

M499
The song of Nggu-nza and Ndrael-jio-shi-nang.

Singer not recorded.

This year we may know,
Know for certain that the woman Bu-ba has had a daughter,
And know also that the man Ba-li-byu is nurturing a son.

5 The woman Bu-ba having no way of finding a name,
The woman Bu-ba took her daughter and called her Nggu-nza.
The man Ba-li-byu having no way of finding a name,
Took his eldest son and called him Ndrael-jio-shi-nang .

10 When the woman Bu-ba was busy joining her hemp strands,
She took Nggu-nza to accompany her joining hemp strands.
When the man Ba-li-byu was busy at his farm work,
He took Ndrael-jio-shi-nang to accompany him farming.

15 When the woman Bu-ba was busy making hemp yarn,
She took Nggu-nza to accompany her making her hemp yarn.
When the man Ba-li-byu was busy with his important tasks,
He took Ndrael-jio-shi-nang to accompany him in his important tasks.

Now the woman Bu-ba took Nggu-nza accompanying her to be taught books,
While the man Ba-li-byu took Ndrael-jio-shi-nang accompanying him to be
taught farming.

20 Thus there came a day when the woman Bu-ba could take,
Take legal documents for Nggu-nza to tackle,
But the man Ba-li-byu took,
Took the man Ba-li-byu's farming for Ndrael-jio-shi-nang to learn.

25 So there came a day when Nggu-nza using,
Using her stone tablet wrote.
Wrote upon it of all kinds of matters that concerned the people.
The day also came when the man Ba-li-byu taught,
Taught, while Ndrael-jio-shi-nang learned, to snare all kinds of game and birds.

Thus Nggu-nza would carry,
Carry her stone tablet out to sit in the shade,
And write on it all kinds of matters that concerned the people.

30 Meanwhile Ndrael-jio-shi-nang was out hunting,
And set up a snare out in the scrubland.
Nggu-nza heard the commotion
And Nggu-nza was frightened.

35 So Nggu-nza rose hurriedly and fled,
Fled home as quickly as she could run.
But Nggu-nza left behind,

- Left Nggu-nza's stone tablet there in the shade.
When Ndrael-jio-shi-nang reached,
Reached the place where Nggu-nza hid in the shade,
40 Ndrael-jio-shi-nang picked up,
Picked up Nggu-nza's stone tablet and brought it away.
- The day came when people sent messages to ask,
To ask Nggu-nza to come as a bride.
- But Nggu-nza said,
45 "With any bachelor son among the people,
Unless he suits my idea, I will not go.
- What I want is someone among the people to bring,
To bring me a stone tablet to check,
If it tallies with my stone tablet, then I shall be willing to go"
- 50 When Ndrael-jio-shi-nang heard it,
Ndrael-jio-shi-nang, smiling broadly, brought,
Brought Ndrael-jio-shi-nang's stone tablet to be checked,
To be checked against Nggu-nza's stone tablet.
- Ndrael-jio-shi-nang's stone tablet fitted exactly,
55 Fitted exactly with Nggu-nza's stone tablet.
So Nggu-nza could make no excuse,
But acquiesced, and together with,
With Ndrael-jio-shi-nang made a family to live.
- The trouble was that Nggu-nza was truly pretty,
60 So Ndrael-jio-shi-nang watched,
Sat and watched Nggu-nza each day,
In fact sat and watched Nggu-nza for two months!
- Now the people were all busy ploughing,
Why then was Ndrael-jio-shi-nang ploughing?
65 Accordingly Nggu-nza said,
"The people are busy ploughing,
Why is Ndrael-jio-shi-nang not ploughing too?"
- Ndrael-jio-shi-nang made reply,
Replied to Nggu-nza and said,
- 70 "Nggu-nza, you are pretty, so very pretty,
You are pretty and so good to see,
Ndrael-jio-shi-nang wants to admire you all day,
Wants to admire you all night.
You make Ndrael-jio-shi-nang too lazy to go ploughing!"
- 75 Nggu-nza rose immediately and took,
Took two sheets of white paper and drew,
Drew pictures of her pretty self,
Drew them for Ndrael-jio-shi-nang to carry and go ploughing.

- 80 So Ndراو-جو-شی-ننگ ploughed,
Ploughed energetically over there.
Then Ndراو-جو-شی-ننگ hung
Hung one sheet of paper up over there.
With a broad smile Ndراو-جو-شی-ننگ looked at it.
- 85 Having hung the other sheet over here,
Ndراو-جو-شی-ننگ ploughed energetically back over here.
With a broad smile Ndراو-جو-شی-ننگ studied it,
Looking at the picture of Nggu-nza's pretty self.
- 90 Thus Ndراو-جو-شی-ننگ ploughed,
Ploughed on until time for morning meal.
When he loosed the ox to come in for breakfast,
Ndراو-جو-شی-ننگ collected the one sheet over here,
But left the other sheet over there.
- 95 Ndراو-جو-شی-ننگ arrived home
And ate his breakfast. Having had a good meal,
He remembered the sheet of paper he had forgotten to collect.
So Ndراو-جو-شی-ننگ returned to pick it up.
- 100 But a strong wind did no good,
A strong wind blew up,
Blowing Nggu-nza's white paper, flying and fluttering, till it landed,
Landed beside the Chinese king's road.
- Retainers and soldiers of the Ruling Race picked it up and took it away,
Giving it to the Chinese king to look at.
The Chinese king said,
“How is that Nggu-nza can be as pretty as this?”
- 105 So the Chinese king sent,
Sent his retainers and soldiers to come back and seek,
Seek for Nggu-nza there,
There in the people's neighbourhood and village.
- 110 When Ndراو-جو-شی-ننگ came to hear it,
What should he do for the best?
Ndراو-جو-شی-ننگ took Nggu-nza and hid her,
Hid her out of sight in the bottom of a grain-bin.
- 115 The retainers and soldiers of the Ruling Race sought, but did not see her,
The retainers and soldiers sought, but did not find her.
So the retainers and soldiers of the Ruling Race returned and reported,
Reported everything to the Chinese king.
- 120 “We sought Nggu-nza but did not find her,
We sought Nggu-nza but did not see her”.
But the Chinese king said,
“It will be well if you go back quickly and seek,

