Hua-Miao Archive
Songs and Stories

Narratives

Creatures wise and creatures foolish and Stories of man and the animals
Songs M401 to M426
Introduction, Translation, Transcription and Notes

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M401

The wise toad.

Told by Wang Ming-ji.

Introduction.

This story was widely known and often told. It is one of the many Miao tales in which the weaker animal gets the better of the stronger by using its wits. In this version of the story, the toad challenged the crow to match his story with something equally clever, like an exchange of riddles. The toad's saying, "Toads do not eat salt so toad's eyes bulge", does not reflect any popular belief that lack of salt affects the eyes in this way. The Miao did recognise, however, that salt deficiency was a contributory cause of goitre. It is just possible, therefore, that at some stage this story concerned a bulging neck, not bulging eyes, and the creature concerned was a frog rather than a toad.

The point of the crow's response reflects the Miao custom of making thick felt capes from natural coloured wool. These were worn as overcoats in cold weather and served as bedding at night.

The crow's final cry, an imitation of the crow's cawing, was also a Chinese colloquial expression, common in Yunnan, meaning "all in vain", "it is all for nothing" or "it is useless".

M401

The wise toad.

Told by Wang Ming-ji

They say that a crow happened to meet a toad. The crow said, "Toad, I am going to eat you!" The toad replied, "Very well, but my flesh is bitter. If you are going to eat me you ought to carry me over yonder, to the stream, to the edge of the pool, wash me in the water and then you can eat me". The crow answered the toad, "Toad, I am going to eat you, so there!" The toad said, "Before you eat me let me tell you a story, please!" Then the toad continued,

"Toads do not eat salt
So toads' eyes bulge!"

The crow said,

"Crows keep black sheep,
So crows' capes are black!"

The crow stretched his head up and laughed, "ha, ha!" like this. The toad jumped suddenly away and dropped into the pool. The crow made as though he would wade into the water to look for the toad, but he could not find him. The crow just stretched his head up and cawed,

"ah, ah, be-la-la!
ah, ah, be-la-la!"

M401

Y˗ ꞓᵑˢ Lᵘ Lᵑ ꓖᵤ ꓛ" Tᵒ̌.
toad pimpled who wise.

ꓒᵓ ꓷᵑ ꓖᵤ Tᵘ Lᵑ Y˗ Ɔᵢᵢ ꓒꞒʳ Tᵛ ꓞᵑˢ
they say that the crow went met the toad

Lᵘ Lᵑ. Tᵘ Lᵑ Y˗ ꓷᵑ, ꓞᵑˢ, J̆ Ā ꓒᵎ ꓞᵓ
pimpled. the crow said, toad, I want eat your

ꓒꓛˈ. Tᵛ Y˗ ꓞᵑˢ ꓷᵑ, ꓞᵓ Ā ꓒᵎ ꓖᵘ ꓒꓛˈ, Vᵑᑦ
meat. the toad said, you want eat my meat, but

J̆ ꓒꓛˈ Yᐦ T˗ Tᵑᑦ. ꓞᵓ ꓞ˗ Ā ꓒᵎ J̆ ꓒꓛˈ,
my meat bitter very. you if want eat my meat,

5 Ā Tᵣ J̆ Δ˗ ꓒTᵘ, Lᵛ ꓒTᵘ Δᵑ, Lᵛ
must carry me go to yonder, the stream the

Y˗ ꓒTᵘ ꓛᵢᵢ Y", Cɬ Y" Tᵤ T˗ Lᵑᑦ ꓒᵎ
bank pool water, wash water then presently eat

Tᵎ J̆ ꓒꓛˈ. Tᵘ Lᵑ Y˗ ꓞᵑ Tᵘ Y˗ ꓞᵑˢ ꓞᵑ
get my meat. the crow replied the toad replied

T˗, ꓞᵑˢ J̆ Ā ꓒᵎ ꓞᵓ ꓒꓛˈ Tᵭ
responded, toad, I want eat your meat finish

Lᵢ. Tᵛ ꓞᵑˢ ꓞᵑ T˗, ꓞᵓ J̄’ ꓒᵑᑦ
so there. the toad replied responded, you not yet

10 ꓒᵎ Tᵑ, ꓞᵓ Tₒ J̆ ꓷᵑ ꓛᵑ Tᵢᵢ Jˈᵓ ꓞᵓ ꓶᵒ.
eat yet, you wait I say story show you then.

Tᵛ ꓞᵑˢ ꓞᵑ T˗, Y˗ ꓞᵑˢ ꓶᵑ ꓒᵎ ꓒꞒ̓,
the toad replied responded, toad not eat salt,

Y˗ ꓞᵑˢ Y˗ Ɔ˗ Yᵒ. Lᵑ Y˗ ꓷᵑ, Lᵑ Y˗ Λᵤ Λᵭ
toad eyes swell. crow said, crow pastures sheep

Δᵘ, Lᵑ Y˗ ꓒꓛ˗ ꓞᵓ Δᵘ. Tᵛ Lᵑ Y˗ ꓞᵭ
black, crow wears cape black. the crow stretched

Lᵛ Lᵑ Γ" Tᵎ ꓛᵑ Jˇ Δₒ ꓷ˗ ꓷ˗, Lᵑ Ꮯ̊.
the head toward upward laughed ha ha, like this.

15 Tᵕ ⊏ᵑᶜ Δ’ᵑᶜ Δ̊’ ⅃ᵢᵢ Lᵕ ⅃ᵢᵢ Yᵢᵢ
the toad jumped hopped down into the pool water

Lᶜ. Tᵕ Lᵑ Y⁻ Y⁻ ⅂ᵤ ⊏ᵓ Yᵢᵢ ⊂Ī̄’ Tᵕ
gone. the crow made was wade water seek the

⊏ᵑᶜ, ⊂Ī̄’ ⅂ᵑ Tᵢᵢ. Tᵕ Lᵑ Y⁻ Lᵑ Ɔᵤ ⊏ᵟ
toad, sought not get. the crow simply stretched

Lᵑ Γᵢᵢ ɟ⁻ ⅂ᵑ, Y⁻ Y⁻, ⅃ᵓ L⁻ L⁻, Y⁻ Y⁻,
head cawed said, ah ah, all for nothing, ah ah,

⅃ᵓ L⁻ L⁻.
all for nothing.

M401

The wise toad.

Told by Wang Ming-ji.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 1, page 1).

M402
The raven and the toad.

Told by Yang Ya-go.

Introduction.

The title of this story was supplied, in English, by the Rev. Samuel Pollard. The Miao name of the bird was translated for him into Chinese, and the Chinese word can mean both crow and raven. Since he chose the latter, although the former is much more likely, "raven" has been used throughout in this translation.

The story differs from Wang Ming-ji's version in that the element of competition is absent, and the meaning of the couplets has been changed by the introduction of a negative. However, the final result is the same, and so is the.raven's exclamation of frustration at the end, which in colloquial Chinese means, "All that for nothing", and which Pollard paraphrased, "What a fraud!"

M402

The raven and the toad.

Told by Yang Ya-go.

A raven went and met a toad. The raven wanted to eat him, but the toad said, "If you want to eat my flesh, it is very bitter, so you will need to wash it with water". The toad continued, "Raven, you had better carry me to the stream and wash me in the water there". The raven carried the toad and reached the water's edge. He was about to eat him when the toad said, "Before you eat me, let me tell you a story". The toad went on,

"Ravens do not keep black sheep,
Yet ravens wear black capes.
Toads eat no salt,
Yet toads' eyes bulge".

The raven laughed, looking up at the sky, and the toad jumped over the edge into the pool of water. The raven searched for the toad, cawing,

"Ah, ah, be-la-la!"

M402

Ꭲᵕ Ꮮᑊ Ꮍ⁻ ᏣᏆₒ Ꭲᵕ Ꮥᑫᐧ.
the raven with the toad.

Ꭲᵕ Ꮮᑊ Ꮍ⁻ Ɔᵢᵢ ᏣᏕᐟ Ꭲ⁻ Ꮥᑫᐧ. Ꭲᵕ Ꮮᑊ Ꮍ⁻ Ꭿ̄
the raven went met the toad. the raven wanted

Ꮳᵢᵢ Ꭲ⁻ Ꮥᑫᐧ ᏣᏗˈ. Ꭲ⁻ Ꮥᑫᐧ Ꮑᑊ, Ꮥᓄ Ꮥ⁻ Ꮳᵢᵢ
eat the toad meat. the toad said, you if eat

ᒍ̆ ᏣᏗˈ, ᒍ̆ ᏣᏗˈ Ꮍᐦ Ꭲ⁻ Tₙᓫ Ꭿ̄ ᒧᵤ ᏣᏖ₋ Ꮍᵢᵢ.
my meat, my meat bitter very must wash water.

Ꭲ⁻ Ꮥᑫᐧ Ꮑᑊ, Ꭲᵕ Ꮮᑊ Ꮍ⁻ Ꮥᓄ Ꭿ̄ Ꮖᵣ ᒍ̆
the toad said, the raven, you must carry me

5 Ꭰ⁻ ᏣᎢᵕ Ꭰᑊ Ꮍᵢᵢ ᏣᏖ₋ Ꮍᵢᵢ. Ꭲᵕ Ꮮᑊ Ꮍ⁻
go to stream water go wash water. the raven

Ꮖᵣ Ꭲ⁻ Ꮥᑫᐧ ᏣᏕₙₗ Ꮍ⁻ ᏣᎢᵕ Ꮍᵢᵢ, Ꭲᵕ Ꮮᑊ Ꮍ⁻
carried the toad arrived edge water, the raven

Ꭿ̄ Ꮳᵢᵢ Ꭲ⁻ Ꮥᑫᐧ Tᵭ. Ꭲ⁻ Ꮥᑫᐧ Ꮑᑊ, Ꮥᓄ
wanted eat the toad finish. the toad said, you

Ꮀ̄’ Ꮳᑊᓫ Ꮳᵢᵢ, ᒍ̆ Ꮑᑊ ᒧᑊ Tᵢᵢ Ꮧˀ Ꮥᓄ. Ꭲ⁻ Ꮥᑫᐧ
before eat, I say story show you. the toad

Ꮑᑊ, Ꮮᑊ Ꮍ⁻ Ꭲᑊ ᐱᓭ Ꭿᵟ Ꭰᵕ, Ꮮᑊ Ꮍ⁻
said, raven not pasture sheep black, ravens

10 Ꮳᒧ⁻ Ꮥᔆ Ꭰᵕ, Ꮍ⁻ Ꮥᑫᐧ Ꭲᑊ Ꮳᵢᵢ ᏣᏕ̌, Ꮍ⁻ Ꮥᑫᐧ
wear capes black, toads not eat salt, toads

Ꮍ⁻ Ɔ⁻ Ꮍ°. Ꭲᵕ Ꮮᑊ Ꮍ⁻ Ꭰₒ Ꮳ₋ Ꮖᵢᵢ Ꮀᵢᵢ ᏣᎢᵕ.
eyes bulge. the raven laughed, looked to sky.

Ꭲ⁻ Ꮥᑫᐧ Ꭰ’ᑊᓫ Ꭰ⁻ ᏣᎢᵕ Lᵕ ᒧᵢᵢ Ꮍᵢᵢ Lᔭ.
the toad jump go to edge the pool water gone.

Ꭲᵕ Ꮮᑊ Ꮍ⁻ ᏣᏕ̄’ Ꭲ⁻ Ꮥᑫᐧ. Ꭲᵕ Ꮮᑊ Ꮍ⁻ Ꮀ⁻,
the raven sought the toad. the raven cawed,

Ꮍ⁻, Ꮍ⁻, ᒧᔭ Lˉ Lˉ.
ah, ah, all for nothing.

M402
The raven and the toad.

Told by Yang Ya-go.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document J (no. 4, page 11).

This was one of a small group of stories and songs which Rev. Samuel Pollard wrote in his diary in 1911. At that time the Miao script was still being evolved. The text used in this translation is as Pollard recorded it, but the script has been up-dated to the final standard form. The style of the Miao gives the impression that Yang Ya-go was simplifying his sentences to make it easier for Pollard to write it down.

M403

The foolish tiger.

Told by Wang Ming-ji.

Introduction.

This is a straightforward story, but three short comments will assist in understanding it.

Between the area occupied by the Miao in Yunnan and the Province of Sichuan lay several hundred miles of mountainous country. It is therefore not surprising that the tiger was incredulous when the toad announced that that was where he intended going.

In the first section of the story, having bounded over the gully the tiger turned around to call to the toad, and in so doing lifted the latter, still clinging to his tail, to a point well beyond the place where the tiger had landed. Hence his admission of the toad's superior skill in jumping.

In the final section, the wood ashes which the deer put on the tiger's paw were not hot, that would have wakened him, but, left on the flesh between the pads, for several hours it contained sufficient potash to burn.

M403
The foolish tiger.

Told by Wang Ming-ji.

They say that a toad wanted to go to Sichuan and happened to meet a tiger. The tiger said, "Toad, where are you going?" Toad replied, "I am going to Sichuan". The tiger said, "Toad, you silly creature, you are never going to Sichuan! Mother! Where will you be going next?" The toad said to the tiger, "If you don't believe me, come let us compete in jumping over the gully". The tiger said, "You jump across first, toad". The toad replied, "You are big, you jump first". The tiger bounded over the gully, but the toad, clinging to the tiger's tail, also jumped clean over. The tiger said, "Jump over, then, toad". The toad replied, you are nearly treading on me!" So the tiger could not jump like the toad, and the tiger said, "I can't jump like you, toad".

The toad said to the tiger, "Since you cannot jump as well as I can, let the two of us go in search of game and compare results by throwing up. The tiger went in search and ran all day until evening. He found nothing to eat but picked up a blade of grass and swallowed it. The toad just crawled down the bank on the lower side of the road where he saw a patch of large yellow mushrooms, which he gulped and gulped down. When the toad and the tiger met, the tiger told the toad to throw up, but the toad said, "You are big, you throw up first. The tiger urged and urged until the tears ran down his face, but brought up only a blade of grass. So the tiger said, "Toad, you throw up then". The toad brought up a lumpy mass of yellow mushrooms. The tiger said, "What is that, toad?" The toad replied, "This is your mother's and your father's eyes!" the tiger was frightened and began wriggling away, but the toad wriggled after him. "I didn't sort it over properly and got the tiger hair mixed in!" The tiger was so frightened that he got up and fled.

As he ran he met a deer. The deer said, "What are you running from, old man tiger?" Old man tiger replied, "Toad and I went in search of game and to compare results by throwing up. Well, I went in search and ran all day until evening, but found nothing what ever to eat. All I had was a blade of grass, Toad and I came back to compare results by throwing up. I brought up a blade of grass, then toad threw up, and what he brought up was as yellow as could be. I asked him what it was, and toad replied that it was my mother's and my father's eyes. That is why I am afraid and am running away". The deer said, "Well, tonight you have reached me here. Tonight the two of us can sleep here together, but you won't go touching my horns will you, for my horns can burn a person's hand". The deer made as though he was sound asleep, and the tiger crept quietly over and touched one of his horns. It was quite cold, so, reassured, the tiger went to sleep. When he was asleep the deer got up and took some ashes from the fire and put them on the tiger's front paw. When morning came the tiger and the deer got up, but the tiger was covering his front paw. The deer said, "Old man tiger, what is the matter with your hand?" The tiger replied, "There is nothing the matter with it". The deer said, "To be sure, last night you went touching my horn and now you have burnt your hand!"

M403

ꓔᵕ ꓓ ꓖᵤ ꓶⁿ ꓛ" ꓔᵹ.
the tiger who not wise.

ꓒɔ ꓶₙ ꓖᵤ ꓔᵕ ꓓₙₓ ꓶᵘ ꓶₙ ꓥ ꓥ⁻
they say that the toad pimpled wanted go to

Vꞌꞌ ꓔⁿ. ꓔꞌꞌ ꓝ꞉ ꓒꓓᵣ ꓔᵕ ꓓ. ꓔᵕ ꓓ ꓶₙ,
Sichuan. get go meet the tiger. the tiger said,

ꓓₙₓ, ꓓɔ ꓥ ꓥ⁻ ꓖ’ ꓔᵓ. ꓓₙₓ ꓶₙ, ꓖᵘ ꓥ
toad, you want go to where. toad said, I want

ꓥ⁻ Vꞌꞌ ꓔⁿ. ꓔᵕ ꓓ ꓶₙ, ꓔᵕ ꓓₙₓ ꓓɔ
go to Sichuan. the tiger said, the toad, you

5 ꓔᵘ Y⁻ ꓕ₋ ꓒ̊, ꓶⁿ ꓥ⁻ Vꞌꞌ ꓔⁿ ꓝ⁻, ꓒⁿᶜ,
fool this, not go to Sichuan then, mother,

ꓥ ꓥ⁻ ꓖ’ ꓔᵓ. ꓔᵕ Y⁻ ꓓₙₓ ꓒꓕₒ ꓔᵕ ꓓ ꓶₙ,
want go to where. the toad with the tiger said,

ꓓɔ ꓓ⁻ ꓶⁿ ꓒꓓᵏ ꓝ⁻, ꓔ- Y⁻ ꓶᵏ
you if not believe then, come two classifier

ꓶⁿ ꓔᵤ ꓥ’ⁿᶜ Y⁻ ꓓᵓ. ꓔᵕ ꓓ ꓶₙ, ꓓɔ Sᵘ
compete jump gully. the tiger said, you first

ꓥ’ⁿᶜ ꓛ⁻, ꓓₙₓ. ꓔᵕ ꓓₙₓ ꓶₙ, ꓓɔ ꓮ°,
jump exclamation, toad. the toad said, you big,

10 ꓓɔ Sᵘ ꓥ’ⁿᶜ. ꓔᵕ ꓓ ꓥ’ⁿᶜ ꓒꓛ꞉ ꓶᵕ Y⁻ ꓓᵓ.
you first jump. the tiger jump bound the gully.

ꓔᵕ ꓓₙₓ ꓷₙᶜ ꓔᵕ ꓓ ꓔᵕ Y⁻ ꓒ⊦ᵹ ꓥ’ⁿᶜ
the toad cling to the tiger the tail jump

ꓔₙ ꓶꞁ. ꓔᵕ ꓓ ꓶₙ, ꓥ’ⁿᶜ ꓔ- ꓝ⁻,
crossed gone. the tiger said, jump come then,

ꓓₙₓ. ꓓₙₓ ꓶₙ, ꓓɔ ꓥ ꓛ" ꓓᵘ ꓖ
toad. toad said, you will get tread on me

ꓔᵹ ꓝ⁻. ꓔᵕ ꓓ ꓥ’ⁿᶜ ꓶⁿ ꓛ" ꓔᵕ Y⁻ ꓓₙₓ.
finish then. the tiger jump not get the toad.

ꓕᵛ ꓛ̊ ꓶₙ, ꓙ̆ ꓥ’ⁿᶜ ꓶⁿ ꓕ" ꓚↄ ꓕɞ,
the tiger said, I jump not get you finish,

ꓚₙₖ.
toad.

ꓕᵛ ꓽ⁻ ꓚₙₖ ꓒꓶₒ ꓕᵛ ꓛ̊ ꓶₙ, ꓚↄ ꓚ⁻ ꓥ’ⁿᶜ ꓶⁿ
the toad with the tiger said, you if jump not

ꓕ" ꓙ̆ ꓕɞ ꓚₙ, ꓽ⁻ ꓶᵡ ↄ„ ꓒꓤ̄’ ꓒꓙˈ
get me finish thus, two classifier go seek game

ꓒ", ꓶₒ ꓒꓔ̄ ꓶⁿ ꓙ’ʔ. ꓕᵛ ꓛ̊ ꓶ⁻
eat, come sick show one another. the tiger and

ꓕᵛ ꓚₙₖ ꓶⁿ ꓒꓶₒ ↄ„ ꓒꓤ̄’ ꓒꓙˈ ꓶₒ ꓒ" ꓒꓔ̄
the toad together went seek game come eat sick

ꓶⁿ ꓙ’ʔ. ꓕᵛ ꓛ̊ ↄ„ ꓒꓤ̄’, ꓷɞ ꓽⁿ
show one another. the tiger went seek, ran one

’ᑕᵘ ’Ↄ° ᑕᵀᵤ, ᑕꓤ̄’ ꓶⁿ ꓕ" ᑕꓚᵣ ꓙ⁻ ꓽ⁻ ꓙʳ ᑕ". ꓕᵛ
day night, seek not get none anything eat. the

ꓛ̊ ꓕ" ꓽⁿ ꓮ⁻ ᑕꓙᵡ ᑕ" ꓶₒ. ꓕᵛ ꓽ⁻ ꓚₙₖ
tiger get one blade grass eat come. the toad

ꓶⁿ ꓶᵡ ꓟ„ ꓮᵛ ꓙᵟ ꓛ̊ ꓶᵩ ꓕ⁻. ꓕᵛ
crawled go down the bottom road gone only. the

ꓽ⁻ ꓚₙₖ ꓟₒ ꓽⁿ ꓖ„ ꓽ⁻ ᑕᵐᶜ ᑕꓚⁿ Vɞ. ꓕᵛ
toad saw one patch large mushroom yellow. the

ꓽ⁻ ꓚₙₖ ꓥ’₋ ᑕꓙₒ ꓥ’₋ ᑕꓙₒ ꓕɞ. ꓕᵛ ꓽ⁻ ꓚₙₖ ꓕᵛ ꓛ̊
toad gulped gulped finish. the toad the tiger

ꓷᵤ ꓶₒ ꓶⁿ ꓮↄ. ꓕᵛ ꓛ̊ ꓶₙ ꓖₒ
then came met together. the tiger said cause

ꓕᵛ ꓚₙₖ ᑕꓔ̄. ꓕᵛ ꓽ⁻ ꓚₙₖ ꓶₙ, ꓚↄ ꓵ° ꓚↄ
the toad sick. the toad said, you big you

Sᵘ ᑕꓔ̄. ꓕᵛ ꓛ̊ ᑕꓔ̄ ꓖᵤ ᑕꓔ̄ ꓟᵤ ꓖ⁻
first sick. the tiger sick that sick flow fluid

ↄ⁻ ꓕɞ, ᑕꓔ̄ ꓕᵩ ꓽⁿ ꓮ⁻ ᑕꓙᵡ ꓶₒ
eyes finish, sick out one blade grass come

T⁻. Tᵕ C̊ Tᵕ ˥ₙ, Tᵕ Y⁻ Cₙꜥ Cᵓ CT̄
only. the tiger then said, the toad you sick

Ɔ⁻. Tᵕ Y⁻ Cₙꜥ CT̄ Tꜥ Tᵕ CCⁿ Vᵹ
then. the toad sick out the mushroom yellow

Cₙ Y⁻ Lⁿ Y⁻ Lᵘ. Tᵕ C̊ ˥ₙ, T̊ Vᵕ Ɔᵘ
thus all lumpy. the tiger said, that there is

J̄ Jʳ, Cₙꜥ. Tᵕ Y⁻ Cₙꜥ ˥ₙ, J̆ T̊ C̊ Ɔᵘ
what, toad. the toad said my that this is

Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ Cᵓ Vᵕ ϯʳ Lᵘ Ɔ⁻. Tᵕ C̊
your mother your father the eyes. the tiger

CC'ᵢ. Tᵕ C̊ Y⁻ Cⁿᶜ ˥ⁿ Lᵓ T⁻ L̆ L̆ J̆.
feared. the tiger great wriggled the while flee.

