

M453

Ndlie-jia and Nggura-jio-ni-bang. (2)

Sung by Tao Zi-gai

- There was a time when Ndlie-jia fashioned a hook,
Fashioned a shining ring of copper.
Ndlie-jia stood motionless in order to draw up gold,
And with his face shaded he fished,
5 Fished and caught a little golden fish.
- There was a time when Ndlie-jia fashioned a line,
Fashioned a shining ring of lead.
Ndlie-jia stood motionless in order to draw up silver.
Ndlie fished and caught a little silver fish.
- 10 Carrying it, Ndlie-jia returned, came back and reached,
Reached Ndlie-jia's home.
Ndlie-jia took his gold and silver fish and laid it on the bed,
While Ndlie-jia went to light the fire.
- 15 Then Ndlie-jia returned, came back to put,
To put the gold and silver fish upon the fire.
But the gold and silver fish changed,
Changed into a person, Nggura-jio-ni-bang.
- 20 Nggura-jio-ni-bang laughed heartily,
"Oh Ndlie-jia, you're your gold and silver fish, it is I!"
So the silver and gold fish became Ndlia-jia's wife,
The silver and gold fish became Ndlie-jia's good companion.
- 25 Nggura-jio-ni-bang spoke,
"Build a house, Ndkie-jia!"
Ndlie-jia replied,
"If I build a house, there is no livestock".
- 30 Nggura-jio-ni-bang spoke,
"Make a store, Ndlie-jia!"
Ndlie-jia answered,
"If I make a store, there is no grain".
- 35 But Ndlie-jia arose and began to build,
To build a dwelling house with timber frame and tiled roof,
And he arose and began to build a store as well.
- So Nggura-jio-ni-bang spoke,
"Let Ndlie-jia go for breeding stock,
Go far over yonder to Yeu-jio-dlang-rang.
- But if Yeu-jio-dlang-rang should offer,
Offer breeding cattle and horses to Ndlie-jia,

Ndlie-jia must not want cattle,
And Ndlie-jia must not want horses.
40 Ndlie-jia must open his mouth, open his lips and request,
Request a family for Ndlie-jia.

If Yeu-jio-dlang-rang should offer,
Offer breeding sheep and goats to Ndlie-jia,
Ndlie-jia must not want sheep,
45 Ndlie-jia must not want goats.
Ndlie-jia must open his mouth, open his lips and request
Request a household for Ndlie-jia”.

So Yeu-jio-dlang-rang gave
Gave Nggura-jio-ni-bang to Ndlie-jia to make a family and live.
50 Yeu-jio-dlang-rang gave,
Gave Nggura-jio-ni-bang to Ndlie-jia to make a family and dwell.

Ndlie-jia returned, came back and reached,
Reached Ndlie-jia’s home.
There was livestock for Ndlie-jia flowing like water into his house,
55 And there was grain for Ndlie-jia falling in a shower to fill his store.

While the sky remained constant,
Who was it that twisted,
Twisted Ndlie-jia shaking his heart with slander?
It was the Master’s daughter Nggugu,
60 Who twisted Ndlie-jia and shook his heart with slander.

What was it that she said,
Said to Ndlie-jia, shaking his heart and making him believe?

While Ndlie-jia sat chatting on the bed,
Sat chatting on the pallet,
65 The Master’s youngest daughter,
The Master’s daughter Nggugu
Said that Nggura-jio-ni-bang had leprosy.

Ndlie-jia did not believe it.
So the Master’s youngest daughter spoke,
70 “If Ndlie-jia does not believe it,
When Nggura-jio-ni-bang takes off her leg-bands,
Let Ndlie-jia observe carefully
How the skin of Nggura-jio-ni-pang’s legs is ringed!”

Ndlie-jia was taking Nggura-jio-ni-bang back to divorce her.
75 Nggura-jio-ni-bang spoke,
“Is it true, Ndlie-jia?”
Ndlie-jia replied, “A man speaks but one way,
As a walnut always breaks into four pieces!”

Nggura-jio-ni-bang spoke,

80 “Is it true, Ndlie-jia?”

Ndlie-jia replied, “A man says but one word,
As a walnut always breaks into four sections!”

