect of tone markers. As far as possible these have been corrected in the present transcription, but only the more important will be mentioned here.

Line 14. The printed text has substituted the name Li-jyu from line 15 for the name Gi-lyu in this line.

Lines 26 and 27. In both these lines the word "nchangd", "blood" occurs, but in the former it is printed, "chagd" and in the latter, "changd". Also in line 25 "ndlyul", "flow" is printed "ndyul", while "njiod", "dripped" has the wrong tone marker "t".

Line 32. In the text this line ends "... laos aob aob". It should read "... laos lit aob", as in line 57.

Line 40. The two words "ghat laol" have been left out in the Miao text.

Line 62. The word "nbangb", "arm", is printed without the initial "n".

Line 74. The word "mob", "pain", is written "maob" in the text.

Line 88. The exact meaning of the expression "ngub ngangk" is not known, beyond the fact that it is an adverbial phrase modifying the adjective "yas", "thin". A note in the text says that it means "thin as a qangt". This does not help since "qangt" means a room or a section of a house. Perhaps the word in the original Miao script was 𑜉𑜂𑜆𑜫 meaning "bone", which was transcribed "qangt" when it should have been "cangt". The conventions for the modified pinyin spelling can be very confusing. If this were the case, then what the note says is that "yas ngub ngangk", means "thin as a bone", or as the English idiom would put it, "so thin as to be but skin and bone".

Line 112. The word "fait", "distinguish", is wrongly printed "fat" in the text.