Tᵕ Y⁻ Cₙꜥ ˥ⁿ Lᵓ ϯᵒ Y⁻ Jᵓ. Tᵕ Cₙꜥ ˥ₙ,
the toad wriggled follow behind. the toad said,

J̆ S̊ ˥ⁿ Ʒ" Y⁻ Lⁿ CTᵒ Δ" C̊.
I chose not good make like with hair tiger.

Tᵕ C̊ CC'ᵢ, Tᵕ C̊ J̊ J̆.
the tiger feared, the tiger arose fled.

J̆ Ɔ" CCʳ T⁻ Lⁿ Ɔ". T⁻ Lⁿ Ɔ" ˥ₙ, Cᵓ J̆
fled go met the deer. the deer said, you flee

Ȳ Jʳ, Λꜥ C̊. Λꜥ C̊ ˥ₙ Cₙꜥ
what, old man tiger. old man tiger said, toad,

Y⁻ Lᵓ Ɔ" CT̿' CJᵢ C", Lᵒ CT̄
two classifier went seek game eat, come sick

˥ⁿ J'ᵓ C̄, J̆ Tᵹ Ɔ" CT̿' Yⁿ
show one another therefore, I ran went seek one

'Cᵘ 'Ɔ° CTᵘ, ˥ⁿ T" CCᵣ J⁻ Y⁻ Jʳ C". J̆ C"
day night, not get none anything eat. I ate

Yⁿ ϯ⁻ CJᵓ T⁻. Cₙꜥ Y⁻ Lᵓ Lᵒ
one blade grass only. toad two classifier come

CT̄ ˥ⁿ J'ᵓ, J̆ CT̄ Tꜥ Yⁿ ϯ⁻
sick show one another, I sick out one blade

ᑕᒧᐣ. ᒪᓂᖅ ᑐᓄ ᑕᒃ, ᑕᒃ ᑐᖅ ᑎᑯ ᒍᓄ
grass. toad then sick, sick out that was

ᐯᙆ ᔆᐩ ᐯᓄ ᒪᓄ. ᒍᑉ ᑕᓄ ᒪᓂᖅ, ᑎᑉ ᐯᓅ ᒍᓄ
yellow very come. I asked toad, that there is

ᕒ ᒧᒻ. ᒪᓂᖅ ᒣᑦ ᒪᑎ ᑎᒃ, ᒍᑉ ᑕᑦᓱ ᒍᐩ ᐯᓅ
what. toad said replied, my mother my father

50 ᕆᒻ ᒪᐩ ᑐᒃ, ᑲ ᒍᑉ ᑕᒪᐠ, ᑲ ᒍᑉ ᒍᐠ.
the eyes, therefore I fear, therefore I flee.

ᑎᒃ ᒪᑎ ᒍᑊ ᒣᑦ, ᒪᒃ ᒪᑎ ᐊᑐ° ᑲ ᒪᓕ ᒪᓂ ᑕᒪᕼ
the deer said, since tonight you come arrive

ᐯᓅ ᒍᑉ ᑕᑎ, ᐊᑐ° ᑲ ᕒᐩ ᒪᓕ ᒣᑎᓂ
at me here, tonight two classifier together

ᒧᐟ ᑕᑎ, ᕒᑎ ᐯᑦᑕ ᒪᓕ ᕀᒃ ᔆᔆ ᒍᑉ ᒣᐩ ᑎᐠ ᑕᐠ
sleep here, but you must not touch my horns

ᑎᑦ ᒣᐩ. ᒍᑉ ᑎᒃ ᒍᐩ ᕆᖅ ᒍᐩ ᑎᐠ ᑕᐠ
at all exclamation. my horns can burn people

55 ᑎᑦ. ᑎᒃ ᒪᑎ ᒍᑊ ᕒᑦ ᒍᓄ ᕒᐩ ᑎᑊ ᒧᐟ ᒪᖅ.
hand. the deer made was very get sleep gone.

ᑎᐠ ᑭᒃ ᑕᒍᙆ ᑎᒃ ᒪᓂ ᐯᓄ ᑐᕼ ᔆᔆ ᑎᒃ ᒪᑎ ᒍᑊ
the tiger crawled quietly went touched the deer

ᕆᐠ ᒍᐩ ᒪᑦ ᕆᑦᓱ ᑎᓄ. ᑎᐠ ᑭᒃ ᒪᐩ
classifier horn thus cold quite. the tiger relax

ᔆᑦᓱ ᒧᐟ. ᑎᐠ ᑭᒃ ᑎᑊ ᒧᐟ ᒪᖅ ᑎᒃ ᒪᑎ ᒍᑊ
heart sleep. the tiger get sleep gone the deer

ᖃᒍ ᒪᓂ ᒪᐠᓂᖅ ᑎᐠ ᕒᒃ ᑕᒪᑦ ᑎᙆ ᒪᐩ ᑎᑊ ᑎᐠ
rose came took the ashes fire placed on the

60 ᑭᒃ ᕆᐠ ᑎᑦ ᒪᑦᓂ. ᑎᙆ ᒪᑦ
tiger classifier hand completed. time thus

ᔆᙆ ᑕᑎᓅ ᒪᓂ ᑎᐠ ᑭᒃ ᒣᒃ ᑎᐠ ᒪᑎ ᒍᑊ ᖃᒍ ᒪᓂ.
morning come the tiger and the deer rose come.

ᑎᐠ ᑭᒃ ᒪᐠᓂᖅ ᑎᐠ ᑭᒃ ᕆᐠ ᑎᑦ ᒪᐠᓂᖅ
the tiger took the tiger classifier hand took

Vᴗ ⊏ⁿᶜ. T⁻ Lⁿ ⊐ᴵᴵ ⅂ₙ, Λᶜ ⊏̊
covered completed. the deer said, old man tiger

⊏ᴐ ϯ’ᵢ Tⁿ Y⁻ ⊏ⁿᵹ C̄. Tᴗ ⊏̊
your classifier hand make how query. the tiger

⅂ₙ, ⊐̆ ϯ’ᵢ Tⁿ ⅂ⁿ ⅃ₒ Y⁻ ⊏ⁿᵹ. T⁻
said, my classifier hand not see make how. the

Lⁿ ⊐ᴵᴵ ⅂ₙ, Yᴗ Tₙᶜ Y⁻ Cᵹ ’Ɔ° ⊏ᴐ Tᴵᴵ S₋ S₋
deer said, very truly, last night you get touch

⊐̆ T⁻ ⊐ᴵ Ɔ’ S̊, C̄ ⊐ᴵ ⊏ᴐ
my horns doubtless, therefore burnt your

ϯ’ᵢ Tⁿ.
classifier hand.

M403
The foolish tiger.

Told by Wang Ming-ji.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 2, page 1).

M404
The toad and the tiger.

Told by Yang Ya-go.

Introduction.

The main difference between the version of this story told by Yang Ya-go and that written by Wang Ming-ji, is that here, the encounter between the tiger and the deer has disappeared. There is no way of determining whether the deer story was an integral part which has been lost from this version, or an extraneous element which has been added to the other.

M404

The toad and the tiger.

Told by Yang Ya-go.

The toad wanted to go to Sichuan. As he went he met a tiger who asked him, "Where are you going?" The toad said, "I am going to Sichuan". The tiger said, "You idiot! How can you possibly get to Sichuan?" The toad said, "Well then, come let us two compete in jumping over the gully". The tiger said to the toad, "You jump on ahead". But the toad said, "You are big, you must jump first, on ahead". So the tiger jumped ahead, but the toad held on to his tail. When the tiger had jumped over the gully, he called, "Come on!" But the toad said, "I am here already".

The toad said to the tiger, "Well then, let us two go in search of game to eat, and then demonstrate our success by throwing up". The tiger went everywhere in search for half a day, but did not find anything at all to eat. He ate just a bit of grass. For his part, the toad found a patch of yellow mushrooms. There he ate, and he ate a lot. When the tiger arrived back, the toad said, "You throw up first". The tiger said, "No, you should throw up". But the toad replied, "You are big, you must throw up first". The tiger urged and urged until he was tired, but all that came forth was a bit of grass. The toad threw up the yellow mushrooms, a great deal indeed. The tiger said, "What is this?" The toad said, "These are your mother and father's eyes!" The tiger was afraid and fled.

M404

the toad with the tiger.

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the toad wanted go to Sichuan. the toad went

met the tiger. the tiger asked the toad said,

you want go to where. the toad said, I want

go to Sichuan. the tiger said, you the person

5 idiot this, you go go to Sichuan get also

how. the toad said, in that case, come two

classifier compete jump gully. the tiger with

the toad said, you jump ahead. the toad said,

you big you must first jump ahead. the tiger

10 jumped ahead, the toad held on the tiger the

tail. the tiger jumped across gully. the tiger

called, come exclamation. the toad said, I

situated here.

the toad with the tiger said, in that case two

15 Lᵡ ↄ꜀ ᑕ̄ᒾ’ ᑕᒣꞏ ᑕ꜀ Lₒ ᑕ̄ ᒣⁿ ᒣ’ʔ.
classifier go seek game eat come sick show.

Tᵤ ᒪ̊ ⊦’⁻ ᒣ̊’ Tᵘ ↄ꜀ ᑕ̄ᒾ’, ᑕ̄ᒾ’ Yⁿ
the tiger every place all went seek, seek one

ᑕIᵒ ’ᑕᵘ, ᑕ̄ᒾ’ ᒣⁿ T꜀ ᑕᒪᵣ ᒣ⁻ ᒣ⁻ Jᶠ ᑕ꜀. ᑕↄ
half day , seek not get at all anything eat. he

ᑕ꜀ Yⁿ ⊦° ᑕᒣᵡ Lₒ. T⁻ ᒪₙₓ Jⁿ
ate one piece grass come. the toad for his part

ᑕↄ ᑕ̄ᒾ’ ᒧₒ Yⁿ ᒣ꜀ ᑕᒪⁿ Vᵒ, ᑕↄ
he sought saw one patch mushrooms yellow, he

20 ᑕ꜀ Ÿ̊, ᑕↄ ᑕ꜀ ᒪⁿᐣ Lₒ. Tᵤ ᒪ̊ Lₒ
ate there, he ate much come. the tiger came

ᑕᒪₙᐣ Tᵒ. T⁻ ᒪₙₓ ᒣₙ, ᒪↄ Sᵘ ᑕ̄.
arrived finish. the toad said, you first sick.

Tᵤ ᒪ̊ ᒣₙ, Ā ᒧᵤ ᒪↄ ᑕ̄. T⁻ ᒪₙₓ
the tiger said, want that you sick. the toad

ᒣₙ, ᒪↄ ᖷ°, Ā ᒧᵤ ᒪↄ Sᵘ ᑕ̄. Tᵤ
said, you big, want that you first sick. the

ᒪ̊ ᑕ̄, ᑕ̄ Δ’₋ Tᵒ, ᒪ⁻ ᒧₒ Yⁿ
tiger sick, sick tired finish, only see one

25 ⊦° ᑕᒧᵡ Tᖽ Lₒ. T⁻ ᒪₙₓ ᑕ̄ Tᖽ
piece grass out come. the toad sick out

ᑕᒪⁿ Vᵒ ᒧᵤ ᒪⁿᐣ T⁻ Tₙᓕ Lₒ. Tᵤ ᒪ̊
mushrooms yellow which much very come. the tiger

ᒣₙ, T̊ ᑕ̊ ᒧᵤ ᒧ⁻ Jᶠ. T⁻ ᒪₙₓ ᒣₙ, T̊ ᑕ̊ ᒧᵤ
said, this is what. the toad said, this is

ᒪↄ ᑕⁿᓕ ᒪↄ Vᵤ ⊦ᶠ Lᵘ ↄ⁻. Tᵤ ᒪ̊
your mother your father the eyes. the tiger

ᑕᒪ’’, Tᵤ ᒪ° ᒧ̊ Lᖽ.
feared, the tiger fled gone.

M404
The toad and the tiger.

Told by Yang Ya-go.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document J (no. 5, page 11).

The text of this song is as it was written in Document J, but the script has been updated from the early form in use in 1911.

M405

The rabbit's great idea.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

This story reflects the social conditions in which, through many generations, the Miao had lived. In the border area of Yunnan and Guizhou they were tenants on the estates of feudal landlords who often held the power of life and death over them. The tyrannical tiger was exactly parallel to the tyrannical landlord.

M405

The rabbit's great idea.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

They tell a story that once upon a time there was a forest where lived a tiger. The wild creatures in the forest had to give one animal each day for the tiger to eat, the various kinds of animal taking it in turn. On one occasion it was the turn of the rabbits, when a rabbit had to be eaten, but at the time he should have gone, the rabbit did not go. Two days went by, and then he went. The tiger said, "You little rabbit there! I expected you much earlier, why have you only today turned out and come?" The rabbit said, "I came very early, but down yonder is a white tiger. He is stronger than you, and he wanted to eat me. Well, I told him that you were here waiting to eat me, and I had to talk to him nicely before he eventually allowed me to come". Now the tiger was angry and said, "How is it that there is someone stronger than I? You take me to see him!" The rabbit took the tiger along until they came to a large pool of water. The rabbit said, "You go and look, he is here all right!" The tiger went and looked and saw his reflection in the bottom of the water pool. Th tiger jumped down to catch his reflection and was drowned in the water. All the wild animals in the forest praised the rabbit greatly.

M405

Ꞗ ꓖᵤ ꓖ’᷈ ꓖ̈’ ꓷᷤ.
rabbit which scheme good.

ꓚↄ ꓶₙ ꓫⁿ Tᵢᵢ ꓖᵤ Yˉ T’᷈ Lⁿ Ↄ- Yⁿ
they say story that of old there was one

Lᵘ ꓖ° Yˉ ꓷ̈ ꓚⁿº Yⁿ Tᵤ ꓟ̊.
classifier forest situated one classifier tiger.

Lᵘ ꓖ° Yˉ ꓷ̈ Ŷ ꓓ꞊ ꓖ° Yˉ ꓷ̈ ꓮ’ˉ ’ꓚᵘ Yⁿ
the forest that one cattle forest each day one

ꓮᵷ Ʌ̄ Sᵷ Yⁿ Tᵤ Ↄᵢᵢ Ɪ’᷈ Tᵕ ꓟ̊
kind must give one classifier go for the tiger

5 ꓚᷤ. Ↄ- Yⁿ ’ꓚᵘ ꓚᵐ᷈ ꓮₒ Tˉ Ꞗ̄
eat. there was one occasion reach the rabbit

ꓚꓓᵘ, Ʌ̄ ꓚᵢᵢ Ꞗ̄ Tᵷ. ꓮₒ ꓓᵐ ꓖᵤ
turn, want eat rabbit finish. reach time that

Ↄᵢᵢ Tˉ Ꞗ̄ ꓶⁿ Ↄᵢᵢ. ꓟ’ᵐ᷈ Lᵩ Yˉ ’ꓚᵘ Tˉ
go the rabbit not go. pass gone two days the

Ꞗ Ↄᵢᵢ Tᵷ. Tᵕ ꓟ̊ ꓶₙ, ꓒↄ Tˉ ꓒↄ
rabbit went finish. the tiger said, you little

Ꞗ Ŷ, ꓚꓮ̊ Tᵘ T° ꓒↄ Tᵷ.
rabbit that one, early all await you finish.

10 Yˉ ꓒᵑᵮ Cˉ ꓒↄ ’Ↄ° C̄ Tˉ Lₙᵓ Tᵩ T- Tˉ Ꞗ̄
why you today slowly go out come. the rabbit

ꓶₙ ꓖ̆ T- ꓚꓮ̊ Tˉ Tₙᵓ, Ŷ Vᵐᵓ ꓖ̇’ ꓫⁿ Tⁿ
said, I came early very, but down yonder

Ↄ- Yⁿ Tᵤ ꓟ̊ Δᵩ, ꓚↄ Tᵢᵢ
there is one classifier tiger white, he strong

Ꞗ̄ T̆ ꓒↄ. ꓚↄ Ʌ̄ ꓚᵢᵢ ꓖ̆. Yˉ Lⁿ Ĉ ꓖ̆
more than you. he want eat me. make like this I

ꓚꓮₒ ꓚↄ ꓶₙ ꓒↄ ꓚᵐº Ĉ Ʌ̄ ꓚᵢᵢ ꓖ̆.
with him said you situate here want eat me.

15 ᒍ ᑕᒪₒ ᑕↄ ᒣₙ ᘐ" ᒪᵘ, ᑕↄ ᖶ⁻ ᒪₙᓪ ᒪ°
I with him said good words, he presently allow

ᒍ ᖶ-, ᖶᵛ ᒪ ᑕↄ Y° Sⁿᓪ ᒣₙ, Y⁻ ᒪᖾ ᑕ ↄ-
me come. the tiger he angry said, why there is

ᖶ ᒍᵤ Tᵢᵢ ᒪ ᖶ ᒍ Sᖾ. ᒪↄ ᑊ’ↄ
the one which strong more than I still. you take

ᒍ ↄᵢᵢ ᑕ_. ᖶ⁻ ᒪ ᑊ’ↄ ᖶᵛ ᒪ ↄᵢᵢ ᖲₒ
me go look. the rabbit took the tiger go reach

ᒪᵘ Y⁻ Lᘁ ᒧᘁ Y". ᖶ⁻ ᒪ ᒣₙ, ᒪↄ ↄᵢᵢ
the large pool water. the rabbit said, you go

20 ᑕ_, ᑕↄ ᑕⁿᵒ Vᵤ ᑕ ᒪₙᵒ Tᘁ. ᖶᵛ
look, he situated at here so it is finish. the

ᒪ ↄᵢᵢ ᑕ_. ᖶᵛ ᒪ ᒧₒ ᑕↄ ᖶᵛ
tiger went look. the tiger saw his the

Y⁻ ᑕᖲ" ᑕⁿᵒ Lᖾ ᒦᘁ ᒧᘁ Y". Y⁻ Lᖾ ᑕↄ
reflection situated bottom pool water. so he

Δ’ⁿᓪ ᖷ" ↄᵢᵢ ↄ⁻ ᑕↄ ᖶᵛ Y⁻ ᑕᖲ". Y"
jump go down go catch his the reflection. water

ᖲ’ᵘ ᖶᵛ ᒪ ᖶ_ Lᖽ Tᘁ. ᖶᵛ ᑕᒍˈ
drowned the tiger dead gone finish. the animals

30 ᒍ° Y⁻ ᖲ_ ᒍᵤ ᑕⁿᵒ Lᵘ Y⁻ ᘐ ᑕ Lₓ
wild which situated the forest this praised

ᖶ⁻ ᒪ ᖶ⁻ Tₙᓪ.
the rabbit much.

M405
The rabbit's great idea.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 27, page 16).

M406

Disaster for the frogs.

Told by Wang Ming-ji.

Introduction.

This story is a fable. Disaster overtook the frogs because they had not the wit to see through the fox's flattery.

M406
Disaster for the frogs.

Told by Wang Ming-ji.

They say that a fox climbed to the edge of a bog, where he heard the frogs croaking and making a great noise. The fox said, “Oh! friends, how beautifully you sing! Do go and bring your other friends and sing to me!” The whole tribe of frogs gathered to croak to the fox, but he gathered them all and ate them.

M406

T⁻ Ɪ₋ T" J" CΔ₋.
the frogs get trouble.

Cɔ ˥ₙ ˥ᵘ Tᵇ Y⁻ Tᵓ Ɔ" CEₙ Lᵇ Y⁻ CTᵘ
they say that the fox went climbed the edge

˥ⁿ ɨ̊'. Cɔ Ɔ" 'C̊ ˥ᵘ Tᵇ Y⁻ Ɪ₋ Ɪ⁻ Eₙ
bog. he went heard that the frogs croak thus

CT̊ CTɔ T⁻ Tₙc. Tᵇ Y⁻ Tᵓ ˥ₙ, ˥̆, Λᵇ L₋
noisily very. the fox said, exclamation, friends

Ɔₙ I'ᵘ C˥" Ʒ" T⁻ Tₙc Yₒ. Ɔ" I'ᵓ
you sing songs well very exclamation. go fetch

Ɔₙ Λᵇ L₋ T- I'ᵘ C˥" Ɪ'ᵓ ˥̆. C˩ᵇ T⁻
your friends come sing songs show me. tribe the

Ɪ₋ Ĭ' ˩ɔ ˥ⁿ ɨɔ T-, Ɪ⁻ Ɪ'ᵓ Tᵇ Y⁻ Tᵓ.
frogs all gathered come, croaked show the fox.

Tᵇ Y⁻ Tᵓ J" Ĭ' ˩ɔ C" Tʒ.
the fox collected all ate finish.

M406
Disaster for the frogs.

Told by Wang Ming-ji.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 4, page 2).

M407
The fox tricks the crow.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

The ending of this story was borrowed from the earlier tale of the toad and the crow. Here again, the frustrated crow is depicted as lapsing into colloquial Chinese with a phrase meaning, “It is all for nothing”.

M407
The fox tricks the crow.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

They tell a story that, once upon a time, a crow went to a Miao village in search of meat to eat. He went and saw a Miao woman cutting up meat at the doorway of the house. When the Miao woman went into the house to find a basin, the crow flew over, took a piece of meat and then flew away. He went and perched on the branch of a tree with the piece of meat in his beak. He thought, "Now I shall have meat to eat!" and felt very pleased with himself indeed.

In this place there was a fox. The fox was very hungry, for all night long he had been searching for food and had found nothing at all. He raised his head and saw the piece of meat in the crow's beak, and muttered to himself, "I am so hungry, how I would love to eat that piece of meat!" So he said to the crow, "Big brother crow, are you well? My word, today you look fine! I wonder whether you are also in good voice, for I love to listen to your singing!" Because the crow had not many friends, and for days on end no one had a good word for him, when the fox praised him in this way he was very pleased, and opened his beak and sang, "Ah-la, ah-la", like this, and the piece of meat fell to the ground. The fox did not wait for the crow to finish his singing. He quickly took the piece of meat and ran home and ate it. Now the crow realised that the fox had tricked him, but all he could do was to caw, "Ah, ah, be-la-la! Ah, ah, be-la-la!"

M407

ᴛᵛ ʏ⁻ ᴛᵓ ᑰ’ ᴛᵛ ʟⁿ ʏ⁻.
the fox deceives the crow.