Ndlie-jia was taking Nggura-jio-ni-bang back to divorce her,
When they came to a certain stretch of the road,
85 When they came to a certain stretch of the way,
Ndlie-jia’s sheep and goats were changing,
Changing to deer and jumping away into the forest.
So Ndlie-jia tore off creeper to lead them with his arm.

Ndlie-jia took Nggura-jio-ni-bang and they went,
90 Went and reached a river pool, very deep in the middle.

Nggura-jio-ni-bang waded in,
Waded into the river pool up to her knees,
And Nggura-jio-ni-bang said,
“Is it true, Ndlie-jia?”

95 But Ndlie-jia said,
“A man speaks but one way,
As a walnut always breaks into four sections!”

Nggura-jio-ni-bang waded in,
Waded into the river pool up to her waist,
100 And Nggura-jio-ni-bang spoke,
“Is it true, Ndlie-jia?”

But Ndlie-jia answered,
“A man says but one word,
As a walnut always breaks into four divisions!”

105 Nggura-jio-ni-bang waded in.
Waded into the river pool up to her head, so she did,
And Nggura-jio-ni-bang spoke,
“Is it true, Ndlie-jia?”

But Ndlie-jia answered,
110 “A man says but one word!”

Then Ndlie-jia returned, came back and reached,
Reached Ndlie-jia’s house.
But Ndlie-jia’s place was no longer there,
His live-stock and pigs had disappeared,
115 And Ndlie-jia’s grain store was quite empty.

Then Ndlie-jia returned to marry,
To marry the Master’s daughter Nggug-gu and live as a family,

But the Master’s daughter Nggug-gu spoke,
“You are not fit to be a cattle herd for the Master’s daughter Nggug-gu!”

120 And the Master's daughter Ngggu-gu spat.
Spat white spittle on Ndlie-jia's head.

Yet Ndlie-jia returned to marry,
To marry the Master's youngest daughter and dwell as a family.

But the Master's youngest daughter spoke,
125 "You are not fit to be my pig man!"
And the Master's youngest daughter spat,
Spat white spittle at Ndlie-jia's mouth.

As Ndlie-jia returned, coming back along the way,
He met with the toad.

130 The toad was kith,
And Ndlie-jia kin.

Ndlie-jia took the toad back and it drank,
Drank the river pool into his stomach,
Revealing Ngggu-ra-jio-ni-bang to the hem of her skirt and her apron.

135 Ndlie-jia smiled and laughed as he watched intently.

But the toad's belly burst,
And they had to return and sew up the toad's skin,
Before he could go back and drink,
Drink the river pool into his stomach.

140 Again Ngggu-ra-jio-ni-bang was revealed to the hem of her skirt and apron,
And Ndlie-jia, watching intently,
Saw Ngggu-ra-jio-ni-bang there in the bottom of the water.
So Ndlie-jia said,
"Come, let us go in company together".

145 But Ngggu-ra-jio-ni-bang replied,
"Now the water crossing the rock slab has made it truly slippery,
It will not be possible for me to go with you,
It will not be fitting for me to go with you.

I will lift up my arms for you to see".

150 Ndlie-jia raised his head and looked,
And saw a pair of baby dragons there.
Then Ngggu-ra-jio-ni-bang said,

"Truly it will not be possible for me to go with you.
I can but give this white cotton cloth for you to wear,
155 To wear on your forehead and return and show,
Show to the people that each may regard it,
Show to the people that each may look at it".

While Ndlie-jia was watching intently,
The toad's belly burst,

160 And the silver water flooded back to fill the pool,
Filling it level with the banks.

Ndlie-jia wept bitterly as he sought,
Sought Ngggu-ra-jio-ni-bang far down to the river's mouth,
Sought Ngggu-ra-jio-ni-bang far up to the river's source.
165 Sought Ngggu-ra-jio-ni-bang but could not find her,
Sought Ngggu-ra-jio-ni-bang but could not see her.

Ndlie-jia then returned, came back and reached,
Reached Ndlie-jia's house,
Reached Ndlie-jia's place,
170 But Ndlie-jia's house and place were not there,
His live stock and grain store had all disappeared.

While the sky remained constant,
Ndlie-jia lived,
Lived in holes in the rocks to rear his little ones,
175 Lived in holes in the cliffs to bring up his young.

Thus it is ended.