

**M331**  
**The song of the run-away girl.**

*Collected by Wang Ming-ji.*

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document C (no. 10, page 11).

The following pairs or groups of lines are written in single long sentences in the Miao text, 13 and 14, 24 and 25, 30 and 31, 40 and 41, 43 and 44, 51 and 52, 64, 65, 66 and 67, 68, 69 and 70, 71, 72 and 73.

**Line 9.** In this line, and in lines 12 and 13, the name of the young man is written  $\text{C}\text{E}_\text{v}$   $\text{E}^\text{no}$   $\text{J}^\text{r}$   $\text{L}_\text{v}$ , thereafter, throughout the song, it appears as  $\text{C}\text{E}_\text{v}$   $\text{E}^\text{no}$   $\text{J}^\text{r}$   $\text{T}_\text{v}$ , which, presumably is the correct form.

**Lines 33 to 36.** This four-line stanza occurs three times in the song. Here the second line, line 34, is missing in the Miao text. It has been restored by reference to the other two occurrences.

**Line 37.** In the Miao manuscript the word  $\text{T}^\text{o}$ , “mountain range”, has been incorrectly written  $\text{T}^\text{u}$ .

**Lines 60 to 63.** This is the second occurrence of the four-line stanza. In the Miao manuscript, in line 61 the initial word  $\text{D}_\text{n}$  and the word  $\Delta^\text{o}$  are missing, while in line 62 the word for bamboo is written  $\text{J}^\text{n}$   $\Delta^\text{o}$  instead of  $\text{J}^\text{r}$   $\Delta^\text{o}$ .

**Lines 79 to 82 and line 83.** Lines 79 to 82 comprise the third occurrence of the four-line stanza about the forest, but this time the travellers were going in the opposite direction. Thus, instead of going through the forest and then skirting around its further edge, they passed by the further edge first and then went through the forest. This required the two couplets which make up the stanza to be interchanged, lines 3 and 4 coming first, followed by lines 1 and 2. In the manuscript this process has got a little confused and compounded with another factor. On the outward journeys the forest stanza is immediately preceded by the line about crossing 99 valleys, that is by line 32 and line 59. On the return journey the poetic pattern requires that this line should follow the stanza, that is as line 83. (It seems that on the way back they counted mountain ridges crossed instead of valleys traversed, but it came to the same thing, the number was still 99.) However, in the Miao text this “99 mountains” line turns up right in the middle of the forest stanza, one line of which is missing altogether. Thus in the manuscript the order of the lines is 82, 83, 80, 81, with 79 missing.