- Seek Nggu-nza and find her!”
 Now Ndراo-jio-shi-nang had been building,
 A small house for keeping his chicken
 And a small house for keeping his pigs.
 125 But Ndراo-jio-shi-nang took Ngu-nza and hid her in a little hut.
- When the retainers and soldiers of the Ruling Race came seeking,
 Seeking in the people’s neighbourhood and village,
 Seeking through the village from bottom to top.
 They sought Nggu-nza but did not see her,
 130 They sought Nggu-nza but did not find her.
- While the sky remained constant,
 The Chinese king came to hear,
 To hear that Nggu-nza might be found,
 There in the new chicken house or pigsty.
- 135 So the retainers and soldiers of the Ruling Race sought,
 Sought for Nggu-nza in the chicken house,
 And sought for Nggu-nza in the pigsty.
 The retainers and soldiers sought Nggu-nza but failed to find her,
 They sought Nggu-nza but did not see her.
- 140 So the retainers and soldiers of the Ruling Race returned and reached,
 Reached the neighbourhood of the Chinese king’s city.
- They said to the Chinese king,
 “We sought for Nggu-nza but did not find her,
 We sought for Nggu-nza but did not see her.
- 145 She was not in the chicken house
 And she was not in the pigsty”.
- The Chinese king went back to think out,
 To think out his master plan.
 The Chinese king dispatched a seller of needles and thread
 150 To go and hawk needles and thread in the people’s village.
- The dogs are barking and snarling, barking at what?
 They are barking at the seller of needles and thread climbing through the village.
 Now Nggu-nza dashed out to buy needles,
 And the Ruling Race caught her,
 155 They finally managed to catch Nggu-nza.
- Nggu-nza said,
 “It is all because Ndراo-jio-shi-nang was so lazy
 That this has befallen Nggu-nza!”
 Then Nggu-nza said,
- 160 “For this couple, maid and youth, the way,
 The way has been only sunshine until today,
 But a day will come when you will ask the way,
 And you will come following after”.

- Then Nggu-nza instructed,
165 Instructed Ndrao-jio-shi-nang to go and snare game and birds of all kinds,
Taking the skins of the game and birds to wear,
To wear and follow after Nggu-nza.
- Where did Ndrao-jio-shi-nang go to snare game and birds?
He went to the Ndu-nzhi-gu forest.
170 But the Ruling Race took Nggu-nza and, returning, went back and reached,
Reached the Chinese king's neighbourhood and city.
- There Nggu-nza lived in the Chinese king's palace,
Wearing the Chinese king's silk.
She ate rice from fine silver bowls,
175 And white pork from fine bowls of gold.
- She drank clear water from fine silver bowls,
But when she thought of Ndrao-jio-shi-nang,
And the sunlit road the two had travelled together,
Bitter tears fell from Nggu-nza's eyes,
180 And her anguish of heart was inconsolable.
- While the sky remained constant,
Ndrao-jio-shi-nang was snaring,
Snakes, birds and game for food,
And from the skins he made clothes to wear.
- 185 So Ndrao-jio-shi-nang followed,
Followed Nggu-nza and went,
Went and reached the Chinese king's neighbourhood and city,
And, clad in his clothes of animal skins, he went up to the market place.
- The Chinese king's retainers and soldiers saw him,
190 Saw Ndrao-jio-shi-nang going up to the market place in his clothing of skins,
And the retainers and soldiers said,
“Whatever creature is it that has arrived here?”
- They called Nggu-nza to come and look,
And Nggu-nza burst out laughing.
195 At this the Chinese king said,
- “Nggu-nza is living in the king's palace,
With rice to eat from fine silver bowls,
And clear water to drink from bowls of fine silver.
- She has white pork to eat in fine golden bowls,
200 And silks to wear all bright and new,
Yet Nggu-nza is unwilling to smile.
- But at some creature, whatever it is,
Dressed up in animal skins,
Nggu-nza bursts out laughing!”

205 The Chinese king continued,
“For the king wearing beautiful clothes of silk and satin,
Nggu-nza is unwilling to smile.

210 Why, when some creature or other,
Dressed in animal skins turns up,
Does Nggu-nza behave like this?”

Thus Nggu-nza responded,
“You take off your clothes of silk and satin and exchange them,
Exchange them for the animal skins the creature, what ever it is, is wearing,
Then look and see what Nggu-nza will do”.

215 So the Chinese king took off,
Took off his clothes of silk and satin and exchanged,
Exchanged them for the animal skins.

220 The Chinese king took off,
Took off his clothes of silk and satin,
For Ndراo-jio-shi-nang to put on.

225 Then Nggu-nza said,
Speaking to the Chinese king.
“Now you run to the gap up there,
Then, returning, run back again
And see what Nggu-nza will do”.

Meanwhile Nggu-nza had pushed,
Pushed Ndراo-jio-shi-nang away into the Chinese king’s palace.

230 When the Chinese king, returning, came back and arrived,
Nggu-nza had called out,
Called out the retainers and soldiers to come and kill,
Kill the Chinese king and make an end.

235 So Nggu-nza and Ndراo-jio-shi-nang lived,
Lived in the Chinese king’s house.
They administered the surrounding country and established it,
They regulated the surrounding country and secured it.

Thus it is ended.