ᑕↄ ᒣₙ ᒍⁿ ᴛₙ ᑐᵤ ʏ⁻ ᴛ’″ ʟⁿ ᴛᵛ ʟⁿ ʏ⁻ ↄₙ ᑕ̄ᒉ’
they say story that of old the crow went seek

ᑕᒍˈ ᑕᵎ ᐞ⁻ ʏⁿ ȝₒ ’ↄ". ᑕↄ ↄₙ ᒍₒ
meat eat go to one village Miao. he went see

ʏⁿ ʟᵡ ʏ⁻ ᒍₒ ’ↄ" ᑕⁿᵒ ʏ⁻ ᐞᵎ ᑕᒍ-
one classifier woman Miao situated door house

ᒍ’⁻ ᑕᒍˈ. ᴛ’″ ᑐᵤ ʟᵡ ʏ⁻ ᒍₒ ’ↄ" ᒍᵤ ᐞ⁻

slice meat. when the woman Miao entered go to

5 ᑕᒍ- ↄₙ ᑕ̄ᒉ’ ʏⁿ ʟᵘ ᑐ’° Vᵡ, ᴛᵛ ʟⁿ ʏ⁻
house go seek one classifier basin, the crow

ʌᵟ ↄₙ ᑑ’ₙᔆ ʏⁿ ᵻ’ᵢ ᑕᒍˈ, ᒉᵤ ʌᵟ ᑐ̌
flew went took one lump meat, then flew fled

ʟᔆ. ᑕↄ ↄₙ ᵻᔆ ʏⁿ ᑑⁿ ᑕᴛ", ʟᵘ ᵻ’ᵢ
gone. he went perched one branch tree, the lump

ᑕᒍˈ ᑕⁿᵒ Vᵤ ᑕↄ ʟᵛ ʏ⁻ ᑕᑑⁿ‴. ᑕↄ ᑕᴛↄ, ᑕ̄ ᑕ̊
meat situated in his the mouth. He thought, now

ᑐ̆ ↄ- ᑕᒍˈ ᑕₙ. ᑕↄ Sⁿᑦ ʟₒ ᒍ̄ ᴛ⁻ ᴛₙᑦ.
I have meat eat. his heart happy very.

10 ᑕⁿᵒ ᒍ̊’ ᴛⁿ ᑑ’ᔆ ᑕ̊ ↄ- ʏⁿ
situated place country this there was one

ᴛᵤ ʏ⁻ ᴛᵓ. ᴛᵛ ʏ⁻ ᴛᵓ ᑑ’ˈ ᴛ⁻ ᴛₙᑦ. ʏⁿ ’ↄ° Sᵟ ᑕᴛᵘ
classifier fox. the fox hungry very. all night

ᑕↄ ʟ- ᑕ̄ᒉ’ ᒍᵡ ᑕᵎ, ᑕ̄ᒉ’ ᒣⁿ ᴛ" ᒍ⁻ ʏ⁻ ᒍᶠ.
he had sought food eat, sought not get anything.

ᑕↄ ᑑᵟ ʟⁿ ᒥ" ᵺ" ʏ⁻ ᒍ⁻, ᒍₒ ʟᵛ ᵻ’ᵢ ᑕᒍˈ
he stretched head to above, saw the lump meat

ᑕⁿᵒ ᴛᵛ ʟⁿ ʏ⁻ ᑕↄ ʏ⁻ ᑕᑑᵎ. ᑕↄ ʌ∾ ᒣₙ ʌ∾
situated the crow his mouth. he self said self

words thus mutter, I hunger very, I very much

like eat lump meat there. he then with the

crow said, the elder brother crow, query you

well. exclamation, today you very smart very much.

not know query your voice also good as well.

I very much like listen you sing songs. Because

the crow not have many classifier friends, and

day day not have any one say he is good so,

when the fox praised him like this, his heart

happy very, he then opened lips sang song said,

ah la, ah la, like this. lump meat then fell

go to ground gone finish. the fox not wait

that the crow sing song done finish. he quickly

took the lump meat then ran went go to home

gone eat away finish. now the crow saw that

the fox had deceived him away, he not get way

Lⁿ Cᵒ̊, C̄ †ˤ J̄ ˥ₙ, Ȳ Ȳ, ⅃ᵓ L̄ L̄,
at all, only able caw say, ah ah, all for nothing,

Ȳ Ȳ, ⅃ᵓ L̄ L̄.
ah ah, all for nothing.

M407
The fox tricks the crow.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (No. 51, page 37).

M408

The deception of the fox brings bitterness to the goat.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

In this story the fox is shown to be not only cunning but callous. The goat may have been foolish and gullible but hardly deserved the treatment he received. His plight would have struck a sympathetic chord in the Miao heart, for such was their own history.

M408

The deception of the fox brings bitterness to the goat.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

They tell a story that once upon a time there was a fox who went for a drink of water, and happened to fall into the water hole. Because the hole was deep and in it there was nothing to stand upon to jump, the fox could not get out. One day a goat went for a drink of water and saw the fox. The goat said, "Fox, what are you doing there?" The fox replied, "I am here drinking the water. The water here is very sweet! Come and we can drink together". When the goat jumped down the fox jumped up and stood on his back, then with a single bound he was out. He turned around, looked at the goat and said, "Good-bye, then! If I should return here again I will come and see you!"

M408

Tᵛ Yˉ Tᵓ Ḽ̀’, Tᵛ Ḽ’ᵣ Cᵎ Λ̄.
the fox deceive, the goat eat bitterness.

Cɔ ˥ₙ ⅃ₙ Tᵎ Ⅎᵤ Yˉ T’ᵎ Lₙ, Ↄ- Yₙ
they say story that of old, there was one

Tᵤ Yˉ Tᵓ Ↄᵎ ˥ᵎ Yᵎ Ḽₙ Tᵎ ⅃ᵎ
classifier fox went drink water thus get fall

Δˉ Lᵛ J̊’ Yᵎ Lᩚ. Ẏ̊ Ⅎᵤ Lᵛ J̊’
go to the hole water gone. because the hole

Ẏ̬ T°, Vᵤ CΔ° Ɪᵤ ˥ₙ Ↄ- Ḽ’ᵑˢ Ⅎᵤ
very deep, in inside then not have place which

5 J̊ Δ’ᵑᶜ. Yˉ Lₙ Tᵛ Yˉ Tᵓ Tᩚ Lₒ ˥ₙ Tᵎ.
stand jump. so the fox out come not get.

Ↄ- Yₙ ’Cᵘ, Ↄ- Yₙ Tᵤ Ḽ’ᵣ
there was one day, there was one classifier goat

Ↄᵎ ˥ᵎ Yᵎ, Cɔ ⅃ₒ Tᵛ Yˉ Tᵓ. Tᵛ Ḽ’ᵣ
went drink water, he saw the fox. the goat

˥ₙ, Tᵓ, Ḽɔ Cⁿᵒ Vᵤ Yˉ J̄ Jᶠ. Tᵓ
said, fox, you situated there do what. fox

˥ₙ, Ⅎ̆ Cⁿᵒ Ć ˥ᵎ Yᵎ. Vᵤ Ć
said, I situated here drink water. at here

10 Yᵎ Jᵟ Tˉ Tₙᶜ. Ḽɔ T- Yˉ Lᵡ
water sweet very. you come two classifier

˥ᵎ. Tᵛ Ḽ’ᵣ Δ’ᵑᶜ ɓᵎ Ↄᵎ Tᵹ. Tᵛ Yˉ Tᵓ
drink. the goat jump down went finish. the fox

Δ’ᵑᶜ Lₒ J̊ Ɪ’ᵎ Tᵛ Ḽ’ᵣ Lᵘ Tᵑ Jᵎ. Yₙ
jumped come stood upon the goat the back. one

Cⅎᵎ Tᩚ Lₒ Tᵹ. Ɪᵤ Sᶠ Lₒ Cˍ
bound out came finish. then return come look

Tᵛ Ḽ’ᵣ ˥ₙ, Tˉ Lₙᶜ Cⁿᵒ Tᵹ, Yˉ Ⅎᵎ Ⅎ̆
the goat said, good-bye finish, second time I

15 ⊏⁻ ⊂⊏ₙ₍₍ ⊂̊, ⊐̆ ⊤ᵥ ⊤⁻ ⊂₋ ⊏ₓ.
if arrive here, I then come look you.

M408

The deception of the fox brings bitterness to the goat.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 28, page 17).

M409
The wise goat.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

Among the various animals in this story it is the mother goat which is outstanding. Her concern that her youngsters were getting sufficient food, her firm discipline, her resourcefulness and her courage are all in marked contrast to father goat's timorous nature. Not infrequently in a Miao household it was the mother who played a leading role. This may explain why in common speech parents are always referred to as "mother and father" and never as "father and mother".

Of the two predators, the tiger appears as the greater coward. It was his fear that the fox would run off and leave him to the fury of mother goat that prompted the tying together of their tails, with such disastrous results for the fox. In translation the force of the personification of the animals is rather lost by the fact that in English, "coat" is regularly used for an animal's pelt, and "tail" is often used for the nether extremity of an article of human clothing. Miao does not normally use either metaphor.

M409
The wise goat.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

People tell a story that, once upon a time, there was a herd of goats. Every day father goat took the little goats out to graze while mother goat remained at home. One day, mother goat said, "Every day when you take them out you come back so very early". Father goat replied, "The road we have to travel is very long, and when we are on the road we are so afraid that we come back early". Mother goat said, "In that case, today you stay at home and I will take them out".

Mother goat took the children out to graze. Everyone ate with a will, not one played around. When they had eaten their fill, mother goat raised her head and looked up. The moon was already in the middle of the sky. Mother goat said, "We shall not be able to get home, we will go and stay at the foot of the cliff on ahead of us ". So here they went to sleep.

Now there was a fox, which saw them. The fox said, "I would like some goat's flesh to eat, if I can find a way". Then he said, "First I will go and have a look". So the fox went up and barked, "Nghao, nghao, I'm going to eat goat's flesh!" Mother goat struck her horns against the cliff until the sparks flew and bleated, "Bie-ie-ie, let's drink fox broth!" When the fox heard this, he got up and ran away. While he was running he met a tiger. The tiger said to him, "Fox, why are you running?" The fox replied, "I saw a herd of goats over yonder and I was going to eat them. I barked, 'I'm going to eat you!' but they said they were going to drink my broth. So I was frightened and ran away!" The tiger said, "You take me along, and the two of us will go and eat them", but the tiger made the fox go ahead while he followed behind. When they reached the place where the goats were, the tiger roared, "Nggao, I'm going to eat goat's flesh!" The goat bleated, "Bie-ie-ie, let's drink tiger broth!" The tiger said to the fox, "There are ever so many of them, we two cannot possibly eat them. Bring your coat tail and tie it to my coat tail, and we will run away together". So the tiger and the fox knotted their tails together and ran a long way. The tiger looked around at the fox and said, "Fox, it is all very well for you to laugh at me, but I have run till I am tired!" But the fox was not laughing, he had been dragged to his death by the tiger.

M409

ᑕ'ᵣ ᒧᵤ ᒧᴴ Tᵹ.
goat who wise.

Tᵇ Cᵇ ᒣᵢ ᒧᵢ Tᴵᴵ ᒧᵤ Yᵀ T'ᴴ Lᵢ ᑐ- Yᵢ Cᒧᵒ
people say story that of old there was one herd

ᑕ'ᵣ. ᐧ'ᵀ 'Cᵘ Tᵘ Vᵤ ᑕ'ᵣ ᒥ'ᵓ Tᵀ
goats. every day the father goat took the

ᓇ- ᑐᴵᴵ Cᴵᴵ ᗡᴴ, Cᵢᶜ ᑕ'ᵣ Cᵢᵒ
little ones go eat grass, mother goat situated

Cᒧ-. ᑐ- Yᵢ 'Cᵘ Cᵢᶜ ᑕ'ᵣ ᒣᵢ, ᑕᵓ
house. there was one day mother goat said, you

ᒥ'ᵓ Cᵓ ᐧᴴ ᑐᴵᴵ , ᑐᵢ ᐧ'ᵀ 'Cᵘ Tᵘ Lᵒ Cᐧ̊
take them go, you every day all come early

Tᵀ Tᵢᶜ. Vᵤ ᑕ'ᵣ ᒣᵢ, ᑎ ᒧᵤ ᒧᵢ ᑐᴵᴵ Δᵢ
very. father goat said, road which we go far

Tᵀ Tᵢᶜ, Vᵤ ᑎ ᒪᵤ Yᵘ Cᑕ'ᴵ ᑕ̄ ᒧᵢ Lᵒ
very, on road then very fear therefore we come

Cᐧ̊. Cᵢᶜ ᑕ'ᵣ ᒣᵢ, Yᵀ Lᵢ, 'ᑐᵒ ᑕ̄ ᑕᵓ
early. mother goat said, in that case, today you

Cᵢᵒ Cᒧ-, ᒧᵘ ᒥ'ᵓ Cᵓ ᐧᴴ ᑐᴵᴵ.
situated house, I take them go.

Cᵢᶜ ᑕ'ᵣ ᒥ'ᵓ Tᵘ Cᐧ'ᴵ ᑐᴵᴵ Cᴵᴵ ᗡᴴ. ᐧ'ᵀ
mother goat took children went eat grass. every

Tᵤ Tᵘ ᒪ'ᴴ Sᵢᶜ Cᴵᴵ ᗡᴴ. ᒣᵢ ᑐ-
classifier all with heart eat grass. not have

Yᵢ Tᵤ ᒧᵤ Yᵀ Γᵇ. Cᴵᴵ ᒧᵤ ᑕᵢᴵᴵ Tᵹ,
one classifier which played. ate is much finish,

Cᵢᶜ ᑕ'ᵣ ᑕᵹ Lᵢ Γᴴ C- ᒪᴴ Yᵀ Jᵀ, Lᵘ
mother goat raised head looked to above, the

ᒪᵢ ᒪᵤ Cᵢᵒ Cᒪᵹ Cᒪᵘ Tᵹ. Cᵢᶜ ᑕ'ᵣ
moon then situated midst sky finish. mother goat

15 ˥ₙ, ˩ⁿ ↄ꜒ ⱶₒ ᑕ˩- ˥ⁿ ᖶ˝ ᖶᵷ. ˩ⁿ ↄ꜒
said, we go reach house not get finish. we go

ᑕⁿᵒ ᐯᵤ ᒪᵕ ƻᵟ ⱶ_ ᐯᵤ ᖶ’_ ᖶᵷ. ᑕↄ ⱶ˝
stay at the bottom cliff at ahead finish. they

ↄ꜒ ˩ᵓ Ḉ̊.
went sleep here.

ↄ- Yⁿ Tᵤ Y¯ Tᵓ ˩ₒ. Tᵕ Y¯Tᵓ ˥ₙ,
there was one classifier fox saw. the fox said,

ᑐ̆ Ⱥ ᑕ̄Ī’ ᑐ’˝ ᑐ̈’, ᑐ̆ Ⱥ ᑕ˝ ᑕƻˈ ᒪ’ᵣ
I must seek scheme, I want eat meat goat

20 Vⁿᑦ. ᑕↄ ˥ₙ, ᑐ̆ S̆ ↄ꜒ ƻʳ ᑕ_ ↄᵟ. Tᵕ
indeed. he said, I first go explore look. the

Y¯ Tᵓ ↄ꜒ ƻ¯, ᑕƻ˝, ᑕƻ˝, ᑐ̆ Ⱥ ᑕ˝ ᑕƻˈ
fox went barked, nghao, nghao, I want eat meat

ᒪ’ᵣ. ᑕⁿᑦ ᒪ’ᵣ Ɪ’˝ ᑐᵘ ˥ⁿ ᒥᵕ Y¯ ⱶ¯
goat. mother goat with horn scraped cliff

Tᵩ Y¯ ᖰ̊ Tᕽ, ƻ¯ ˥ₙ, ˩ⁿᑦ Yⁿᑦ Yⁿᑦ, ˥꜒
came out sparks, bleated said, bie-ie-ie, drink

ƻ¯ Tᵓ. Tᵕ Y¯ Tᵓ ’Ḉ̊, Tᵕ Y¯ Tᵓ ᕽ Ɪᵷ.
broth fox. the fox heard, the fox arose ran.

25 Ɪᵷ ↄ꜒ ᑕᒪᵣ Tᵕ Ḉ̊. Tᵕ Ḉ̊ ᑕƗₒ Y¯ Tᵓ
ran went meet the tiger. the tiger with fox

˥ₙ, Tᵓ, ᒪↄ Ɪᵷ ƻ̄ Jᵣ. Tᵓ ˥ₙ, ᑐ̆ ˩ₒ Yⁿ
said, fox, you run what. fox said, I saw one

ᑕ˩° ᒪ’ᵣ ᑕᵒᵒ ˩ⁿ Tⁿ, ᑐ̆ Ⱥ ↄ꜒ ᑕ˝
flock goats situated yonder, I want go eat

ᑕↄ ⱶ˝. ᑐ̆ ƻ¯ ˥ₙ, ᑐ̆ Ⱥ ᑕ˝ ↄₙ ᑕƻˈ,
them. I barked said, I want eat your meat,

ᑕↄ ˥ₙ ᑕↄ Ⱥ ˥꜒ ᑐ̆ ƻ¯ ƻ¯. Y¯ Lⁿ
they said they want drink my broth. make like

30 Ḉ̊ ᑐ̆ ᑕᒪ’ˌ Ḉ̄ ᑐ̆ Ɪᵷ. Tᵕ Ḉ̊ ˥ₙ,
this I feared therefore I ran. the tiger said,

ꓚ꒦ ꓲ’꒱ ꓶ̲, ꓳ⁻ ꓡ꒷ ꓝ꒦꒦ ꓚ꒦. ꓔ꒷ ꓚ̊
you take me, two classifier go eat. the tiger

ꓚ꒰ ꓶ꒦ ꓔ꒷ ꓔ꒳ ꓲ’꒱ ꓒꓔ꒰, ꓔ꒷ ꓚ̊ ꓽ꒦
allowed that the fox lead, the tiger followed

ꓳ⁻ ꓶ꒳. ꓝ꒦꒦ ꓽ꒦ Vᵤ ꓶᵤ ꓔ꒷ ꓚ’ᵣ ꓒ꒰꒰.
after. went reach where that the goats situated.

ꓔ꒷ ꓚ̊ ꓶ⁻ ꓷ꒰, ꓖ", ꓶ̲ ꓥ̄ ꓒ꒦꒦ ꓒꓶ꞉
the tiger roared said, nggao, I want eat meat

35 ꓚ’ᵣ. ꓔ꒷ ꓚ’ᵣ ꓶ⁻ ꓷ꒰, ꓶ꒰꒵ ꓳ꒰꒵ ꓳ꒰꒵ ꓷ꒦꒦
goat. the goat bleated said, bie-ie-ie drink

ꓶ⁻ ꓚ̊. ꓔ꒷ ꓚ̊ ꓒꓖ꒦ ꓔ꒷ ꓔ꒳ ꓷ꒰, ꓒ꒳ ꓽ꒦
broth tiger. the tiger with the fox said, they

ꓚ꒰꒦ ꓔ⁻ ꓔ꒵. ꓳ⁻ ꓡ꒷ ꓒ꒦꒦ ꓷ꒰ ꓔ". ꓝ⁻ ꓚ꒳
many very. two classifier eat not get. take your

ꓥ꒵ ꓡ꒷ ꓶᵟ ꓚ’꒰ ꓖ꒦ ꓒꓖ꒦ ꓶ̲ ꓥ꒵
classifier bottom coat come with my classifier

ꓶᵟ ꓚ’꒰ ꓶ’꞉ ꓷ꒰ ꓔ’꒵꒵ ꓚ꒰꒵, ꓳ⁻
bottom coat tie together completed, two

40 ꓡ꒷ ꓳ꒰ ꓽ꒦ ꓽ꒦꒦ ꓖᵟ. ꓔ꒷ ꓚ̊ ꓒꓖ꒦ ꓔ꒷
classifier one group run. the tiger with the

ꓔ꒳ ꓶ’꞉ ꓳ⁻ ꓔᵘ ꓳ⁻ ꓒ꒰ᵟ ꓷ꒰ ꓔ’꒵꒵ ꓚ꒰꒵
fox tied two classifier tails together completed

ꓖᵟ. ꓖᵟ ꓖᵋ ꓥ꒰ ꓔᵟ. ꓚ̊ ꓢᵣ ꓖ꒦ ꓒ꒷
ran. ran gone far finish. tiger turn come look

ꓔ꒳ ꓷ꒰, ꓔ꒳ ꓚ꒰ ꓵ꒦꒦ ꓥ꒦ ꓳ̲, ꓳ̲ ꓚ꒰ ꓖᵟ ꓳ̲
fox said, fox you well laugh me, I thus run I

ꓥ’꒷ ꓔᵟ. ꓒ̄ ꓒ̊ ꓔ꒳ ꓶ꒳ ꓖ’" ꓚ̊ ꓲ’꞉ ꓔ꒷
tired finish. now fox give to tiger drag dead

45 ꓖᵋ ꓔᵟ.
gone finish.

M409
The wise goat.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 9, page 4).

M410

How the goat saved the deer.

Told by Wang ming-ji.

Introduction.

In common speech the Miao call lions “red tigers”, and though they are not found in the country now occupied by the Miao, they figure occasionally in Miao stories, and quite frequently in those songs which have to do with the beginnings of things. In this particular story the lion was frightened off, partly by the goat’s tale of eating lions, but chiefly by the great commotion he made, stamping of his hooves at the entrance of the cavern and the echo that this set up all around the rock walls.

M410

How the goat saved the deer.

Told by Wang Ming-ji.

They say that in a forest lived a large herd of deer. There came a lion, which caught the deer in the forest and ate them until only one little one was left. The deer was afraid and ran away. As he ran he met a goat who said, "Deer, what are you running away from?" The deer replied, "Oh! There used to be a great number of us living in this forest, but a lion came and has caught and eaten us all, until I am the only one left. So I was afraid and I am running away". The goat said, "Don't be afraid, where is he? You take me along to see him". The deer took the goat along until they reached the cave where the lion lived. The goat said, "Old man lion, you come out here to me!" The lion said, "Who is that?" The goat stamped his feet at the lion and said, "It's me, the lion eater! So far I have eaten two hundred and ninety-nine. Now there is only one that I have not eaten to make up the full three hundred!" Again the goat stamped his feet at the lion. The lion was so frightened that he got up and fled. The deer praised the goat very much.

M410

ꓚ’ᵣ ᒍ ꓚᔓ ꓶᑊ ꓖ".
goat neutered saved deer.

ꓒɔ ᒣᑊ ꓖᑲ ꓒᑋᐤ ꓶᵕ Yˉ ʒ" ᑐ-
they say that situated the forest there was

Yᑊ ꓒᒧ° ꓶᑊ ꓖ" ꓖᑲ ꓚᑫᑊ Tˉ Tᑋᓭ. ᑐ- Yᑊ
one herd deer which many very. there was one

Tᑲ ᒪ ꓶᑋᓭ T- ᑐˉ ꓶᵕ ʒ" ꓶᑊ ꓖ"
classifier tiger red came caught the forest deer

ᑊY ꓒ" Tƨ ꓒꓚᓴ, ꓒ" Jₒ Yᑊ
that place ate finish completely, ate left one

5 Tᑲ Ɠ_ Tˉ. Tᵕ ꓶᑊ ꓖ" ꓒꓚ’ᵢ Tƨ.
classifier small only. the deer feared finish.

Tᵕ ꓶᑊ ꓖ" ᒐ. ᒐ ᑐᑲ ꓒꓚᵣ Tᵕ ꓚ’ᵣ ᒍ.
the deer fled. fled go meet the goat neutered.

