

## Two Miao lads who went to choose brides, together with matters concerning Yeu-rang.

*Told by Yang Xiu-gong.*

They tell a story that once upon a time there were two Miao lads who went to choose brides. They reached Yeu-rang's family home, but Yeu-rang was not there, only his two daughters were at home. In the evening Yeu-rang arrived. Yeu-rang said to them, "You two, my sons-in-law, have arrived early!" Then he said to his two daughters, "My two sons-in-law are very tired, bring me my fan for me to fan my two sons-in-law". The two daughters brought Yeu-rang's fan to him. Yeu-rang took the fan into his hand and said,

"Fan once, and pitch upon my yellow moor,  
Fan again, and pitch upon my red cliff".

So it happened as Yeu-rang had spoken. The two Miao lads were fanned away on to the red cliff. On that red cliff there was a large number of human bones. These human bones were all the people who had gone to seek brides, had reached Yeu-rang's house, and Yeu-rang had fanned them there where they died.

The two Miao lads took those human bones and made pipes and played on them. There were some gnomes living on that cliff who came to watch them playing their instruments. They asked them what they were doing there, and the lads told them all the things that Yeu-rang had done, and then said to them, "How did you come here, will you please show us the way?" The gnomes said, "We came by swarming the creeper which drops down over the cliff there". So the two of them swarmed up the creeper, climbed out at the top of the cliff, and returned to their homes.

When they reached home, following the pattern of Yeu-rang's, they made a fan. When it was made they went back again to Yeu-rang's home. They reached there, and again Yeu-rang was not at home. The two Miao lads said to Yeu-rang's daughters, "Will you bring Father-in-law's fan for us to fan ourselves? We are very tired". Yeu-rang's two daughters brought Yeu-rang's fan to the two Miao lads. The two lads took it and exchanged it for the one which they had made, giving the one which they had made to Yeu-rang's two daughters to put back. In the evening Yeu-rang returned. Yeu-rang said, "My two sons-in-law have arrived early. My two sons-in-law are very tired, bring my fan for me to fan my two sons-in-law". Yeu-rang's two daughters brought him the fan. Yeu-rang said,

"Fan once, and pitch upon my yellow moor,  
Fan again, and pitch upon my red cliff".

But now Yeu-rang could not fan them away. Then the two Miao lads took out their fan and said,

"Fan once, and fan father-in-law on to the yellow moor,  
Fan again, and fan father-in-law on to the red cliff".

So now Yeu-rang was fanned away by the Miao lads on to the red cliff, and the two Miao lads took Yeu-rang's two daughters as their brides.