

M332
The run-away girl.

Sung by a man from Hmao-a-gw-gw,

Who was it desired cattle for ploughing?
The man, the father, desired cattle for ploughing,
Desired good, long horned cattle.

5 Who was it desired sheep for shearing?
The woman, the mother desired sheep for shearing,
Desired full-grown, long-fleeced sheep for shearing.

So the woman, the mother, and the man, the father took,
Took their fine run-away girl with harshness away,
Away to Hmao-rie, to “the sighing youth” at the near side of the forest.

10 The run-away girl tried to stay there, but she could not,
And it was well that the run-away girl should return.

So the run-away girl planted,
Planted her feet well and firmly till she came,
Came to the woman, the mother, and the man, the father’s door.

15 The door was pressed shut, but sounds came outside.
Though the door was pressed shut, there was a sound,
A sound rising and falling, a sound of voices.

The run-away girl stretched,
Stretched her hands well and firmly and reached out,
20 Reached out well, but the woman, the mother, and the man the father’s door
was locked.

The woman, the mother, was afraid of thieves,
And the man, the father, was afraid of spying eyes.
But a “good” thief had already stolen,
For a “good” spy had already seen!

25 Now because the run-away girl had discovered the deceit,
Had discovered the deceit about the bridegroom’s rice fields,
When the rice fields should have been planted they were just used for grazing,

And because the run-away girl’s parents and relatives had taken,
Had taken a silken cord, all twisted,
30 A cord of silk long enough to stretch over the river,
And cast a noose around the run-away girl’s neck and arms,

Therefore the run-away girl’s ninety-nine bundles tied up with braid,
She took up and followed close to the youth along the sheep path.

Whose son was it who had come?

35 The smiling youth was the youth from the Dlu family.
Whose daughter was it who had come across?
The laughing girl was the girl from the Dla family,
Laughing and smiling all the while.

40 The run-away girl at last had reached a place for removing the braids,
At last, united with the youth, had reached a place for removing her bracelets.

Thus it is ended.