Tᵕ ꓚ’ᵣ ᒍ ᒣᑊ, Tᵕ ꓶᑊ ꓖ" ꓚɔ ᒐ Yˉ Jᒋ
the goat neutered said, the deer you flee what

ꓶᵕ. Tᵕ ꓶᑊ ꓖ" ᒣᑊ, Yₒ, ᒧᑊ ꓚᑫᑊ Tˉ Tᑋᓭ ꓒᑋᐤ
query. the deer said, oh, we many very situated

ꓶᵕ Yˉ ʒ" ᑊC, ᑐ- Yᑊ Tᑲ ᒪ
the forest this, there was one classifier tiger

10 ꓶᑋᓭ ꓶ_ ꓶₒ ᑐˉ ᒧᑊ ꓒᑲ ꓖᑲ Tƨ
red has come catch us eat that finish

ꓒꓚᓴₒ, Jₒ ᑌ Yᑊ Tᑲ Tˉ C̄
completely, left me one classifier only therefore

ᑌ ꓒꓚ’ᵢ C̄ ᑌ ᒐ. Tᵕ ꓚ’ᵣ ᒍ
I fear therefore I flee. the goat neutered

ᒣᑊ, ᒣᑊ ꓒꓚ’ᵢ, ꓒɔ ꓒᑫᑊ ᒪ̊’ Tᐣ, ꓚɔ
said, not fear, he situated place what, you

ꓵ’ᓄ ᑌ ᑐᑲ ꓒ_. Tᵕ ꓶᑊ ꓖ" ꓵ’ᓄ Tᵕ ꓚ’ᵣ
take me go look. the deer took the goat

15 ꓶ ꓚꓕꓷꓷ ꓟᒡ ꓶ’ ꓶᘔ ꓶᒡ ꓕᒡ ꓕ̊ ꓟᑦ
neutered arrive the cave which the tiger red

ꓚᑦ. ꓕᒡ ꓕ’ᒥ ꓶ ꓶᓇ, ꓘ ꓐᓴ ꓕ̊ ꓟᑦ
situated. the goat neutered said, man tiger red

ꓕᓗ ꓕᓴ ꓶᓄ ꓘᒡ ꓶ ꓚ̊. ꓕᒡ ꓕ̊ ꓟᑦ ꓶᓇ,
you out come to me here. the tiger red said,

ꓶ ꓕᓗ ꓟᒡ. ꓕᒡ ꓕ’ᒥ ꓚꓕᓴ ꓕᕐ ꓕ" ꓕᒡ ꓕ̊ ꓟᑦ
who eh. the goat dug feet at the tiger red

ꓶᓇ, ꓶᒡ ꓶ ꓚ" ꓕ̊ ꓟᑦ. ꓶ ꓚ" ꓕᘔ ꓘ
said, is I eat tiger red. I eat finish two

20 ꓶ ꓕᓇ ꓕᓇꓷꓷ ꓕᓇ ꓕᒡ ꓕᘔ, ꓕ ꓐ
hundred ninety nine classifier finish, only want

ꓘᑦ ꓕᒡ ꓕ ꓚ" ꓶ ꓶ ꓶ ꓶ
one classifier alone eat fill three hundred

ꓕᘔ, ꓕᓇ ꓶ ꓶᑦ ꓚ". ꓕᒡ ꓕ’ᒥ ꓚꓕᓴ ꓕᕐ ꓕ"
finish, thus I not eat. the goat dug feet at

ꓕᒡ ꓕ̊ ꓟᑦ. ꓕᒡ ꓕ̊ ꓟᑦ ꓚꓕ’ᒣ, ꓕᒡ
the tiger red. the tiger red feared, the

ꓕ̊ ꓟᑦ ꓶ. ꓕᒡ ꓟᑦ ꓶ" ꓟ ꓕᒡ ꓕ’ᒥ ꓕ ꓕᓇ.
tiger red fled. the deer praised the goat very.

M410
How the goat saved the deer.

Told by Wang Ming-ji.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 3, page 2).

M411
The goldcrest.

Told by Wang Ming-ji.

Introduction.

The bird in this story is described as being considerably smaller than a sparrow. It is grey-brown and makes a nest suspended under the branch of a pine tree, a description which suggests that it was a goldcrest. The fox has the same reputation for slyness and cunning among the Miao as it has in Western countries, but in this story it is the victim of tricks played upon it by a cheeky little bird.

The small bells in the story were made of brass and were about the size and shape of a peanut shell. They made a tiny, tinkling sound, and were attached by braids to the collar of the Miao tribal gown. The point of the final section of the story depends on plays on words in Miao, which cannot be translated, though the following explanation may help. It will be remembered that in the Pinyin system of writing Chinese, as it has been adapted for writing Miao, a final letter is added to each word. This is not pronounced but simply marks the tone in which the word has to be spoken. Thus *d* is a high tone, *k* is a low even tone, while *f* is a low falling tone. The little bells are "hli*d*-hleu*k*", and are often called "hleu*k*-hleu*k*". To burn off dry grass is "hleu*d*", and a big blaze is "hleu*d*-hleu*f*", while the crackling sound of burning sticks is "hleu*f*-hleu*f*". So the fox was expecting to see one kind of "hleu", but was shown a very different kind. The sound written "hl" in Miao is the same as "ll" in Welsh.

M411
The goldcrest.

Told by Wang Ming-ji.

They say that a goldcrest met a fox. The goldcrest said to the fox, "Fox, would you like to eat really well?" The fox said, "Yes, I would". The goldcrest went and saw that the Yi were fighting, and an Yi woman was carrying out rice porridge for their lunch. The goldcrest flew over immediately and perched in front of the Yi woman. The goldcrest chirruped, "zyu-lyu-lyu, zyu-lyu-lyu. The Yi woman set down the wooden tub of rice porridge, in order to chase and kill the goldcrest. Meanwhile the fox took and ate the tub of rice porridge. Then the goldcrest got up and flew away. He came and said to the fox, "Have you eaten really well, fox?" The fox replied, "Yes, I have eaten very well indeed".

The goldcrest said, "Would you like some more to eat?" The fox said, "Yes, I would". Taking the fox with him the goldcrest went and saw that the Yi had brought some dogs and were rounding up the sheep. The goldcrest immediately flew over the Yi dogs, at which they got up to give chase to the goldcrest. They came and took the fox by surprise. They chased him and tore at him until he was all rags and tatters. The goldcrest got up and flew off. He came and said "Fox, did you eat well?" The fox replied, "Oh! This time I got caught and torn by the dogs, and my fur coat is all rags and tatters!"

The goldcrest said, "Fox, would you like to look at some little bells?" The fox said, "People talk about little bells, but I have never seen any. I should like to look at some". So the goldcrest took the fox to a hill where the grass was very deep. The goldcrest flew to an old Miao man over yonder, then he flew back and dropped on the top of the hill into the grass. The old Miao man lit a torch and went and set fire to the grass right around the hilltop. The goldcrest got up and flew away, but the flames came burning along, and though the fox ran and ran all around the hilltop above he could find no way out. The flames scorched the fox and made him all patchy. The goldcrest flew back to the fox and said, "Were the little bells pretty, fox?" The fox said, "Oh! Very pretty indeed! But my fur coat has got scorched until it is all patchy!"

ꓚ" ꓓ᐀.
goldcrest.
_____

ꓚᓭ ꓶᑋ ꓫᑌ ꓔᑊ ꓚ" ꓓ᐀ ᑐᑊ ꓚꓓᐟ ꓔᑊ ꓲ᐀ ꓔ᐀
they say that the goldcrest went met the fox

ꓓᑋ, ꓔᑊ ꓚ" ꓓ᐀ ꓚꓶ᐀ ꓔᑊ ꓲ᐀ ꓔ᐀ ꓶᑋ, ꓔ᐀,
thus, the goldcrest with the fox said, fox,

ꓔᑎ ꓓᓭ ꓚꓓ’ᕽ ꓚ" ꓥ᐀ ꓓᑊ᐀. ꓔᑊ ꓲ᐀ ꓔ᐀ ꓶᑋ,
query you like eat fill so it is. the fox said,

ꓚꓓ’ᕽ, ꓓᑊ᐀. ꓔᑊ ꓚ" ꓓ᐀ ᑐᑊ ꓫ᐀ ꓲᐣ ᑑᐧ
like, so it is. the goldcrest went saw Yi

5 ꓶᑋ ꓚꓔᑊ ꓓᑋ, ꓫᑊ ꓲᐣ ᑑᐧ ꓕᐟ ꓔᑊ ꓫᐣ ꓥᑊ ꓚᐃᑋ
fighting thus, the woman Yi carried rice porridge

ꓔ- ꓢᐧ ꓙᑊ. ꓔᑊ ꓚ" ꓓ᐀ ꓲᑌ ꓥᐧ
come give lunch. the goldcrest immediately flew

ᑐᑊ ᖶᕽ ꓦᑌ ꓫᑊ ᑑᐣ ᐧᐣ ᑊᑋᑎ. ꓔᑊ
went perched at the woman Yi the front. the

ꓚ" ꓓ᐀ ꓙ-, ᖶ ꓫ᐀ ꓫ᐀, ᖶ ꓫ᐀ ꓫ᐀, ꓫᑊ
goldcrest chirruped, zyu-lyu-lyu, zyu-lyu-lyu. the

ꓲᐣ ᑐᐧ ꓓᐣ ꓫ- ꓔ’ᐣ ꓫᑊ ꓥᑋ ꓢᐧ,
woman Yi set down the tub rice porridge away,

10 ᕽ ꓔᑊ ꓚ" ꓓ᐀ ꓚꓔᐣ ꓫᕽ. ꓔᑊ ꓲ᐀ ꓔ᐀ ꓕᑌ
chased the goldcrest kill gone. the fox then

ꓓ’ᑎᕽ ꓫ- ꓔ’ᐣ ꓫᑊ ꓥᑋ ꓚ" ꓔᐟ. ꓔᑊ
took the tub rice porridge ate finish. the

ꓚ" ꓓ᐀ ᕽꓙ ᖶꓙ ꓥᐧ ꓫᕽ. ꓫᐣ ꓚꓶ᐀ ꓔᑊ
goldcrest arose fled flew gone. came with the

ꓲ᐀ ꓔ᐀ ꓶᑋ, ꓔᑎ ꓚ" ꓥ᐀ ꓓᑊ᐀, ꓔ᐀. ꓔᑊ
fox said, query eaten fill so it is, fox. the

ꓲ᐀ ꓔ᐀ ꓶᑋ, ꓚ" ꓥ᐀ ꓔ- ꓔᑎ ꓓᑊ᐀.
fox said, eaten fill very so it is.

15 Ꭲᐩ Ꮯᐟ Ꮥᐣ Ꮑᑉ, Ꭲᑎᑦ Ꮥᑉ Ꮖᐨ ᏟᏕᐦᐢ Ꮯᐟ
the goldcrest said, query you still like eat

ᔑ. Ꭲᐩ Ꭹᐨ Ꭲᐣ Ꮑᑉ, Ꮧᐧ ᏟᏕᐦᐢ Ꮯᐟ Ꮥᑎᐤ. Ꭲᐩ
yet. the fox said, I like eat so it is. the

Ꮯᐟ Ꮥᐣ Ꮠᐦᕀ Ꭲᐩ Ꭲᐣ ᑐᐟ. ᑐᐟ ᒧᐤ Ꭹᐨ ᑐᘁ Ꮠᐦᕀ
goldcrest took the fox went. went saw Yi took

Ꮯᒧᐩ ᐃ ᐱᔕ ᐱᘁ. Ꭲᐩ Ꮯᐟ Ꮥᐣ
pack dogs shepherding sheep. the goldcrest

Ꮠᐧ ᐱᘁ ᑐᐟ ᐃᐨ ᐯᐩ Ꭹᐨ ᑐᘁ Ꮯᒧᐩ ᐃ.
immediately flew went go to at Yi pack dogs.

20 Ꮯᒧᐩ ᐃ Ꮠᐧ ᒍ Ꭲᐨ ᒪ Ꭲᐩ
pack dogs immediately arose came chase the

Ꮯᐟ Ꮥᐣ. Ꮯᒧᐩ ᐃ Ꮥᐦᐣ Ꭲᐩ Ꭹᐨ Ꭲᐣ Ꮥᐣᔆ,
goldcrest. pack dogs took the fox surprise,

ᒪ ᒧᐣ ᑕᐧ Ꮥᑎ Ꭹᐨ ᒧᑦ ᐃᐦᑌ ᒧᑦ ᐃᐦᑊ
chased tore that thus made rags and tatters

ᔑᘁ. Ꭲᐩ Ꮯᐟ Ꮥᐣ ᒍ ᑕ ᐱᘁ ᒪᐣ Ꮑᐣ,
away. the goldcrest arose fled flew came said,

Ꭲᐩ Ꭲᐣ, Ꭲᑎᑦ Ꮯᐟ ᐱᐣ Ꮥᐣ. Ꭲᐩ Ꭹᐨ Ꭲᐣ
the fox, query eaten fill so it is. the fox

25 Ꮑᑉ, Ꭹᐣ, Ꮧᐧ ᑕ" Ꮖᐨ ᑐᐟ ᐃᐨ Ꭲᐟᐡ ᐃ ᒍᐧ,
said, oh, I occasion this given to dogs torn,

Ꮧᐧ Ꮥᐟᐣ ᑕᐧ Ꭲᐦᐢ Ꮥᑉ Ꭹᐨ ᑐᘁ Ꮠᐦᕀ ᔑᘁ.
my coat leather thus made rags and tatters away

Ꭲᐩ Ꮯᐟ Ꮥᐣ Ꮖᑌ Ꮑᑉ, Ꭲᐣ Ꭲᑎᑦ Ꮥᑉ ᏟᏕᐦᐢ
the goldcrest then said, fox query you like

Ꮯᑊ ᐲ ᑲᐦᐢ Ꮥᑎᐤ. Ꭲᐩ Ꭹᐨ Ꭲᐣ Ꮑᑉ, Ꮯᐣ
look at little bells so it is. the fox said, they

Ꮑᑉ ᐲ ᑲᐦᐢ Ꮧᐧ Ꮑᐣ Ꮮᑊ ᑕᐧ, Ꮧᐧ ᏕᏕᐦᐢ Ꮯᑊ
say little bells I not have seen, I like look

30 Ꮥᑎᐤ. Ꭲᐩ Ꮯᐟ Ꮥᐣ ᐃᐟᐣ Ꭲᐩ Ꭲᐣ ᑐᐟ Ꮯᐣᐤ
so it is. the goldcrest took the fox go situated

ᒪᐧ ᖽᐩ ᑕᒪᒋ ᑎᐢ ᒉᓗ ᒉᓂ ᑕᒍᐳ ᖮᐤ ᖮᐩ ᖮᓂᓭ. ᖮᐧ
the hill which cause grass deep very. the

ᑕᐢ ᒪᐣ ᖮᓗ ᐱᐨ ᐃᓲ ᐃᐩ ᐁᐧ ᒍᑫ ᖮᐧ ᒪᓲ
goldcrest then flew went go to yonder the old

᾽ᐃᐢ. ᖮᐧ ᑕᐢ ᒪᐣ ᖮᓗ ᐱᐨ ᒪᓂ ᒍᓲ ᒪᐧ
Miao. the goldcrest then flew came dropped the

ᖷ ᖮᐢ ᒉᓂ ᑕᒍᐳ ᒪᔦ ᒪᓂᓭ. ᖮᐧ ᒪᓲ
top hill caused grass gone so it is. the old

35 ᾽ᐃᐢ ᖮᕀ ᖮᐢ ᐃᓲ ᒃᓂ ᒍ᾽ᑫ Vᔭ ᒪᐧ ᒥᐢ
Miao lit torch went burn off around the top

ᖮᐢ ᖮᵹ. ᖮᐧ ᑕᐢ ᒪᐣ ᒎ ᒍ ᐱᵹ ᒪᔦ.
hill finish. the goldcrest arose fled flew gone.

ᒃᓂ ᖶ᾽ ᒪᑫ ᖮᓂ ᖮᐨ ᖮᵹ. ᖮᐧ ᖽᐨ ᖮᐣ ᖮᐢ ᒍ᾽ᑫ Vᔭ
burning thus came finish. the fox get go round

ᒪᐧ ᖷ ᖮᐢ ᒍᑫ ᒪᐨ, ᖮᵹ ᒪᒪ ᖮᵹ ᑐᑫ ᖮᐧ ᒪᔦ.
the top hill above, run had run not out go.

ᒃᓂ ᖶ᾽ ᒍᐡ ᖮᐧ ᖽᐨ ᖮᐣ ᒪᑫ ᖽᐨ ᒪᐡ᾽ ᖽᐨ ᒪ᾽ᐨ ᖮᵹ.
burning burnt the fox thus patchy finish.

40 ᖮᐧ ᑕᐢ ᒪᐣ ᖮᓗ ᐱᐨ ᒪᓂ ᐁᐨ ᖮᐧ ᖮᐣ
the goldcrest then flew come go to the fox

ᒣᑫ, ᒃᓂ ᒪᔦ ᖮᓂᓭ ᒍᓂ ᕒᐢ ᑕᒪ ᒪᓂᓭ.
said, little bells query good look at so it is.

ᖮᐣ ᒣᑫ, ᖽᓂ, ᕒᐢ ᑕᒪ ᖮᐨ ᖮᓂ, ᒎᐡ ᒪᐡ᾽ᐤ
fox said, oh, good look at very, my coat

ᒍᑫ ᖮᔦ ᖮᐡ ᒎᐡ ᒪᐨ ᖽᐨ ᒪᐡ᾽ ᖽᐨ ᒪ᾽ᐨ ᖮᵹ.
leather all burnt thus patchy finish.

M411
The goldcrest.

Told by Wang Ming-ji.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document H (no. 6, page 2).

M412
The fox and the goldcrest.

Told by Yang Ya-go.

Introduction.

Samuel Pollard, who recorded this story in his diary, was not given a title for it in Miao, so he supplied one in English, "The fox and the bird". At a later stage "bird" was crossed out and "quail" substituted. Where the name first occurs in the text, a note in brackets explains that it was "a small bird". This explanation was not deleted, but the word "quail", together with the Chinese equivalent in Romanization was written in the space above it. Clearly the narrator did not know the Chinese name for this particular kind of bird, and the guess, which produced the translation "quail", was not correct.

In this version of the story, the statement that the Yi woman was taking lunch out to some people who were busy threshing, seems rather more likely than that she was taking it to folk who were engaged in fighting each other, as Wang Ming-ji's version would have us believe. On the other hand the elaborate play on words in his account, which gives zest and point to the last section of the story, is here missing altogether.

M412
The fox and the goldcrest.

Told by Yang Ya-go.

The little fox was seeking scraps to eat when he met a goldcrest who said to him, "Where are you going?" The little fox said, "I am going to seek scraps to eat". The goldcrest replied, "If it is scraps to eat that you are looking for, I will take you to find some". One day when the Yi were threshing buckwheat, an Yi woman was carrying out the lunch, a tub of porridge on her back. The goldcrest took the little fox along, and flew round and round the Yi woman's feet. She set down the lunch and ran in pursuit, while the little fox ate up the porridge. Then the goldcrest flew away.

The goldcrest came to the little fox and said, "Did you find a lot of scraps to eat?" He replied, "I have eaten a great deal!" So then the goldcrest said to the little fox, "Would you like still more scraps to eat?" He replied, "I would". So one day the goldcrest again took the little fox to find scraps to eat, and he said to him, "When I have gone, if you hear me calling to you, you must bark with all your might". The goldcrest brought the fox to where the Yi were tending the sheep, and then called to him. At this the fox barked with all his might, and the dogs which the Yi had brought with them gave chase. The goldcrest rose up and flew away, but the dogs chased the fox all day. Afterwards the goldcrest came to the fox and said, "Did you get any scraps to eat?" The fox replied, "Eating scraps is dangerous! See what happened, my leather jacket was very nearly torn off by the dogs.

The goldcrest said to him, "You would still like some scraps to eat?" He answered, "I would". The goldcrest said, "In that case, I will take you again to go in search". The goldcrest took the fox along and saw that the Yi were tending the cattle. He led the fox to the top of the hill where there was a lot of grass and said, "You stay here while I go and search for scraps for you to come and eat". The goldcrest went and chirruped, and the Yi began burning the grass all around the hilltop. As the flames climbed upward, the goldcrest rose and flew away, but they scorched the fox until he was all patchy. Afterwards the goldcrest again came to the fox and said to him, "Did you get any scraps to eat?" He said, "Eating scraps is dangerous! You look, this is what has happened to my leather jacket".

M412

ꓔᵕ ꓽ ꓔᵓ ꓒꓶₒ ꓔᵕ ꓒ" ꓓᵓ.
the fox with the goldcrest.

ꓔᵕ ꓖ₋ ꓔᵓ ꓥ̄ ꓝ₥ ꓒꓶ̄’ ꓠᵓ ꓒ". ꓒᵓ
the little fox wanted go seek scraps eat. he

ꓝ₥ ꓒꓓᶠ ꓔᵘ ꓒ" ꓓᵓ. ꓔᵘ ꓒ" ꓓᵓ ꓒꓶₒ ꓒᵓ
went met the goldcrest. the goldcrest with him

ꓶₙ, ꓓᵓ ꓥ̄ ꓥ꜔ ꓛ̊’ ꓔᵓ. ꓔᵘ ꓖ₋ ꓔᵓ
said, you want go to where. the little fox

ꓶₙ, ꓛ̆ ꓥ̄ ꓝ₥ ꓒꓶ̄’ ꓠᵓ ꓒ". ꓔᵕ ꓒ" ꓓᵓ
said, I want go seek scraps eat. the goldcrest

5 ꓒꓶₒ ꓒᵓ ꓶₙ, ꓓᵓ ꓓ꜔ ꓒꓶ̄’ ꓠᵓ ꓛᵤ ꓒ",
with him said, you if seek scraps which eat,

ꓛ̆ ꓲ’ᵓ ꓓᵓ ꓝ₥ ꓒꓶ̄’ ꓒ". ꓝ- ꓽⁿ ’ꓒᵘ
I take you go seek eat. there was one day

ꓽ꜔ ꓝᵟ ꓒꓔ₥ ꓓⁿ. ꓽⁿ ꓶᵓ ꓽ꜔ ꓠₒ ꓝᵟ
Yi thresh buckwheat. one classifier woman Yi

Sᵟ ꓙᵘ ꓒ". ꓒᵓ ꓶᵣ ꓛ꜔ ꓶₒ. ꓔᵘ
bring lunch eat. she carry porridge. the

ꓒ" ꓓᵓ ꓲ’ᵓ ꓔᵘ ꓖ₋ ꓔᵓ ꓝ₥. ꓔᵘ ꓒ" ꓓᵓ
goldcrest took the little fox go. the goldcrest

10 ꓥᵟ ꓛ’ⁿ Vᵓ ꓽ꜔ ꓠₒ ꓝᵟ ꓔᵡ. ꓽ꜔ ꓠₒ ꓝᵟ ꓓ°
flew around woman Yi feet. woman Yi set down

ꓒᵓ ꓙᵘ ꓔᵶ. ꓒᵓ ꓶᵶ ꓵ. ꓔᵘ ꓖ₋
her lunch finish, she ran catch. the little

ꓔᵓ ꓝ₥ ꓒ" ꓛ꜔ ꓶₒ ꓔᵶ. ꓔᵘ ꓒ" ꓓᵓ ꓙ̊
fox went ate porridge finish. the goldcrest rose

ꓥᵟ ꓶᵩ.
flew gone.

