

M388
Concerning the Man Li-dao, section three.

Sung by Tao Zi-gai.

This year we may know,
Know that this year the man Li-dao is worshipping the spirits.
So the man Li-dao went to borrow a drum,
To borrow it away in the Hmao-gha-nzhi country.

5 The man Li-dao sought to borrow the “mother drum”,
But the Hmao-gha-nzhi were unwilling to permit it.
The man Li-dao sought to borrow the “father drum”,
But the Hmao-gha-nzhi would not allow it.

10 The Hmao-gha-nzhi gave,
Gave the “baby drum” on loan.
So the man Li-dao secured the “baby drum”, carrying it on his back.
He carried it until he reached,
Reached the Hmao-gha-nzhi cliffs and gorge.

15 Then the Hmao-gha-nzhi’s “mother drum” sounded seven times,
And the man Li-dao heard it.
The “father drum” sounded three times,
And the “baby drum” sounded three times,
At which the man Li-dao, carrying the “baby drum”, returned.

20 The man Li-dao opened his mouth, opened his lips, and made request,
For he wanted the “mother drum” to carry back.
The Hmao-gha-nzhi received the “baby drum” and hung it up,
Hung it under the eaves of the Hmao-gha-nzhi house.

25 The Hmao-gha-nzhi climbed quickly up into the loft,
And the Hmao-gha-nzhi brought down the “father drum” and lent it,
Lent it for the man Li-dao to carry away.
So the man Li-dao, carrying the “father drum”, came and reached,
Reached the man Li-dao’s homestead.

30 In ox-month or tiger-month,
On ox-day or tiger day,
When the man Li-dao’s time came, the time for entertaining spirits,
When the man Li-dao’s time came, the time for entertaining guests,
The man Li-dao took the “father drum” and hung it from the roof ridge.

35 The man Li-dao’s pipes sounded within the homestead,
While the man Li-dao’s “father drum” was there under the roof ridge.
The man Li-dao entertained the spirits well every day,
He entertained the spirits well every night,
Then the man Li-dao escorted the spirits on their way.

The man Li-dao together with,

40 With the brothers discussed and reached a conclusion,
With the brothers-in-law discussed and completed the matter.

The man Li-dao said,
“To the Hmao-gha-nzhi country,
The way is far and the stages are long.
Let not the family be troubled to go and borrow drums”.

45 The man Li-dao carried,
Carried the Hmao-gha-nzhi “father drum” and returned it.
Then the man Li-dao came back and reached,
Reached the man Li-dao’s homestead.

50 Having called the brothers to gather together,
And having called the brothers-in-law all to forgather,
The man Li-dao spoke out.

He directed the Ndlw clan to make a “mother drum”,
And directed the Gi-chi to make a “father drum”.
So they took sacred fruit trees and made spirit drums,
55 And they took sacred trees and made ghost drums.

Henceforth when the Hmao-gha-nzhi enthused about their songs,
The man Li-dao’s family could enthuse about their pipes,
And when the Hmao-gha-nzhi boasted about their pipes,
The man Li-dao’s family could boast about their songs.