ꓔᵘ ꓒ" ꓓᵓ ꓶₒ ꓥ꜔ Vᵤ ꓔᵘ ꓖ₋ ꓔᵓ
the goldcrest came go to at the little fox

said, query you eat scraps much. he said, ate

scraps much very. the goldcrest with the little

fox said, query you still like scraps eat. he

said, I like so it is. there was one day the

goldcrest then took the little fox then went

seek scraps eat. the goldcrest with the little

fox said, when I go, I if call you, you must

with strength bark. the goldcrest took the

little fox went arrived Yi tending sheep. the

goldcrest chirruped, the fox then with strength

barked as well. Yi brought dogs come hunt the

fox. the goldcrest rose flew gone finish. dogs

hunted the fox one day away. after goldcrest

then came go to the fox then with him said,

query you eat scraps so it is. the fox he said,

eat scraps hard, also do how, very nearly

ꓛ ꓚ’ꭨ ꓚᵕ⁻ ⵜʳ ꓝ⁻ ꓔ’ᵎ Δ̊ ꓙ̊.
my leather jacket give to dogs tear off.

ꓔᵕ ꓒᵎ ꓓᵓ ꓒꓔₒ ꓒᵓ ꓶₙ, ꓓᵓ ꓛ̄’ ꓒꓓ’ᕽ
the goldcrest with him said, you still like

ꓚᵓ ꓒᵎ. ꓒᵓ ꓶₙ ꓒꓓ’ᕽ ꓓₙₒ ꓔᵕ ꓒᵎ ꓓᵓ
scraps eat. he said, like so it is. the goldcrest

ꓔᵤ ꓒꓔₒ ꓒᵓ ꓶₙ, ꓓ⁻ ꓶⁿ ꓓₙ, ꓛ̊ ꓔᵤ ꓲ’ᵓ
then with him said, in that case, I then take

35 ꓓᵓ ꓝᵢᵢ ꓒꓔ̄’ ꓒᵎ Ṡ̊. ꓔᵕ ꓒᵎ ꓓᵓ ꓔᵤ ꓲ’ᵓ
you go seek eat still. the goldcrest then took

ꓔ⁻ ꓔᵓ ꓝᵢᵢ ꓚₒ Y⁻ ꓝᵟ ꓔᵤ ꓥₙ ꓓ=. ꓒᵓ
the fox went see Yi then pasturing cattle. he

ꓲ’ᵓ ꓔ⁻ ꓔᵓ ꓒꓓⁿ ꓥ⁻ Yⁿ ꓶᵕ ꓟ̈
took the fox climbed go to one classifier top

ꓔᵎ ꓛᵤ ꓝ- ꓒꓛᵡ ꓔ⁻ ꓔₙₑ. ꓒᵓ ꓶₙ, ꓓᵓ ꓒⁿᵒ
hill which had grass very. he said, you stay

ꓒ̊ ꓛ̊ ꓝᵢᵢ ꓒꓔ̄’ ꓚᵓ ꓔ- ꓔ’ᵎ ꓓᵓ ꓒᵎ. ꓔᵕ
here I go seek scraps come for you eat. the

40 ꓒᵎ ꓓᵓ ꓝᵢᵢ ꓛ⁻. Y⁻ ꓝᵟ ꓵ̊ ⵜ’ ꓚ’ⁿ Vᵡ ꓟ̈
goldcrest went chirruped. Yi burning around top

ꓔᵎ. ꓵ̊ ⵜ’ ꓒꓓⁿ ꓔ-, ꓔᵕ ꓒᵎ ꓓᵓ ꓶ̊
hill. burning climbed come, the goldcrest rose

ꓥᵟ ꓶᕽ. ꓵ̊ ⵜ’ ꓚᵕ ꓔ⁻ ꓔᵓ Y⁻ ꓓ̊’ Y⁻ ꓓ’_.
flew gone. burning scorched the fox patchy.

ꓒꓔᵕ ꓛᵡ ꓔᵕ ꓒᵎ ꓓᵓ ꓔᵤ ꓔ- ꓥ⁻ ꓔ⁻ ꓔᵓ
after the goldcrest then came go to the fox

ꓔᵤ ꓒꓔₒ ꓔ⁻ ꓔᵓ ꓶₙ, ꓔₙₑ ꓓᵓ ꓒᵎ ꓚᵓ
then with the fox said, query you eat scraps

45 ꓓₙₒ. ꓔ⁻ ꓔᵓ ꓶₙ, ꓒᵎ ꓚᵓ ꓔ̄, ꓓᵓ
so it is. the fox said, eat scraps hard, you

ꓒ_ ꓛ̊ ꓚ’ⁿ ꓚᵕ⁻ ⵜʳ ꓔᵎ ꓒ̊.
look my leather jacket get to this.

M412
The fox and the goldcrest.

Told by Yang Ya-go.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document J (no. 6, page 13).

Line 30. The expression ⊏'⁻ ⅃ᵘ ⊤°, meaning "very nearly" is Chinese.

Lines 31 and 46. The expression ⅃'ⁿ ⅃ᵘ⁻ †ʳ, meaning "leather jacket" is also Chinese.

M413

The chicken and the wildcat, a matter of comparing mouths.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

It is interesting that in this story not only are the animals and birds personified but inanimate objects as well; the needle, the rope, the washing dolly, the acorn and even the cow dung. In a subsequent tale where the goat, the table and several other things broke into human speech, the man declared that they were "possessed", and proceeded to destroy them. In this story no people are involved, so the question of "possession" does not arise. In fact the objects concerned were all ordinary things to be found in or around a Miao house. The washing dolly was a heavy object made of wood, rather like an Indian club, and used for beating the washing laid on a stone in a stream of running water. Individually they could have done nothing about the wildcat but collectively this miscellaneous collection proved most effective. The story may well have an allegorical meaning.

M413

The chicken and the wildcat, a matter of comparing mouths.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

They tell a story that once upon a time, there was a family of chicken. One day father chick said to mother chick, "I must go out digging, you stay at home and prepare breakfast, and at breakfast time bring mine out to me, please". Presently mother chick prepared breakfast and carried it out for father chick to eat. As she was going along the road she met the wildcat. The wildcat said, "What are you doing?" Mother chick said, "Father chick has gone digging and I am taking him his breakfast". The wildcat said, "Well, let us two compare mouths and see who has the bigger. If my mouth is the bigger I shall eat you, if your mouth is bigger then you can eat me". The wildcat went on, "Now you open your mouth and I will ease my head inside. If you can hold my head in your mouth you shall eat me". So mother chick opened her mouth for the wildcat to ease his head in, but mother chick's mouth not being very big, the wildcat's head would not go in. The wildcat said to mother chick, "My head will not go in. Now I will open my mouth, you ease your head in". So the wildcat opened his mouth and mother chick eased her head in, and it went right inside the wildcat's mouth. The wildcat took mother chick and dragged her to the foot of the cliff and ate her there.

Father chick went on digging until breakfast time, but there was no sign of mother chick bringing his breakfast, so father chick returned home and asked the children, "What did your mother go out to do?" The little chicks replied, "Mother has taken your breakfast out to you". Father chick said, "Your mother did not arrive. If she came out with my breakfast and I did not meet her on the way back, then she must have met the wildcat, and the wildcat has caught and eaten her. You stay at home while I go and look for her".

While father chick was going to look for mother chick, he first met the rope. The rope said, "Father chick, what are you going out to do?" Father chick replied, "Mother chick has disappeared, and I am going to look for her". The rope said, "I will go with you to look". The two of them went on and met the washing dolly. The washing dolly said, "What are you two going out to do?" They replied, "Mother chick has disappeared, and we are going to look for her". The washing dolly said, "I will go with you to look". They went on and met the needle, the cow dung and the acorn who all said, "We will go with you to look".

They went on and came to the foot of the cliff. When they saw the chicken feathers in the middle of the space at the bottom of the cliff, they knew that it was here that the wildcat had eaten mother chick. Next they searched and found the wildcat's hole, and this is what they did. The rope tied up the washing dolly over the entrance of the hole. The cow dung lay on the ground to be stepped on. The needle hid beside the fire and the acorn hid in the fireplace. Then father chick went inside the hole to lure the wildcat out. The wild cat ran into the middle of the hole, slipped on the cow dung and fell down. He got up and went to blow the fire. The acorn came out and rapped him on the head, which made him sit down on the ground. At this the needle pricked him so that he got up and ran outside. Then the washing dolly swung down and struck him on the head. So the wildcat was killed.

M413

ꓖ' ꓒꓔₒ ꓖⁿ ꓥⁿ, ꓒᵛ ꓖᵤ ꓕⁿ ꓒꓓ₋ Yˉ L˚.
chicken with wildcat, matter which compare lips.

ꓒↄ ꓕₙ ꓫⁿ Tₙ ꓖᵤ Yˉ T'" Lⁿ Ↄ- Yⁿ
they tell story that of old there was one

Λₙ ꓖ'. Ↄ- Yⁿ 'ꓒᵛ Vᵤ ꓖ'
family chicken. there was one day father chick

ꓒꓔₒ ꓒⁿᶜ ꓖ' ꓕₙ, ꓖ̆ Λ̄ Ↄₙ ꓒꓓᵩ Tⁿ
with mother chick said, I want go dig earth

Tᵹ. ꓓↄ ꓒⁿº ꓒꓖ- Yˉ ꓓ'ᵢ. ⊦ₒ
finish. you stay house make breakfast. reach

5 Yˉ T̆ ꓒᵎ ꓓ'ᵢ ꓓₙ, ꓓↄ T- Sᵹ ꓖ̆
time eat breakfast thus, you come bring my

ꓓ'ᵢ ꓕₒ. Yˉ ꓖᵡ ꓒⁿᶜ ꓖ' ꓖⁿ ⊦ⁿᶜ
breakfast exclamation. after mother chick prepared

ꓓ'ᵢ ꓔᵣ Ↄₙ ꓔᵎ Vᵤ ꓖ' ꓒᵎ. T'" ꓖᵤ
breakfast carried go to father chick eat. when

Ↄₙ Vᵤ ̊ꓓ, Ↄₙ ꓒꓓᵣ Tᵛ ꓖⁿ Δⁿ. Tᵛ ꓖⁿ Δⁿ
go upon road, go meet the wildcat. the wildcat

ꓒꓔₒ ꓒⁿᶜ ꓖ' ꓕₙ, ꓓↄ Λ̄ Ↄₙ Yˉ ꓖ̄ Jᵣ.
with mother chick said, you want go do what.

10 ꓒⁿᶜ ꓖ' ꓕₙ, Vᵤ ꓖ' Ↄₙ ꓒꓓᵩ Tⁿ
mother chick said, father chick go dig earth

Lᵩ ꓒ̄ ꓖ̆ Λ̄ Ↄₙ Sᵹ ꓓ'ᵢ. ꓖⁿ Δⁿ
gone so I want go bring breakfast. wildcat

ꓕₙ, Yˉ Lⁿ Tˉ Yˉ Lᵡ ꓕⁿ ꓒꓓ₋
said, in that case, come two classifier compare

Yˉ L˚, ꓒ₋ Ↄᵹ ꓖ̄ Tↄ Yˉ L˚ ꓮ˚. ꓓˉ ꓖᵤ ꓖ̆
lips, look observe who lips big. if that my

Yˉ L˚ ꓮ˚, ꓖ̆ ꓒᵎ ꓓↄ ꓒꓖ', ꓓˉ ꓖᵤ ꓓↄ Yˉ L˚
lips big, I eat your meat, if that your lips

15 Ꮟᐤ, ᑕᓄ ᑕᑊ ᒍᐞ ᑕᒍᑊ. ᒍᑫ ᐃᑫ ᒪᑲ, ᑳ ᑳ ᑕᓄ
big, you eat my meat. wildcat said, now you

ᖶᐨ ᖻᐨ ᒪᐤ, ᒍᐞ ᔑᐞ ᒪᓄ ᒍᐞ ᒪᑫ ᒥᑊ ᖶᑊ ᑕᓄ
open lips, I first ease my head into your

ᖻᐨ ᑕᑊ, ᑕᐨ ᒍᑌ ᑕᓄ ᑕᒧ ᖶᑊ ᒍᐞ ᒪᑫ ᒥᑊ ᑕᑲ,
mouth, if that you contain get my head thus,

ᑕᓄ ᑕᑊ ᒍᐞ Sᘁ. ᖻᐨ ᒪᑫ ᑕᖅ ᒉᑊ ᖶᐨ ᖻᐨ ᒪᐤ
you eat me away. so mother chick opened lips

ᖶ’ᐢ ᒍᑫ ᐃᑫ ᒪᓄ ᒪᑫ ᒥᑊ ᑐᐣ. ᑕᖅ ᒉᑊ ᖻᐨ ᑕᑕᑊ
for wildcat ease head go. mother chick mouth

20 ᒣᑫ Ꮟᐤ ᖶᐨ, ᒍᑫ ᐃᑫ ᒪᑫ ᒥᑊ ᑐᐣ ᒣᑫ ᐟᒥ.
not big only, wildcat head go not able.

ᒍᑫ ᐃᑫ ᑕᖶᓚ ᑕᖅ ᒉᑊ ᒪᓄ. ᒍᐞ ᒪᑫ ᒥᑊ ᑐᐣ ᒣᑫ
wildcat with mother chick said, my head go not

ᐟᒥ, ᑳ ᑳ ᒍᐞ ᖶᐨ ᖻᐨ ᒪᐤ ᑕᖅ, ᑕᓄ ᖶᑌ ᒪᓄ
able, now I open lips completed, you then ease

ᒪᑫ ᒥᑊ ᑐᐣ. ᖻᐨ ᒪᑫ ᒍᑫ ᐃᑫ ᖶᐨ ᖻᐨ ᒪᐤ ᑕᖅ,
head go. so wildcat opened lips completed,

ᑕᖅ ᒉᑊ ᒪᓄ ᒪᑫ ᒥᑊ ᑐᐣ. ᑕᖅ ᒉᑊ ᒪᑫ ᒥᑊ
mother chick eased head go. mother chick head

25 ᒪᓄ ᒧᐣ ᒍᑫ ᐃᑫ ᖻᐨ ᑕᑕᑊ ᒪᖽ. ᒍᑫ ᐃᑫ ᑕ’ᓂᖽ
eased go in wildcat mouth gone. wildcat took

ᑕᖅ ᒉᑊ ᒣᑫ ᒪᒪ ᑐᐣ ᐃᐨ ᒪᑫ ᒉᘁ ᐟᒥ ᖶᐨ
mother chick drag went go to the bottom cliff

ᒪᖽ, ᑕ’ᓂᖽ ᑕᖅ ᒉᑊ ᑕᑊ Sᘁ Ỿ.
gone, took mother chick eat away there.

Vᓄ ᒉᑊ ᑕᑕᖽ Tᑫ ᖶᓂ ᖻᐨ T̃ ᑕᑊ ᑕ’ᒻ
father chick dug earth reach time eat breakfast

Tᘁ, ᒣᑫ ᒧᓂ ᑕᖅ ᒉᑊ Tᖼ ᑕ’ᒻ ᑐᐣ
finish, not see mother chick carry breakfast go

30 Sᵟ Cↄ. Vᵤ Ɪ' S̊ Lₒ Δ⁻
bring him. father chick returned come go to

Cℶ-, Cᵤ Tᵘ Cɬ'ᵢ ℸₙ, Ↄₙ Cⁿᶜ Ↄ₁₁ Y⁻
house, asked children said, your mother go do

Ī Jʳ Lᵩ. Ꞩ_ Ɪ' ℸₙ, Ⅎⁿ Cⁿᶜ Ꞇᵣ
what gone. small chicken said, our mother carry

Ꞵ'ᵢ T- Ꞇ'" Ꞵↄ Cᵘ Lᵩ Tᵟ C̄.
breakfast come for you eat gone finish so.

Vᵤ Ɪ' ℸₙ, Ↄₙ Cⁿᶜ ℸⁿ Lₒ T-. Ↄₙ
father chick said, your mother not come. your

35 Cⁿᶜ Ꞵ⁻ Ⅎᵤ T- Sᵟ J̆ Ꞵ'ᵢ, J̆ T-
mother if that come bring my breakfast, I come

ℸⁿ Tᵘ CꞴʳ, Cↄ T- Ⅎⁿ Δⁿ CꞴʳ Cↄ C̄
not get meet, she come wildcat met her so,

Ⅎⁿ Δⁿ Ↄ⁻ Cᵘ Sᵟ Tᵟ. Ↄₙ Cⁿº Cℶ-,
wildcat take eat away finish. you stay house,

J̆ Ↄ₁₁ C‾Ꞇ'.
I go seek.

Vᵤ Ɪ' Λ̄ Ↄ₁₁ C‾Ꞇ' Cⁿᶜ Ɪ', T'" Ⅎᵤ
father chick wanted go seek mother chick. when

40 Ↄ₁₁ Ŷ, Sᵘ Ↄ₁₁ CꞴʳ Tᵕ ɓ⁻. Tᵕ ɓ⁻
go that time, first went met the rope. the rope

ℸₙ, Vᵤ Ɪ' Ꞵↄ Ↄ₁₁ Y⁻ Y⁻ Jʳ. Vᵤ
said, father chick you go do what. father

Ɪ' ℸₙ, Cⁿᶜ Ɪ' ℸⁿ Ⅎₒ C̄ J̆ Λ̄ Ↄ₁₁
chick said, mother chick not see so, I want go

C‾Ꞇ'. Tᵕ ɓ⁻ ℸₙ, J̆ CꞆₒ Ꞵↄ Ↄ₁₁ C‾Ꞇ'. Cↄ
seek. the rope said, I with you go seek. they

Y⁻ Lᵡ Ↄ₁₁, Ꞇᵤ Ↄ₁₁ CꞴʳ Tⁿ
two classifier went, then went met the

45 T'" Lↄ. T'" Lↄ ℸₙ, Ↄₙ Y⁻
washing dolly. washing dolly said, you two

Ʞᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ
classifier want go do what. they two classifier

ᵡᵡ, ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ
said, mother chick not see gone so two

Ʞᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ. ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ
classifier want go seek. the washing dolly said,

ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ. ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ, ᵡᵡ
I with you go. they went met the needle, the

ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ, ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ
cow dung with the acorn, all said want with

ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ.
go seek.

ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ.
they went reach the bottom cliff finish. saw

ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ
feathers chicken situated at the inside bottom

ᵡᵡ. ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ
cliff. saw that wildcat eat mother chick away

ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ. ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ
here finish. they then seek see one classifier

ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ. ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ, ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ,
hole wildcat. make like this, rope tied

ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ. ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ
washing dolly situated door hole. cow dung

ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ. ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ
situated bottom tread on. needle situated side

ᵡᵡ. ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ
fire. acorn situated hole fire. father chick

ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ
went go to inside hole lure wildcat. wildcat

ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ ᵡᵡ
ran come at inside hole get slip cow dung fall

Lᶜ. Cᵓ J̊ Ɔᵢᵢ †'⁻ Tᶜ, Tᵘ Y⁻ Lᵘ Ǝⁿ Ɪᵘ Tᶜ
gone. he rose went blow fire, the acorn out

Lₒ Ɪᶠ Cᵓ Lⁿ Γᵢᵢ. Ɔⁿ Δⁿ Tᵢᵢ Ʒᵢᵢ ⅃ⁿ Tⁿ,
came rap his head. wildcat get sit ground,

Ɔᵢᵢ Ɪᵤ Ɛ'° Cᵓ. Cᵓ Ɪᵤ J̊ Ɪᵹ Δ⁻
needle then prick him. he then rose ran go to

Ʒ̈, T'ᵢᵢ Lᵓ Ɪᵤ ⅃ᵢᵢ Lₒ Ɪᵢᵢ
outside, washing dolly then fell came upon

Ɔⁿ Δⁿ Lⁿ Γᵢᵢ. Y⁻ Lⁿ C̄ C̊ Ɔⁿ Δⁿ Tᵢᵢ CTᵢᵢ
wildcat head. make like now wildcat get strike

T₋ Lᶜ Tᵹ.
dead gone finish.

M413

The chicken and the wildcat, a matter of comparing mouths.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 7, page 3).

M414
The deception of the rang is bitterness for the bear.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

In reading this story, and in several others that use the word "rang", it should be remembered that the letter "r" in the Pinyin convention for writing Miao, is pronounced as "z " in English.

In this story the bear became a victim of the "rang", which was a mythical animal whose one characteristic was a delight in playing spiteful tricks on others. All enquiries as to what a rang looked like, simply provoked laughter, and the answer, "I don't know". It seems to have been thought of, sometimes as a quadruped, and sometimes as a monkey. From the stories it appears that on the one hand the rang was small enough to be carried in a basket on a person's back, and to be able to move about inside the basket, and also small enough to get into a woodpecker's hole in a tree. On the other hand it was big enough to put a bridle over a tiger's head, and ride him as a man might ride a horse, and to lie on a bed dressed in an adult woman's clothes and to look sufficiently realistic to deceive the woman's own daughter. Fortunately mythical animals are not required to be self-consistent. This kind of "rang", pronounced in a high falling tone, is not to be confused with the "rang" pronounced in a low rising tone. The latter is the Miao word for a dragon, and is identified with the rainbow.

The opening sentence of the story seems hardly relevant. The rang's motive was sadistic not gastronomic.

The Miao regularly felled pine trees for fuel. The top would first be lopped off, and then the stump split down with wedges and cut off at ground level. The tree in this story had been left overnight with the wedges holding the split open. The Miao kept bees in hives made from hollowed tree trunks, but they would also take the honey of wild bees, an operation which always began by poking a stick into the hive to discover whether there was any honey there. This was the point of the bear poking its tail into the crack in the tree. Though he did not realise it, his tail went right through the tree so that the rang was able to sprinkle it with salt. The bear withdrew his tail, and, licking it, was puzzled by the taste. Accordingly the rang bade him try again and put his tail in as far as it would go. The rang then pulled out the wedge, and the bear's tail was caught in the tree as the crack sprang closed.

M414
The deception of the rang is bitterness for the bear.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong

They say that the rang liked to eat bear's flesh. Seeking a way to trick the bear he said, "Over there is a tree, which someone has chopped and split open, and the bees have gone and settled inside. Let us two go and get the honey to eat". The bear said, "All right." So the rang took the bear along and they reached the tree that had been chopped. The rang said, "The bees are here. You ease your tail in first and poke, then have a lick". The bear eased his tail in and poked, but the rang on the other side of the tree took salt and sprinkled it on the bear's tail. The bear pulled his tail out and licked it. The bear said, "It certainly tastes!" The rang said, "You poke hard!" so the bear poked hard, but the rang on the far side was also working hard. He pulled out the wedge and caught the bear's tail in the tree. Today bears have no tails and it comes from this incident.

M414

ʒᵟ Ḽ’ Δᵢ Cʺ Yˉ.
rang deceives bear eats bitterness.

Cↄ ℸₙ Ⅎᵤ ʒᵟ CḼ’ᵹ Cⅎˈ Δᵢ Cʺ. ʒᵟ
they say that rang liked flesh bear eat. rang

Ct̄’ Ⅎ’ʺ J̈’ Ↄ„ Ḽ’ Tᵕ Δₙ ℸₙ,
sought scheme go deceive the bear said,

J̇’ ⅃ⁿ Tⁿ Ↄ- Yⁿ Γᵟ CTʺ, Tᵡ Cᵡ
over yonder there is one classifier tree, people

Lˍ Ↄ„ ⅃’ˉ Yˉ Ⅎᵟ Ḽⁿᶜ. Vᵤ CΔ°
have gone chop split open completed. at inside

5 Ↄ̆ Ↄ„ Cⁿᵒ CƬᵤ Tȣ. T- Yˉ Lᵡ
bees go live within finish. come two classifier

Ↄ„ ⅃ᵹ Ⅎˉ Ↄ̆ Cʺ Λˉ. Tᵕ Δᵢ
go extract liquid honey eat let us. the bear

ℸₙ, Yˉ Ḽⁿᵒ Ↄˉ. Tᵕ ʒᵡ Iˈᵓ Tᵕ Δᵢ Ↄ„.
said, do so then. the rang took the bear went.

Ↄ„ ŧₒ Γᵟ CTʺ Ⅎᵤ Tᵡ Cᵡ Lˍ
went reach classifier tree which people had

⅃’ˉ Ḽⁿᶜ Ẏ. ʒᵟ ℸₙ Ↄ̆
chopped completed that place. rang said, bees

10 Cⁿᵒ Ć Tȣ. Ḽↄ Sᵘ Lↄ Ḽↄ Tᵕ
situated here finish. you first ease your the

Yˉ Cŧᵟ Ↄ„ Ḽ’ↄ Ḽ’ↄ Lₒ Λᵤ Ↄˉ. Tᵕ Δᵢ Lↄ
tail go poke come lick so. the bear eased

Tᵕ Yˉ Cŧᵟ Ↄ„ Ḽ’ↄ Ḽ’ↄ ʒᵟ Cⁿᵒ Sᵟ Yˉ CTᵘ
the tail went poke. rang situated side other

Ɪ’ʺ CḼ̊ CT̊ Ɪʺ Tᵕ Δᵢ Tᵕ Yˉ Cŧᵟ. Tᵕ
with salt sprinkled on the bear the tail. the

Δᵢ Ḽ° Tᵕ Yˉ Cŧᵟ Ↄ„ Λᵤ. Tᵕ Δᵢ Tᵕ
bear withdrew the tail went lick. the bear the

15 Y⁻ Cᵗᵝ Jᵝ CC̊. Tᵇ Δᵢ ˥ₙ, J̊ Tₙᶜ.
tail tasted salt. the bear said, tastes truly.

Ʒᵝ ˥ₙ, Cᵓ Ɪ'ᴵᴵ Ʒᵒ C'ᵓ C'ᵓ. Y⁻ Lⁿ Δᵢ Ɪ'ᴵᴵ
rang said, you with effort poke. so bear with

Ʒᵒ C'ᵓ C'ᵓ Ɔᴵᴵ. Ʒᵝ Cⁿᵒ Sᵝ Ẏ Ɪ'ᴵᴵ
effort poked went. rang situated side that with

Ʒᵒ T'ᵒ Tᵇ C₋ Sᵝ. Tᵇ Δᵢ Tᵇ
effort pulled out the wedge away. the bear the

Y⁻ Cᵗᵝ Tᴵᴵ Tᴵ Ɪ'ᴵᴵ Vᵇ Tᵇ CTᴵᴵ Cⁿᶜ. C̄ C̊
tail get pinch in the tree completed. now

20 Δᵢ ˥ⁿ Ɔ⁻ Y⁻ Cᵗᵝ Jᵇ T⁻ Vᵇ C̊.
bear not have tail is come from here.

M414

The deception of the rang is bitterness for the bear.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no.12, page 5).

M415

How the rang deceived the tiger.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

The Miao word for “rainbow” and “dragon” is also used as a proper name in a number of songs. It appears in the form “Yeu Rang”, literally “Man Rang”, and this is approximately equivalent to “old man Rang” in English. In the present piece old man Rang plays no active role, but elsewhere he is portrayed as a wealthy, formidable, even fierce personage, often possessing supernatural powers. His name, pronounced on a low rising tone, has nothing to do with the mythical creature, the rang, pronounced in a high falling tone, from whose tricks both the tiger and the bear in this tale suffered.

Very occasionally, in extreme circumstances a family, afraid that it was in danger of dying out, would perform an ancestral rite called a “Zi”. Lavish hospitality was extended to a wide circle of relatives and friends and stabling was provided for those who came on horse back. It was as horse thieves that the rang and the tiger approached the gathering.

The second half of the story is a variation on the theme, “How the bear lost its tail”.

M415
How the rang deceived the tiger.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

People tell a story that, once upon a time, old man Rang and his people were performing the ancestral sacrifice. The rang wanted to go in search of a horse to ride at the place where old man Rang's guests were assembled. The rang happened to meet old man tiger and said to him, "Old man tiger, old man Rang and his people are performing ancestral rites. Come, let us each seek a horse to ride". Old man tiger said, "Good!" So the two of them went along together. The rang said, "When we arrive no one must speak a word, but let each of us find a horse which is very good and very fat". Old man tiger replied, "That's right". When evening came the rang took old man tiger to the stable to feel the horses. Old man tiger felt every one, and all had protruding back-bones, very thin indeed. There was not one which was fat, with a backbone which did not protrude. The rang also felt them and found that not one was any good. Then he reached old man tiger. Now he was very fat, there were no protruding bones on his back, so the rang forced a bit into old man tiger's mouth, led him outside, jumped on to his back and whipped him until he began to run. Old man tiger ran over several hills and several valleys before presently he stopped and looked on his back. There he saw that it was the rang that was riding him. He said, "Today I have been caught and ridden by you until I am tired out!" The rang said to old man tiger, "Don't stay talking any more. You run on quickly for the people are hunting us". Old man tiger got up and ran on over several hills and several valleys. The rang, still on old man tiger's back, saw a large tree with a hole in it that the woodpecker had dig out. The rang said, "Old man tiger, you stop. I have got something to tell you". Old man tiger stopped in front of the tree, and the rang jumped right into the hole.

There was nothing that old man tiger could do. Still afraid that people were coming behind, he had no option but to keep running straight on. As he was running he met the bear. The bear asked him, "Old man tiger, what are you running for?" Old man tiger said, "Old man Rang and his people were performing the ancestral sacrifice, the rang wanted to take me to seek a horse to ride. He took me along, but among old man Rang's horses we found none fit to ride, but I got ridden by the rang well and truly! He rode me until we came to the hill yonder, where there was a tree with a hole in it. Seeing this he ran and dropped down inside the hole in the tree, but I was afraid the people were chasing me so I kept on running". The bear said, "Do not be afraid. Take me along and we will both go and have a look". So old man tiger took the bear, and when they arrived old man tiger said, "The rang ran into that hole there". The bear climbed up, took his tail and poked it into the hole. Inside the hole the rang tugged on the bears tail, while the bear pulled with all his strength until his tail snapped off. Old man tiger said, "What has happened to you?" The bear replied, "It's only the tail of my coat that has got torn off!" Old man tiger said, "That rang! We are never going to catch him. Another time do not have anything to do with him!"

M415

ʒᵊ ᒪ̍’ ᒪ̊.
rang deceives tiger.

Tᵇ Cᵇ ˥ₙ ˩ⁿ Tᵢᵢ ˥ᵥ Yˉ T’ᵢᵢ Lⁿ Λᶜ ʒᵊ Ɔₙ
people say story that of old Man Rang plural

Λ̄ ᵗᵣ Tᵊ. ʒᵊ Λ̄ Ɔᵢᵢ Cᒪ̄̄’
wanted sacrifice finish. rang wanted go seek

Cᵇ Δˉ Vᵥ Λᶜ ʒᵊ Ɔₙ Lᵘ Cⁿ
horse go to at Man Rang plural the assembly place

ɟ’ˉ Ŷⁿ Cⁿᵇ. ʒᵊ Ɔᵢᵢ Cᒪʳ Λᶜ ᒪ̊.
guest that place ride. rang went meet man tiger.

ʒᵊ Cᒪₒ Λᶜ ᒪ̊ ˥ₙ, Λᶜ ᒪ̊, Λᶜ ʒᵊ
rang with man tiger said, man tiger, Man Rang

Ɔₙ Λ̄ ᵗᵣ Tᵊ, Tˉ Yˉ Lᵇ
plural want sacrifice finish, come two classifier

Ɔᵢᵢ Cᒪ̄̄’ Cᵇ Cⁿᵇ Λˉ. Λᶜ ᒪ̊ ˥ₙ, ʒᵢᵢ.
go seek horse ride let us. man tiger said, good.

Yˉ Lⁿ Cᵓ Yˉ Lᵇ ˥ⁿ Cᒪₒ Ɔᵢᵢ. ʒᵊ
so they two classifier together went. rang

Ɪᵥ ˥ₙ, Yˉ Lᵇ Ɔᵢᵢ ᵗₒ, ˥ⁿ Λ̄
then said, two classifier go reach, not want

ɟ̄ Tᵓ ˥ₙ Lᵘ, Ŷⁿ Vⁿᶜ Yˉ Lᵇ Λ̄ ˥ᵥ
any one say words, but two classifier want that

Cᒪ̄̄’ Tⁿ Yⁿ Tᵥ ˥ᵥ ʒᵢᵢ Tˉ Tⁿᶜ, Δₒ
seek the one classifier which good very, fat

Tˉ Tⁿᶜ. Λᶜ ᒪ̊ ˥ₙ, Ȳ Lⁿ ʒᵢᵢ Cⁿₒ.
very. man tiger said, make like good so it is.

’Ɔ° CTᵘ Tᵊ ʒᵊ I’ᵓ Λᶜ ᒪ̊ Ɔᵢᵢ Δˉ
evening finish rang took man tiger went go to

Lᵘ C˥ˉ Cᵇ, Ɔᵢᵢ S₋ S₋. Λᶜ ᒪ̊ S₋ S₋ ᵗ’ˉ
the house horse, went feel. man tiger felt each

15 Tᵤ Tᵘ Ↄ- ⵊᵖ Tⁿ Jₙ Λ- T⁻ Tₙ꜀. ⅂ⁿ
classifier all had bumpy back thin very. not

Ↄ- Yⁿ Tᵤ ⵊᵤ Δₒ, ⵊᵤ ⅂ⁿ Ↄ-
have one classifier was fat, which not have

ⵊᵖ Tⁿ Jₙ. Ȝᵟ L- S- S- ⅂ⁿ T" Yⁿ
bumpy back. rang also felt not get one

Tᵤ ⵊᵤ Ȝ". Ȝᵟ S- S- Lₒ ⱶₒ
classifier was good. rang felt come reach

Λᵩ L̊ Λᵩ L̊ Δₒ T⁻ Tₙ꜀, ⅂ⁿ Ↄ- ⵊᵖ
man tiger. man tiger fat very, not have bumpy

20 Tⁿ Jₙ. Y⁻ Lⁿ Ȝᵟ C'ₙᵩ Λᵩ L̊ Γᵹ Jᵖ Y⁻ CC"
back. so rang took man tiger put bit in mouth

C^ₙ꜀. C^ᵹ Tᵩ Lₒ, Δ'ₙ꜀ Δ⁻ Λᵩ L̊
completed. led out come, jump go to man tiger

Lᵘ Tⁿ Jₙ, CTₙ ⵊₒ Λᵩ L̊ Ɪᵹ. Λᵩ L̊
the back, hit caused man tiger run. man tiger

Ɪᵹ J̊ C^ₙₙ Lᵘ Ɪ", J̊ C^ₙₙ Lᵘ
ran several classifier hills, several classifier

ᵟ⅂ Sᵟ. T⁻ Lₙ꜀ J̊ Lₒ C- Ɪ" Cↄ
valleys away. presently stood come look at his

25 Tⁿ Jₙ. Cↄ C- ⅃ₒ Ȝᵟ C^ᵇ Cↄ. Cↄ ⅂ₙ,
back. he look see rang ride him. he said,

'Ↄ° C̄ ⵊ̆ ⅃ₒ Ↄ⁻ Ɪ'" C^ᵇ C^ₙ꜀ ⵊᵤ ⵊ̆
today I see give to you ride completed that I

Δ'- Tᵹ Tᵹ. Ȝᵟ CIₒ Λᵩ L̊ ⅂ₙ, C^ↄ
tired done finish. rang with man tiger said, you

Jᵀ⁻ ⅂ₙ Lᵘ Tⁿ Ṣ̊, C^ↄ Ɪᵹ ⵊ'ᵡ Cᵡ, Tᵡ Cᵡ
do not say words yet, you run quickly, people

L̊ Lₒ Tᵹ. Λᵩ L̊ Ɪᵤ J̊ Ɪᵹ, Ɪᵤ
hunt come finish. man tiger then rose ran, then

30 Ɪᵹ ⅃ⁿ C^ₙₙ Lᵘ Ɪ", ⅃ⁿ C^ₙₙ Lᵘ
ran several classifier hills, several classifier

ˀ̊ Sˀ̊. Tˉ Lₙ꜀ Ʒˀ̊ Cⁿᵒ ʌᵩ P̊
valleys away. presently rang situated man tiger

Lᵘ Tⁿ Jₗₗ, ⅃ₒ Yⁿ Γˀ̊ Yˉ Lˀ̊ CT", Ɔ-
the back, saw one classifier great tree, had

Yⁿ Lᵘ J̊’ Ɔᵤ C" CPₙᵩ CT" CPₙᵩ
one classifier hole which bird dig tree dig

P꜀ⁿ. Ʒˀ̊ ⅂ₙ, ʌᵩ P̊, Pɔ J̊
completed. rang said, man tiger, you stand

35 P꜀ⁿ, J̆ ⅂ₙ J̄ Jʳ Jˀ’ Pɔ. ʌᵩ P̊
completed, I say something show you. man tiger

J̊ CT’ⁿ꜀ P꜀ⁿ. Ʒˀ̊ Δ’ⁿ꜀ Δ̊’ Δˉ
stood in front of completed. rang jump hop go to

Lᵕ J̊’ CT" Lᵩ.
the hole tree gone.

ʌᵩ P̊ ⅂ⁿ T" P̊ Yˉ Pⁿ̊, Cɔ Tᵤ CP’ᵢ Tᵡ Cᵡ
man tiger not get way any, he then fear people

K̊ Lₒ Yˉ Jᵡ. Cɔ P_ T" P̊ Tˀ̊ Δˉ
hunt come behind. he only get way run go to

40 Yˉ T’_ Tˉ. Cɔ Tˀ̊ Ɔₗₗ CPʳ Tᵕ Δᵢ. Tᵕ Δᵢ
ahead only. he ran go met the bear. the bear

Cᵤ Cɔ ⅂ₙ, ʌᵩ P̊ Pɔ Tˀ̊ Yˉ Jʳ. ʌᵩ P̊
asked him said, man tiger you run what. man tiger

⅂ₙ, ʌᵩ Ʒˀ̊ Ɔₙ ⊦ᵣ, Ʒˀ̊ Λ̄ Iˀ’
said, Man Rang plural sacrifice, rang wanted take

J̆ Ɔₗₗ Cɬ̄’ Cᵡ P⁰ᵡ. Cɔ Iˀ’ J̆ Ɔₗₗ, ʌᵩ Ʒˀ̊
me go seek horse ride. he took me go, Man Rang

Ɔₙ Cᵡ ⅃ₒ ⅂ⁿ T" P⁰ᵡ. J̆ ⅃ₒ Ɔˉ Tˀ"
plural horses see not get ride. I see give to

45 Cɔ P⁰ᵡ Yⁿ Ɔₗₗ Ʒ". Cɔ P⁰ᵡ J̆ Lₒ
him ride one occasion good. he rode me come

⊦ₒ Lᵘ Tˀ" ⅃ⁿ Tⁿ. Ɔ- Yⁿ Γˀ̊
reach the hill yonder. there is one classifier

ᑕᖅ ᑐ- ᕿᑎ ᒪᑲ ᒍᑉ, ᑕᓗ ᒧᓄ ᖁᓴ ᖁᘐ
tree have one classifier hole, he saw then ran

ᒧᐦ ᒪᑲ ᒍᑉ ᑕᖅ ᒪᔪ. ᒎᑲ ᑕᒥᑦ ᖃᐳ ᑕᐳ
dropped into the hole tree gone. I fear people

ᖅ- ᑳ ᒎᑲ ᖁᘐ ᖃᑲ ᐃᑦ ᖅᑎ ᖅᑏ ᑕᒥᑦ,
come therefore I run. the bear said, not fear,

50 ᒥᓗ ᐊᑦᓂ ᒎᑲ, ᕿ- ᒪᐳ ᑐᐦ ᑕ- ᑐᵒ.
you take me, two classifier go look observe.

ᐱᔪ ᒃᑭ ᐊᑦᓂ ᐃᑦ ᑐᐦ. ᑐᐦ ᖃᓄ ᖁᘐ,
man tiger took bear go. go reach finish,

ᐱᔪ ᒃᑭ ᖅᑎ, ᕆᵒ ᖁᘐ ᑐᐦ ᐃ- ᐅᑲ ᒪᑲ ᒍᑉ
man tiger said, rang ran go go to at the hole

ᐅᑲ ᒪᔪ. ᐃᑦ ᑕᒥᑏ ᑐᐦ. ᐃᑦ ᑐ- ᐃᑦ ᖅᑲ
there gone. bear climb go. bear took bear the

ᕿ- ᑕᖃᖅ ᑐᐦ ᒥᓂ ᒥᓂ. ᕆᵒ ᑕᑏᵒ ᐅᑲ ᒪᑲ ᑕᐃᐤ
tail go poke. rang situated at the inside

55 ᒍᑉ ᑕᒍᓗ ᐃᑦ ᖅᑲ ᕿ- ᑕᖃᖅ ᖁᘐ ᒥᑦᑕ. ᐃᑦ
hole tug bear the tail finish completed. bear

ᒪᑦᐦ ᕆᐤ ᒍᑏ ᑎ. ᐃᑦ ᖅᑲ ᕿ- ᑕᖃᖅ ᖅᑎ ᖅᑲ
with effort pulled. bear the tail get parted

ᒪᔪ. ᐱᔪ ᒃᑭ ᖅᑎ, ᒥᓗ ᖁᓕᑦ ᕿ- ᒥᖅ. ᐃᑦ
gone. man tiger said, you query do how. bear

ᖅᑎ, ᒎᑲ ᐃᓗ ᒍᖅ ᒥᐦᐤ ᖅᑎ ᖅᑲ ᒪᔪ ᖅ-.
said, my the bottom coat get parted gone only.

ᐱᔪ ᒃᑭ ᖅᑎ, ᕆᖅ ᑕ ᖅᑏ ᖅᑎ ᖁᓕᑦ, ᕿ-
man tiger said, rang this not get truly, second

60 ᒍᑊ ᒍᑦ- ᑕᖁᓄ ᑕᓗ ᖁᑎ, ᖅᑏ.
occasion do not with him at all, exclamation.

M415

How the rang deceived the tiger.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 46, page 31).

M416
The rang gets food by deception.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

In this story the mischievous rang had something of a field day at the expense of the young couple, the mother-in-law and the Chinese traveller.

The basket into which the young couple put their present of food for mother-in-law was carried on the back, so it was quite possible for the rang to throw out the cakes and the eggs, the latter being hard boiled and ready to eat, without the bearer realizing what was going on, until the rang itself leapt out and disappeared.

In Miao villages, the cattle, sheep and goats were taken out every day to graze on the hillsides. The pigs remained at home foraging around the village. The older women kept an eye on them. If a pig wandered away it had to be brought back, and there was a special cry for calling pigs: "ao, ao, ao, ao, …." It was this cry that alerted the rang to the mother-in-law's return.

M416
The rang gets food by deception.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

They tell a story that, once upon a time a young couple were going to visit their mother and father-in-law. The wife said, "People are saying that, up there in the pass, the monkeys are dying off like anything. My mother is very fond of monkey, so let us take a big one and carry it along for her to boil and eat". Now the rang overheard this, and running quickly went and lay down up there in the pass. When the couple reached the pass where the monkeys were dying, beginning from the bottom of the valley until they came right out at the top they turned the monkeys over, but every one was decayed. The rang alone was good. The wife said, "Each of these monkeys is decayed. Let us just take this rang and carry it along for my mother to boil and eat". So they took the rang, put it into the basket and carried it along.

Inside the basket the rang took the meal cakes and ate them. He would eat one and throw another on the lower or higher side of the road. Then he took the eggs, eating one and throwing another on the lower or higher side of the road. Thus they went on until they had nearly reached the parents' home, then the rang jumped out of the basket and ran on. He took mother-in-law's skirt and gown and, putting them on, went and lay down on mother-in-law's bed. When the daughter arrived, she went and said to mother-in-law, "When we reached the pass where the monkeys were dying, we were going to take one of them and bring it along for you to boil and eat. We turned every one over and had a look, but every one was decayed. There was only a rang there that was good, so we picked it up to bring, but that damned rang, that cunning rang took and ate the food! All that remains are these two meal cakes and these two eggs. Please accept them and eat them". The rang remained lying on mother-in-law's bed until he heard mother-in-law calling to the pig. Then he got up and ran away.

Later the rang went back to the road where he had thrown the meal cakes and the eggs. The rang took a stick and each time he poked on the lower side of the road he got a meal cake, and each time he poked on the higher side of the road he got an egg. A Chinese took the stick with which the rang had been poking, but every time he poked on the lower side of the road he got a lump of dung, and every time he poked on the higher side of the road he got another lump of dung!

M416

ʒᵟ Ḽ’ ᑕJˈ J̓ ᑕ".
rang deceived meat food eat.

ᑕↄ ᒣₙ ᒍⁿ Tₒ Ǯᵤ Yˉ T’" Lⁿ Ↄ- Yˉ
they say story that of old there were two

Lᵡ ᑕJ" ᑕƮₒ Ⱥ̄ Ↄₒ Δˉ
classifier young woman young man want go go to

Yˉ T' Yˉ Λᖁ. Lᵡ Cᖃ ᒣₙ,
mother-in-law father-in-law. the wife said,

Tᵡ Cᵡ ᒣₙ Ǯᵤ Lⁿ Δᖁ ᒍⁿ Lⁿᑦ T-
people say that the pass above monkey die

5 Tˉ Tₙᑦ. J̓ Cⁿᑦ Ǯⁿ Vᵡ Tˉ Tₙᑦ Ḷₙ, Yˉ Lᵡ
very. my mother fond of very thus, two classifier

Ↄₒ Ḷ’ₙᖁ Tᵤ Yˉ Cⁿᑦ Ƭᵣ Ↄₒ Ƭ’" J̓ Cⁿᑦ
go take the one large carry go for my mother

ᒣ" ᑕ". Yˉ Lⁿ Tᵕ ʒᵟ ’C̊. Tᵕ ʒᵟ Ǯ’ᵡ Cᵡ
boil eat. so the rang heard. the rang quickly

Ƭᵷ Ↄₒ ᒍↄ Ḷⁿᑦ ᒍⁿ Δᖁ. ᑕↄ
ran went lay down completed above the pass. they

Yˉ Lᵡ Ↄₒ ⱶₒ Lⁿ Δᖁ Ǯᵤ Lⁿᑦ
two classifier went reach the pass which monkey

10 T- Ŷ. ᑕↄ Yˉ Lᵡ Ↄₒ Ƭ’" Ɪᵟ
die there. they two classifier went from bottom

ᵟ̄l ᒣⁿ Cⱶ Tᖁ Yˉ Jˉ, ⱶ’ˉ Tᵤ
valley turn over come out top, each classifier

Tᵕ Lↄ Tᵷ Tᵷ, Ḷ- Ↄ- Tᵕ ʒᵟ ʒ"
all rotten done finish, only have the rang good

Tˉ. Lᵡ Cᖃ ᒣₙ, Tᵕ Lⁿᑦ ⱶ’ˉ Tᵤ
alone. the wife said, the monkey each classifier

Tᵕ Lↄ Tᵷ Tᵷ. Yˉ Lᵡ Lᵕ Ↄᵕ
all rotten done finish, two classifier simply

15 ꓛ’ᵑᵏ Tᵘ ʒᵟ Ĉ̊ Tᵣ Ɔᵢᵢ T’ᵎ J̥ Cᵑᶜ
take the rang this carry go for my mother

ᒣᵎ Cᵢᵎ. Cↄ Yˉ Lᵡ ꓛ’ᵑᵏ Tᵘ ʒᵟ
boil eat. they two classifier took the rang

ꓛᵒ Tᵎ Lᵑ Ḙ̊ Tᵣ Ɔᵢᵢ. Tᵘ ʒᵟ
put into the basket carried went. the rang

Cᵑᵒ Lᵑ Ḙ̊ ꓛ’ᵑᵏ ᒧˉ ᒧˉ Cᵎ, Cᵎ Yᵑ
situated the basket took meal cake ate. ate one

ꓛᵒ, Lˉ Yᵑ ꓛᵒ Sᵟ Ɪᵟ
classifier, threw one classifier away lower side

20 Ḙ̊ Ɪᵢᵢ Ḙ̊. ꓛ’ᵑᵏ Ɪᵡ, Yᵑ Lᵘ
road, higher side road. took eggs, one classifier

Cᵎ, Yᵑ Lᵘ Lˉ Sᵟ Ɪᵟ Ḙ̊,
ate, one classifier throw away lower side road,

Ɪᵢᵢ Ḙ̊. Ɔᵢᵢ L̄ ϯₒ Yˉ Tᵢ
higher side road. went nearly reach mother-in-law

Tˉ Λᵠ Ɔᵑ Cᒣ- Tᵶ, Tᵘ ʒᵟ J̊
father-in-law plural house finish, the rang rose

Δ’ᵑᶜ Lᵠ. Tᵶ Ɔᵢᵢ ꓛ’ᵑᵏ Cↄ Yˉ Tᵢ Tᵘ
jump gone. ran went took their mother-in-law the

25 Tᵑᶜ ꓛ’ᵒ ’Cᵟ ꓛᵑᶜ. Ɔᵢᵢ ᒧᵡ Tᵎ Cↄ
skirt gown put on completed. went lay on their

Yˉ Tᵢ ϯᵘ ϯᵟ ꓛᵑᶜ. L̄ Cϯ’ᵢ
mother-in-law the bed completed. the daughter

Ɔᵢᵢ Cꓛᵑᵢ Tᵶ. L̄ Cϯ’ᵢ Ɔᵢᵢ CTₒ
went arrived finish. the daughter went with

Yˉ Tᵢ ᒣᵑ, ᒧᵑ Lₒ ϯₒ Lᵑ Δᵠ
mother-in-law said, we come reach the pass

ᒪᵤ Lᵑᶜ T- Ẏ̊, Yˉ Lᵡ Ɔᵢᵢ
which monkeys die there, two classifier went

30 ꓛ’ᵑᵏ Tᵘ Lᵑᶜ T- Tᵣ Lₒ T’ᵎ ꓛↄ ᒣᵎ
take the monkey come carry come for you boil

eat. two classifier turned over each classifier

look, each classifier all rotten done finish.

only have one classifier rang situated there

good alone. two classifier took the rang carried

35 come. the rang dead rang crafty took food eat

finish. only have two classifier meal cakes with

two classifier eggs this alone. you take eat.

the rang lay on mother-in-law the bed completed

heard that the mother-in-law call pig come. the

40 rang then rose ran gone. after rang went reach

the road which rang threw meal cakes, threw eggs

away this. rang took one classifier stick, rang

one poke on lower side road get one classifier

meal cake, one poke on higher side road get one

45 classifier egg. the Chinese want his the stick

poke. one poke on lower side road get one lump

J̄, Yⁿ C’ⁿᵒ T" J" C̊ T" Yⁿ
dung, one poke on higher side road get one

T’' J̄
lump dung.

M416
The rang gets food by deception.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H. (no. 8, page 4).

Line 18. The expression ˩˥ ˩˥, translated "meal cakes" is Chinese. The Miao word is ˩ⁿᶜ. It occurs again in lines 36, 41 and 44.

M417

The lad who looked after goats.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

This story belongs in the same category as those concerning wise and foolish animals, though in this case it is the man who is the fool.

The basic food of the Miao was maize-meal, cooked in a wooden steamer. Without something else, vegetables or meat to go with it, the maize-meal was dry and uninteresting. The word "nza" was used to describe the function of these other dishes which made the maize-meal palatable and appetising. It has the same meaning as the English "with" when we say, "Do have some jam with your bread and butter", meaning, although it is not expressed in so many words, "in order to make the bread and butter more interesting to eat". So the goat said, "Mother goat eats green leaves with (nza) yellow leaves", meaning that the former is eaten in order to make the latter more appetising and to give them relish.

The couplets spoken by the goat are called "bi-dao" which generally means a story or a tale. Here, however, as in the story of the wise toad, the expression signifies a short, clever saying. These are in fact the answers to unspoken riddles; " why does a goat eat both green leaves and yellow leaves?" etc. Here also, as in the tale of the wise toad, each saying was a challenge, demanding a similar saying in response, but neither the lad nor the man was bright enough to make one. In the battle of wits mother goat was the undisputed victor.

The wooden ram, mentioned in the story, was an implement used for ramming down the earth in the process of building mud walls. In burning it, the man lost one essential tool for the rebuilding of his house. It was made from a log of wood four to five feet long and five or six inches in diameter. All the central section was thinned down to some two or three inches so that it could be handled easily, leaving a foot or rather more of the full thickness at either end. The resulting wooden ram resembled a large, elongated dumb-bell.

M417
The lad who looked after goats.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

They tell a story that, once upon a time, there was a lad who went to look after the goats. He looked after them until lunchtime when mother goat grew thirsty. Mother goat said to the lad, "Now lad, take me for a drink of water, and I will tell you a tale". So the lad took mother goat for a drink of water, and when she had finished he said, "Come on, mother goat, tell me a tale". The mother goat said

"Bie-ie-ie!
Mother goat eats green leaves as a relish with yellow leaves,
She eats yellow leaves as a relish with green leaves!"

In the evening when the lad took her home he said, "Father, today mother goat here was able to talk!" The lad's father said, "In that case tomorrow I will go and look after them and see". So the following day the lad's father went to look after them. He looked after them, until midday, lunchtime, when the mother goat said, "Old man, take me for a drink of water and I will tell you a tale". The man took mother goat for a drink of water then he said, "Come on, tell me a tale!" Mother goat said,

"Bie-ie-ie!
Mother goat eats soya beans as a relish with lentils,
She eats lentils as a relish with soya beans!"

In the evening when the man took her home he said, "This goat is possessed, let us take it and kill it to eat". So the man took the goat and slaughtered it. While they were eating it the table said, "Old man spare some for me to eat!" Then the man said, "This table is possessed, take it, chop it up and burn it!" After that the wooden ram said, "Old man, spare me some to eat!" The man said, "The wooden ram is possessed, take it, chop it up and burn it!" After that the cat also said, "Old man spare me some to eat!" The man said, "This cat is possessed, take it and slaughter it to eat!" Now the rats saw it and said, The man has slaughtered and eaten the cat. Here is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate!" The man, hearing them set to and burnt the house down, but he did not burn the rats, for they stayed safe in their holes.

M417

Tᵘ ’Ɔ" Λ∾ Ɛ’ᵣ.
lad Miao pasturing goats.

Cɔ ˥ₙ ˩ⁿ T" ˥ᵘ Y⁻ T’" Lⁿ, Ɔ⁻ Yⁿ
they say story that of old, there was one

Lᵓ Tᵘ ’Ɔ" Ɔ" Λ∾ Ɛ’ᵣ,
classifier lad Miao went pasturing goats,

Λ∾ ϯ∘ Y⁻ T̊ ˥ᵘ C" Jᵘ Tʒ, Tᵘ
pastured reach time that eat lunch finish, the

Cⁿᶜ Ɛ’ᵣ CƬ∘ Tᵘ ’Ɔ" ˥ₙ, Tᵘ ’Ɔ" Ɛɔ
mother goat with lad Miao said, lad Miao, you

L̊ ˥̆ Ɔ" ˥" Y", ˥̆ ˥ₙ ˩ⁿ T" Ǝʔ Ɛɔ.
drive me go drink water, I say story show you.

Y⁻ Lⁿ Tᵘ ’Ɔ" L̊ Cⁿᶜ Ɛ’ᵣ Ɔ" ˥" Y".
so lad Miao drove mother goat go drink water.

˥" Tʒ Y" Tʒ Tᵘ ’Ɔ" ˥ₙ, Cⁿᶜ
drink finish water finish lad Miao said, mother

Ɛ’ᵣ ˥ₙ ˩ⁿ T" Ǝʔ ˥̆ ˥ᵛ. Cⁿᶜ Ɛ’ᵣ
goat say story show me exclamation. mother goat

˥ₙ,
said,

˩ⁿᶜ Yⁿᶜ Yⁿᶜ.
bie-ie-ie.

Cⁿᶜ Ɛ’ᵣ C" CΔ" Cϯ⁻ Cϯ₋ CΔ"
mother goat eats leaves green relish leaves

Vʒ,
yellow,

C" CΔ" Vʒ Cϯ₋ CΔ" Cϯ⁻.
eats leaves yellow relish leaves green.

’Ɔ° CTᵘ Tᵘ ’Ɔ" L̊ L∘ Δ⁻ C˥⁻ Tʒ.
evening lad Miao drove come go to house finish.

Tᵘ ’Ɔ" ˥ₙ, Vᵥ, ’Ɔ° C̄ Tᵛ Cⁿᶜ Ɛ’ᵣ
lad Miao said, father, today the mother goat

Cⁿ ɫˤ ˥ₙ Lᵘ Tᵹ Lᵥ. Tᵘ
this able say words finish exclamation. lad

’Ɔ" Cᵓ Vᵥ ˥ₙ, Y⁻ Lⁿ ˩ⁿ Ɛⁿ J̆ Ɔ" Λ∿
Miao his father said, so tomorrow I go pasture

C₋ Ɔᵹ. ’Cᵘ Y⁻ ɟᵇ Tᵘ ’Ɔ" Cᵓ Vᵥ
look observe. day after lad Miao his father

Ɔ" Λ∿. Λ∿ ɫ∘ Y⁻ T̆ ’Cᵘ C" Jᵘ
went pasture. pasture reach time day eat lunch

Tᵹ, Cⁿᶜ Ɛ’ᵣ Ɛᵥ ˥ₙ, L" ’Ɔ" Ɛᵓ
finish, mother goat then said, old Miao, you

L̆ J̆ Ɔ" ˥" Y", J̆ ˥ₙ ˩ⁿ T" ɟᵓ Ɛᵓ.
drive me go drink water, I say story show you.

L" ’Ɔ" L̆ Cⁿᶜ Ɛ’ᵣ Ɔ" ˥" Y"
old Miao drove mother goat go drink water

Tᵹ Tᵹ. L" ’Ɔ" ˥ₙ, Ɛᵓ ˥ₙ ˩ⁿ T" ɟ’ᵓ
done finish. old Miao said, you say story show

J̆ ˥ᵛ. Cⁿᶜ Ɛ’ᵣ ˥ₙ,
me exclamation. mother goat said,

˩ⁿᶜ Yⁿᶜ Yⁿᶜ.
bie-ie-ie.

Cⁿᶜ Ɛ’ᵣ C" T" ˩" Cɫ₋ T" Tⁿ,
mother goat eats soya beans relish lentils,

C" T" Tⁿ Cɫ₋ T" ˩".
eats lentils relish soya beans.

’Ɔ" CTᵘ L" ’Ɔ" L̆ L∘ Δ⁻ CƆ⁻. L"
evening old Miao drove come go to house. old

’Ɔ" ˥ₙ, Tᵘ Ɛ’ᵣ Y̆ J̆ Γ̆ Tᵹ,
Miao said, the goat that one possessed finish,

Ɛ’ₙˢ L∘ CT" C" Sᵹ Λ⁻. L" ’Ɔ"
take come kill eat away exclamation. old Miao

Ɛ'ɲɕ Lᵕ Ɛ'ɾ Lₒ Tˉ Sᵹ. T'ᴵᴵ Ɔᵘ
took the goat come slaughter away. when that

Cᴵᴵ Tᵹ Tᵕ Ɔₙ Ɛᴵᴵ Ɔₙ, Lᴵᴵ 'Ɔᴵᴵ ɾᵕ Ɔ̆
eat finish the table said, old Miao divide me

Cᴵᴵ. Lᴵᴵ 'Ɔᴵᴵ Ɛᵕ Ɔₙ, Tᵕ Ɔₙ Ɛᴵᴵ Ŷ
eat. old Miao then said, the table that one

L₋ Ɔ̆ ɾ̆ Sᵹ Tᵹ, Ɛ'ɲɕ Lₒ Ɔ'ˉ Ȧ
has possessed away finish, take come chop burn

Sᵹ. Yˉ Ɔ̆ ɬᵣ Yˉ Ɛₙᴵᴵ Ɛᵕ Ɔₙ, Lᴵᴵ 'Ɔᴵᴵ
away. after the wooden ram then said, old Miao

ɾᵕ Ɔ̆ Cᴵᴵ. Lᴵᴵ 'Ɔᴵᴵ Ɛᵕ Ɔₙ, ɬᵣ
divide me eat. old Miao then said, the

Yˉ Ɛₙᴵᴵ L₋ Ɔ̆ ɾ̆ Sᵹ Tᵹ, Ɛ'ɲɕ Lₒ
wooden ram has possessed away finish, take come

Ɔ'ˉ Ȧ Sᵹ. Yˉ Ɔ̆ Tᵕ Yˉ Ɛ'ᵣ L₋ Lₒ Ɔₙ,
chop burn away. after the cat had come said,

Lᴵᴵ 'Ɔᴵᴵ Ɔˉ ɾᵕ Ɔ̆ Cᴵᴵ. Lᴵᴵ 'Ɔᴵᴵ Ɛᵕ
old Miao take divide me eat. old Miao then

Ɔₙ, Tᵕ Yˉ Ɛ'ᵣ Ĉ L₋ Ɔ̆ ɾ̆ Sᵹ Tᵹ,
said, the cat this has possessed away finish,

Ɛ'ɲɕ Lₒ Tˉ Cᴵᴵ Sᵹ. Lᴵᴵ 'Ɔᴵᴵ Ɛ'ɲɕ
take come slaughter eat away. old Miao took

Tᵕ Yˉ Ɛ'ᵣ Lₒ Tˉ Cᴵᴵ Sᵹ. Tᵕ Cᵹ
the cat come slaughter eat away. the rats

Ɔₙ, Lᴵᴵ 'Ɔᴵᴵ Tˉ Tᵕ Yˉ Ɛ'ᵣ Cᴵᴵ Sᵹ,
said, old Miao slaughtered the cat eat away,

Ɔᴵᴵ Ĉ Ɔᴵ Ʒᴵᴵ Yˉ Ɛᴱ Tᵹ. Lᴵᴵ
occasion this we well make festival finish. old

'Ɔᴵᴵ Ɛ'ɲɕ Lᵕ CƆ- ɬ'ᵣ Sᵹ, Ŷ Vⁿᶜ Tᵕ Cᵹ
Miao took the house burn away, but the rats

Cⁿᵒ CƮₒ Lᵘ Ɔ̊' Sᵹ, Ɔⁿ Tᴵᴵ ɬ̆' Sᵹ.
remained the holes away, not get burnt away.

M417
The lad who looked after goats.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 39, page 24).

M421

The Miao man and the seven brothers of the tiger family hold a contest of strength.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

The Miao have a number of stories in which the strength of the wild animals is pitted against man. The usual pattern is that some kind of a contest takes place in which the man is shown to be superior because his wits more than compensate for his lack of physical strength. In this story the following points need a little further explanation.

The two sides of the front of a Miao gown were crossed over like a jacket, but there were no buttons. The gown was held in place by a girdle, tightly bound around the waist. It was quite normal to carry all kinds of articles inside the flap of the gown above the girdle. A broody hen would find itself warm and comfortable in there, and being broody, would not try to get out.

After resting, and having had his smoke beside the ploughman's plot of land, the Miao man crossed over to the undergrowth at the foot of the rocks on the other side, where the tiger had hidden himself. The Miao text, by using the phrase "ncheu mao", "desired to go", delicately implies, without actually saying so, that the reason for this little excursion was to relieve himself, and not because he suspected that the tiger was there.

In, or near, many Miao villages there were small pieces of ground where the earth was rolled down smooth and hard for the purpose of threshing corn and beans. The threshing was done with flails made of two stout sticks some four or five feet long and fixed together with a leather thong. As the work progressed a considerable pile of straw and chaff accumulated at the edge of the threshing floor, a good hiding place for a field mouse, but about the last place one would expect to find a tiger, and therefore ideal for the tiger's purpose. It was just bad luck that the Miao man should have chosen it as a place to sit and rest. But then it was not the tiger's lucky day!

M421
The Miao man and the seven brothers of the tiger family hold a contest of strength.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

They tell a story that, once upon a time, there was a Miao man who went climbing up through the forest, where he chanced to meet a tiger. The tiger said to him, "Miao man, how many brothers have you?" The Miao man replied, "I have seven brothers". Old man tiger said, "You have seven brothers, I too have seven brothers, so that on both sides the numbers of brothers are equal. Let us then have a contest together to see which side is the stronger. If you are the stronger you shall eat us, if we are the stronger we will eat you". The Miao man said, "That will be fine, but which day shall we have the contest?" Old man tiger replied, "When seven days are past, let us on both sides take our brothers up there to the big pass. We will come and determine which side is greater and which side is less". When they had finished speaking, the Miao man and old man tiger each went his own way.

Seven days were done and the eighth day was rising. This was the day that they must fight together. Now the Miao man had no brothers. His mother and father had him alone, an only child. Thus he had no one to go with him. So he took a broody hen in front of him, and his crossbow on his back. He was the first to go up to the pass and wait. When he arrived, the tigers having not yet come, he climbed up a large tree and hid himself well.

He saw the seven tiger brothers arrive, but the tigers did not see him, they only heard the broody hen clucking, "gho-gho-gho". The seven tiger brothers said, "The seven Miao brothers are coming but what a noise they are making!" The eldest tiger said, "You watch me and I will show you! If the seven Miao brothers come we will jump like this, and like this!" The eldest tiger went and jumped up and jumped down. The Miao man up in the tree above loosed a shot at the eldest tiger and hit him in the armpit. The eldest tiger said, this armpit of mine is very painful. Let me lie down here. If the seven Miao brothers come, you will call me, won't you?"

Now of the tigers there were only six left. Then the Miao man's hen clucked again, "gho-gho-gho". The second eldest tiger said, "The seven Miao brothers are making a lot of noise as they come. Eldest brother is lying down so if they come we shall do this and this!" The second tiger ran out and jumped up and jumped down. The Miao man loosed a shot and hit the second tiger in the small of the back. The second tiger said, "This back of mine is very painful, so I will lie down here. If the seven Miao brothers come, you will call me, won't you?"

The Miao man's hen clucked again, "gho-gho-gho". The five tiger brothers heard it, and the third one said, "Eldest brother and middle brother have both got a pain and are lying down, so we five remain. If the seven Miao brothers come we must do this and this!" The third tiger went and jumped up and jumped down. The Miao man up above in the tree loosed a shot and hit the third tiger's forepaw. The third tiger said, "This forepaw of mine is rather painful, so I will lie down here for a while. If the seven Miao brothers come, you call us".

Then the Miao man's hen clucked again. "gho-gho-gho". The four tiger brothers said. "This time the seven Miao brothers are coming for certain. Those three older ones are all lying down, there are only the four of us left!" The fourth tiger said, "Don't be afraid, if the seven Miao brothers come we will do this and this!" The fourth tiger ran out and jumped up and

jumped down, but the Miao man let loose another shot and hit the fourth tiger in the head. The fourth tiger said, “My head is rather painful, so I will lie down here. If the seven Miao brothers come, you call us”.

The Miao man’s hen clucked, “gho-gho-gho”. The fifth tiger said to the sixth and seventh tigers, “The seven Miao brothers are coming for certain. Those four older ones are all not well and are lying down, so there are only we three left. If they come we will do this and this”. The fifth tiger ran out and jumped up and jumped down, but the Miao man let loose another shot and hit the fifth tiger in the back. The fifth tiger said, “This back of mine is very painful, so I will lie down here for a while. If the seven Miao brothers come, you call us”.

Now again the Miao man’s hen clucked, “gho-gho-gho”. The sixth tiger and the seventh tiger heard it. The sixth tiger said, “Those five older brothers are all not well and are lying down. Now only the two of us are well. If the seven Miao brothers come we will do this and this”. The sixth tiger ran out and jumped up and jumped down. The Miao man loosed a shot and hit the sixth tiger in the thigh. The sixth tiger said, “This thigh of mine is painful. I will lie down here for a short while. If the seven Miao brothers come, you call us”.

The Miao man’s hen clucked again, “gho-gho-gho”. The seventh tiger looked upwards and looked downwards, and then he said, “Of us seven brothers those six have all been taken ill and are lying down. If the seven Miao brothers come, I don’t know what I shall do!” When the seventh tiger had finished speaking, the Miao man came, climbing from above down the branch of the tree. When the seventh tiger saw him he got up and ran away, while the Miao man ran in pursuit.

As the seventh tiger was running he saw that ahead of him there was a man ploughing. He said to the ploughman, “Old Man, we seven brothers and the seven Miao brothers were to have a contest together, when the other six were all taken ill. Now the seven Miao brothers are coming, chasing me. So I want to ask you if I can go into the thorn scrub on the edge of your land. But if the seven Miao brothers should come chasing here, you won’t tell them will you?” The ploughman said, “All right, you go in there and hide”. The seventh tiger went in and hid away. When the Miao man came chasing along he saw the ploughman. The Miao man said, “Friend, while you have been ploughing here, have you seen whether a tiger has passed by?” The ploughman said, ”While I have been ploughing there has been no tiger past here”. The Miao man said, “In that case, let me rest here and have a smoke”. When he had rested he wanted to go over to the foot of the cliff. As he reached the edge, at the foot of the cliff the seventh tiger saw where he was going and got up and ran.

As the tiger ran he saw a man threshing oats. The seventh tiger said to the man threshing oats, “Old man, may I trouble you? The seven Miao brothers and we seven brothers were having a contest together when my six older brothers were all taken ill and had to lie down. Now the Miao men are coming, chasing me. If I hide in your straw and the Miao men come chasing here, you won’t tell them, will you?” The man who was threshing oats said, “All right, you get in and lie down”. Then the Miao man arrived. He said, “My friend threshing oats, have you seen a tiger go past here?” The man who was threshing oats said, “While I have been here no tiger has passed”. The man who was chasing the tiger said, “In that case I will sit down here on your straw and rest for a while, then I will go on in search”. The Miao man sat down right on top of the tiger, who got up and ran. He ran on into the great forest, so the Miao man gave up the chase. He returned and, from those six tigers he had shot and killed, he made food for eating.

Nowadays tigers are very scarce, because the Miao man and the seven tiger brothers determined together who was the greater and who was the less, and the Miao man shot six, leaving only one.

M421

ꓶꓲ ’Ɔ" ꓒꓔ꓾ ꓥꓽ ꓓ̊ ꓥꓰ Jᵑ̊ ꓶᵓ
old Miao with old man tiger family seven classifier

ꓓ̃ Tᵑ ꓶᵑ ꓒꓓ꓿ Δᵒ̈ Ƹ꓾.
brothers compare strength.

ꓒᵓ ꓶᵑ ꓟᵑ Tꓲ ꓖᵘ Yˉ T’‴ ꓶᵑ Ɔ- Yᵑ
they say story that of old there was one

ꓶᵓ Yˉ ꓶꓲ ’Ɔ" Ɔꓲ ꓒꓓᵑ Ƹ̈ ɬˉ. Ɔꓲ ꓒꓓʳ
classifier old Miao went climb forest. went meet

Yᵑ Tᵘ ꓓ̊. Tᵛ ꓓ̊ ꓒꓔ꓾ ꓒᵓ ꓶᵑ,
one classifier tiger. the tiger with him said,

ꓶꓲ ’Ɔ" ꓓᵓ ꓒ- ꓟᵑ ꓓᵑ‴ ꓶᵓ ꓓ̃ Tᵑ.
old Miao you have how many classifier brothers.

5 ꓶꓲ ’Ɔ" ꓶᵑ, ꓖ̆ Ɔ- Jᵑ̊ ꓶᵓ ꓓ̃ Tᵑ.
old Miao said, I have seven classifier brothers.

ꓥꓽ ꓓ̊ ꓶᵑ, ꓓᵓ Ɔ- Jᵑ̊ ꓶᵓ
old man tiger said, you have seven classifier

ꓓ̃ Tᵑ, ꓖ̆ ꓶ꓿ Ɔ- Jᵑ̊ ꓶᵓ ꓓ̃ Tᵑ,
brothers, I also have seven classifier brothers,

Yˉ ꓶᵑ ꓟᵑ Yˉ Sᵒ̈ ꓟ’ⁿᑦ ꓓ̃ Tᵑ Tᵘ ꓶᵑ ꓒꓟꓽ
so we two sides both brothers all equal.

ꓓˉ ꓶᵑ ꓟᵑ T’ᵓ ꓔ° ꓶᵑ T’ⁿᑦ ꓒ꓿ Ɔᵒ̈
therefore we deploy soldier compete look observe

10 ꓟᵑ Sᵒ̈ ꓶᵑ ꓓᵑ̊ Tꓲ. ꓓˉ ꓖᵘ ꓟᵑ Tꓲ ꓟᵑ
we side which strong. if that we strong we

ꓒᵎ Ɔᵑ, ꓓˉ ꓖᵘ Ɔᵑ Tꓲ Ɔᵑ ꓒᵎ ꓟᵑ. ꓶꓲ
eat you, if that you strong you eat us. old

’Ɔ" ꓶᵑ, Yˉ ꓶᵑ Ƹ", Ŷ Vⁿᑦ ꓟᵑ ’ꓒᵘ Tᵓ
Miao said, make like good, but we day which

Ⱥ̄ T’ᵓ ꓔ°. ꓥꓽ ꓓ̊ ꓶᵑ, ꓓ’ᵑ‴
will deploy soldiers. old man tiger said, pass

ꓡꑷ ꓙ꒰ ’ꓚᵘ ꓫ꒰ ꓽ⁻ ꓢᵒ̃ ꓫ’꒱ᑊ ꀆ’ꑷ ꓫ꒰
gone seven days we two sides both bring our

15 ꓓ̃ ꓔ꒰ ꓥ⁻ ꓽ⁻ ꓡꑷ ꓥ⁻ ꓡꑷ ꓥ⁻ ꓡꑷ ꓥ

30 Ḙ̃ Tⁿ T- Tʊ̀. Ŷ̀ Vⁿᶜ Ḙ̊ Ɔₙ ⅂ⁿ ⅃̣ₒ
brothers come finish. but tiger plural not see

Cↄ Ṡ̀. Λᵩ Ḙ̊ Ɔₙ ’Ḉ̊ ⅃ᵤ Tᵕ
him yet. old man tiger plural heard that the

Y¯ Cⁿᶜ ⅄' ⅃ᵤ Λᵢᵢ ⅃ˍ Ŷ̀ ⅄¯ Ɛₙ ⅄° ⅄° ⅄°
hen which broody that cluck thus gho-gho-gho

T¯. Λᵩ Ḙ̊ Ɔₙ Jᵑ̊ Lᵡ
only. old man tiger plural seven classifier

Ḙ̃ Tⁿ ⅂ₙ, Lᵢᵢ ’Ɔ" Jᵑ̊ Lᵡ Ḙ̃ Tⁿ
brothers said, old Miao seven classifier brothers

35 T- Tʊ̀. Cↄ ⊦" CṪ T¯ Tₙᶜ T- Tʊ̀.
come finish. they noisy very come finish.

Lᵕ Ḙ̊ Y¯ Ɔ" ⅂ₙ, Ɔₙ Cˍ ⅃̆ Λ̄ ⅄’ʔ
the tiger eldest said, you look I will show

Ɔₙ. Lᵢᵢ ’Ɔ" Ɔₙ Jᵑ̊ Lᵡ Ḙ̃ Tⁿ Ɛ¯
you. old Miao plural seven classifier brothers if

T- Ɛₙ, ⅃ⁿ Δ’ⁿᶜ Lⁿ Cˀ̀, Lⁿ Cˀ̀. Ḙ̊
come thus, we jump like this, like this. tiger

Y¯ Ɔ" Ɔᵢᵢ Δ’ⁿᶜ Ɛₙ CƐⁿ Ɛₙ ɓᵢᵢ. Lᵢᵢ ’Ɔ"
eldest go jump thus go up thus go down. old Miao

40 Cⁿᵒ Γᵟ CT" Y¯ J̄, T’" Ḙ̊ Y¯ Ɔ"
situated classifier tree above, took tiger eldest

Yⁿ ’Ḉ̃. ⅃° T" Ḙ̊ Y¯ Ɔ" Lᵕ ⅄¯ Ɛₒ.
one shot. hit get tiger eldest the arm pit.

Ḙ̊ Y¯ Ɔ" ⅂ₙ, ⅃̆ Lᵕ ⅄¯ Ɛₒ Ŷ̀ Ỳ̀
tiger eldest said, my the arm pit that very

Cɬ’ⁿᶜ. ⅃ₒ ⅃̆ ⅃ↄ Ḙ̊’ Cˀ̀ Ṡ̀. Lᵢᵢ ’Ɔ"
painful. cause me lie place this yet. old Miao

Ɔₙ Jᵑ̊ Lᵡ Ḙ̃ Tⁿ Ɛ¯ T-, Ɔₙ
plural seven classifier brothers if come, you

45 I’ᵕ ⅃̆ ⅂°.
call me exclamation.

ꓵ ꓴ ꓓ ꓩ ꓠ ꓚ ꓐ ꓬ
now only have tiger plural six classifier alone

ꓬꓹ ꓡꓲ ꓮꓝ" ꓬꓮ ꓩ ꓕꓵ ꓮ' ꓬꓮ ꓩ ꓓꓲ,
finish. old Miao the hen then clucked thus,

ꓮ° ꓮ° ꓮ°. ꓓ ꓩ ꓝ" ꓩ ꓡ ꓖꓲ,
gho-gho-gho. tiger eldest two classifier said,

ꓡꓲ ꓮꓝ" ꓚ ꓜꓹ ꓡ ꓓ ꓬꓲ ꓵꓮ
old Miao plural seven classifier brothers noisy

50 ꓮ ꓬꓲ ꓬ ꓬꓹ. ꓩ ꓝ" ꓛ° ꓡ ꓮ ꓵꓬ꓀ ꓩ
very come finish. brother big has lain down, make

ꓡꓲ ꓵ ꓫ" ꓓ ꓬ, ꓮ ꓑ ꓖ ꓡ ꓵ, ꓡꓲ
like they if come, we must do like this, like

ꓵ, ꓖ°. ꓓ ꓩ ꓡ ꓬꓹ ꓚꓲ
this, exclamation. tiger two classifier ran go

ꓐ'ꓲ ꓵꓓꓲ ꓐ'ꓲ ꓛ". ꓡꓲ ꓮꓝ" ꓕ ꓕ'" ꓩꓲ
jump go up jump go down. old Miao then took one

'ꓵ ꓚꓲ ꓬ" ꓮ ꓕ" ꓬꓮ ꓓ ꓩ ꓡ
shot go get hit in the tiger two classifier

55 ꓡꓮ ꓑ. ꓓ ꓩ ꓡ ꓖꓲ, ꓖ ꓡꓮ ꓑ
the back. tiger two classifier said, my the back

ꓵ ꓰ ꓵ'ꓲ, ꓩ ꓡꓲ ꓖ ꓮ ꓮ'
this very painful, make like I lie place

ꓵ, ꓡꓲ ꓮꓝ" ꓚ ꓜꓹ ꓡ ꓓ ꓬꓲ
this, old Miao plural seven classifier brothers

ꓓ ꓬ, ꓓꓲ ꓚ ꓲ'ꓮ ꓖ ꓖ°. ꓓ
if come, thus you call me exclamation. tiger

ꓩ ꓡ ꓮ ꓵꓬ꓀.
two classifier lay down.

60 ꓡꓲ ꓮꓝ" ꓬꓮ ꓩ ꓕꓵ ꓮ' ꓮ, ꓮ° ꓮ° ꓮ°. ꓓ
old Miao the hen clucked, gho-gho-gho. tiger

ꓚ ꓮ ꓡ ꓓ ꓬꓲ 'ꓵ ꓬꓹ.
plural five classifier brothers heard finish.

ᚾᒥ ᚾᒥ ᒪᔾ ᒣᓇ, ᖴ ᑐᐦ ᖴ ᒃᐦ ᖴ ᑐᐦ
the three classifier said, brother big brother

ᖴ ᒪᒥ ᒥᐡ ᑕᚾ'ᑎᑦ ᑖ ᒧᐣ ᑕᒪᐤ ᒥᘓ.
next all have pain therefore lie down finish.

ᖴ ᒪᑎ ᑐ- ᒧᑎ ᒧᔾ ᒪᔾ ᕿ. ᒪᐦ 'ᑐᐦ
make like have us five classifier yet. old Miao

ᑐᓇ ᒍᑎᘓ ᒪᔾ ᑖᐣ ᒥᑎ ᑕ- ᒥ-, ᑕᓇ
plural seven classifier brothers if come, thus

ᒧᑎ ᐱ ᖴ ᒪᑎ ᑖ, ᒪᑎ ᑖ, ᒣᐦ.
we will do like this, like this, exclamation.

ᑖᐦ ᚾᒥ ᒪᔾ ᑐᐦ ᐃ'ᑎᑦ ᑕᑕᑎ ᐃ'ᑎᑦ
tiger three classifier went jump go up jump

ᒃᐦ. ᒪᐦ 'ᑐᐦ ᑕᑎᐦ ᒥᘓ ᑕᒥᐦ ᖴ ᒍ ᒪᒡ
go down. old Miao situated the tree above then

ᒪ'ᐦ ᖴᑎ 'ᑖᔾ ᑐᐦ ᒪᐦ ᑖᐦ ᚾᒥ ᒪᔾ
took one shot went to tiger three classifier

ᚾ'ᐩ ᒥᑎ. ᑖᐦ ᚾᒥ ᒪᔾ ᒣᓇ, ᒍᐡ ᚾ'ᐩ
the hand. tiger three classifier said, my the

ᒥᑎ ᑖᑎ ᖴ ᒪᐦ ᑕᚾ'ᑎᑦ, ᖴ ᒪᑎ ᒍᐡ ᒧᐣ ᒍᐦ'
hand this rather painful, make like I lie place

ᑖᑎ ᖴᑎ ᑕᒧᕋ. ᒪᐦ 'ᑐᐦ ᑐᓇ ᒍᑎᘓ ᒪᔾ
this a while. old Miao plural seven classifier

ᑖᐣ ᒥᑎ ᑕ- ᒥ- ᑐᓇ ᒪ'ᐡ ᒧᑎ.
brothers if come you call us.

ᒪᐦ 'ᑐᐦ ᒥ- ᑕᑎᑦ ᒍ' ᒪᒡ ᒍ- ᑕᓇ, ᒍᐦ ᒍᐦ ᒍᐦ.
old Miao the hen then clucked thus, gho-gho-gho.

ᑖᐦ ᑐᓇ ᐃᐦ ᒪᔾ ᑖᐣ ᒥᑎ ᒣᓇ, ᒧᐦ
tiger plural four classifier brothers said, time

ᑖᑎ ᕿᑎ ᒪᐦ 'ᑐᐦ ᑐᓇ ᒍᑎᘓ ᒪᔾ
this yet old Miao plural seven classifier

ᑖᐣ ᒥᑎ ᒥ- ᒥᓇᑦ ᒥᘓ. ᑕᐣ ᚾᐦ ᚾᒥ ᒪᔾ
brothers come truly finish. they three classifier

Y⁻ ꞵ° T᙮ ⅃ᑊ ᑕꞱ₀, ᑐ₋ Ↄ- ⅃ᑢ Δ"
big ones all lie down, only have us four

Lᑉ T⁻ Tȣ. ⱶᑭ Y⁻ Ↄ" Δ"
classifier alone finish. the brother four

80 Lᑉ ᒣₙ, ᒣᑢ ᑕᑐ'', Lꟸ ’Ↄ" Ↄₙ Jᖾ
classifier said, not fear, old Miao plural seven

Lᑉ ᑑ Tᑢ ᑐ⁻ T-, ⅃ᑢ Y⁻ Lᑢ ᑢ,
classifier brothers if come, we do like this,

Lᑢ ᑢ. ᑈ Δ" Lᑉ Ʇȣ Ↄꟸ Δ’ᑫ
like this. tiger four classifier ran went jump

ᑕᑐᑢ Δ’ᑫ ꞵ". Lꟸ ’Ↄ" Ʇᵤ Ʇ’᙮ Yᑢ ’ᑑ.
go up jump go down. old Miao then took one shot.

T" ᒍ ᑈ Δ" Lᑉ Lᵘ Lᑢ Γ". ᑈ
get hit tiger four classifier the head. tiger

85 Δ" Lᑉ ᒣₙ, ᑑ Lᵘ Lᑢ Γ" Y⁻ L" ᑕⱶ’ᑫ
four classifier said, my the head rather painful

Y⁻ Lᑢ ᑑ Ā ⅃ᑭ ᒍ’ ᑢ S᪲. Lꟸ ’Ↄ"
make like I will lie place this away. old Miao

Ↄₙ Jᖾ Lᑉ ᑑ Tᑢ ᑐ⁻ T- ᑐₙ
plural seven classifier brothers if come thus

Ↄₙ Ꞁ’᙮ ⅃ᑢ.
you call us.

Lꟸ ’Ↄ" T᙮ Y⁻ ᑕᑫ ⱻ' ⱻ⁻ ᑐₙ, ⱻ° ⱻ° ⱻ°.
old Miao the hen clucked thus, gho-gho-gho.

90 ᑈ ⅃ᑉ Lᑉ ᑕꞱ₀ ᑈ Δꟸ Lᑉ
tiger five classifier with tiger six classifier

Jᖾ Lᑉ ᒣₙ, Lꟸ ’Ↄ" Ↄₙ Jᖾ
seven classifier said, old Miao plural seven

Lᑉ ᑑ Tᑢ T- Tᑫ Tȣ. ᑕↄ ⱶ" Δ"
classifier brothers come truly finish. they four

Lᑉ ꞵ° Ʇᵤ ᒣᑢ Ȝ" ᑕᑫ ⅃ᑭ ᑕꞱ₀. Ↄ- ⅃ᑢ
classifier big then not well lie down. have us

ꜝʳ ꓷᵡ ꓔ⁻ ꓔʊ. ꓒᵓ ꜝ" ꓓ⁻ ꓔ-, ꓫᑢ
three classifier only finish. they if come, we

95 ꓨ⁻ ꓷᑢ ꓒ̊, ꓷᑢ ꓒ̊. ꓓ̊ ꓨ⁻ ꓛ" ꓫᵡ
do like this, like this. tiger brother five

ꓷᵡ ꓔʊ ꓛᵢ Δ'ᵑᶜ ꓒꓓᑢ Δ'ᵑᶜ ꞵ".
classifier ran went jump go up jump go down.

ꓷᵢ 'ꓛ" ꓔ'" ꓨᑢ 'ꓒ̊ ꓷₒ ꓔ" ꓫ̊ ꓓ̊ ꓫᵡ
old Miao took one shot come get hit tiger five

ꓷᵡ ꓷᵘ ꓔᑢ ꓘᵢ. ꓓ̊ ꓫᵡ ꓷᵡ ꓶₙ,
classifier the back. tiger five classifier said,

ꓫ̆ ꓷᵘ ꓔᑢ ꓘᵢ ꓨ̊ ꓨ̆ ꓒ+'ᵑᶜ, ꓨ⁻ ꓷᑢ ꓫ̊ ꓫᵌ
my the back that very painful. make like I lie

100 ꓘ̊' ꓒ̊ ꓨᑢ ꓒꓫᵪ ꓢ̊. ꓷᵢ 'ꓛ" ꓛₙ ꓙᑋ
place this a while yet. old Miao plural seven

ꓷᵡ ꓓ̃ ꓔᑢ ꓓ⁻ ꓔ- ꓛₙ ꓲ'ᵘ ꓫᑢ.
classifier brothers if come you call us.

ꓒ̄ ꓒ̊ ꓷᵢ 'ꓛ" ꓔᵛ ꓨ⁻ ꓒᵑᶜ ꓘ' ꓔᵤ ꓘ⁻ ꓓₙ,
now old Miao the hen then clucked thus,

ꓘ° ꓘ° ꓘ°. ꓓ̊ Δᵢ ꓷᵡ ꓒꓔₒ ꓓ̊ ꓙᑋ
gho-gho-gh. tiger six classifier with tiger seven

ꓷᵡ 'ꓒ̊ ꓔʊ. ꓓ̊ Δᵢ ꓷᵡ
classifier heard finish. tiger six classifier

105 ꓶₙ, ꓒᵓ ꜝ" ꓫᵡ ꓷᵡ ꓨ⁻ ꓛ" ꓛₙ ꓔᵛ
said, they five classifier brothers plural all

ꓶᑢ ꓩ" ꓒᵑᵒ ꓫᵌ ꓒꓔₒ. ꓒ̄ ꓒ̊ ꓨ⁻ ꓷᵡ ꓩ" ꓒᵑᵒ ꓔ⁻
not well lie down. now two classifier well only

ꓔʊ. ꓷᵢ 'ꓛ" ꓛₙ ꓙᑋ ꓷᵡ ꓓ̃ ꓔᑢ
finish. old Miao plural seven classifier brothers

ꓓ⁻ ꓔ-, ꓨ⁻ ꓷᵡ ꓨ⁻ ꓷᑢ ꓒ̊, ꓷᑢ ꓒ̊.
if come, two classifier do like this, like this.

ꓓ̊ Δᵢ ꓷᵡ ꓔᵢ ꓛᵢ Δ'ᵑᶜ ꓒꓓᑢ Δ'ᵑᶜ
tiger six classifier ran went jump go up jump

110 ꓵ". ꓶ꓄ ’Ɔ" ꓔ’" Yⁿ ’Ꞓ, ꓔ" ꓟ ꓔ"
go down. old Miao took one shot, get hit to

ꓓ ꓥ꓄ ꓶᔑ Y⁻ ꓒⁿ. ꓓ ꓥ꓄ ꓶᔑ
tiger six classifier thigh. tiger six classifier

ꓷₙ, ꓫ ⊦’ꜝ ꓒⁿ Ꞓ ꓒ⊦’ⁿᑦ ꓔᵷ. ꓫ ꓶᔒ
said, my the thigh this painful finish. I lie

ꓠ’ Ꞓ Yⁿ ꓒꓶᖟ Ꞩ₋, ꓶ꓄ ’Ɔ" Ɔₙ ꓶᵑ
place this a while small, old Miao plural seven

ꓶᔑ ꓒ̣ ꓔⁿ ꓒ⁻ ꓔ-, ꓒᓗ ꓲ’ᵘ ꓶⁿ.
classifier brothers if come, you call us.

115 ꓶ꓄ ’Ɔ" ꓔᵕ ᑦⁿᑦ ꓠ' ꓕᵤ ꓠ⁻ ꓒₙ, ꓠ° ꓠ° ꓠ°.
old Miao the hen then clucked thus, gho-gho-gho.

ꓓ ꓶᵑ ꓶᔑ ᑦ₋ ꓔ" Y⁻ ⊦ⁿ ᑦ₋
tiger seven classifier look to higher side look

ꓔ" ꓶⁿ ꓔ". ᑦᓗ ꓕᵤ ꓷₙ, ꓶⁿ ꓶᵑ ꓶᔑ
to lower side. he then said, we seven classifier

ꓒᓄ ꓔⁿ, ᑦᓗ ⊦" ꓥ꓄ ꓶᔑ ꓔᵘ ꓔ" Ɔ°
brothers, they six classifier all get sick

ꓶᓄ ᑦꓕₒ. ꓶ꓄ ’Ɔ" ᑦᓗ ꓠᵡ ꓶᔑ ꓒᓄ ꓔⁿ
lie down. old Miao his seven classifier brothers

120 ꓒ⁻ ꓔ-, ꓷⁿ ꓶ" ꓫ Ā Y⁻ ꓶⁿ ꓒᵑ. ꓓ
if come, not know I will do like how. tiger

ꓶᵑ ꓶᔑ ꓷₙ ꓔᵷ, ꓶ꓄ ’Ɔ" ꓵ"
seven classifier said finish, old Miao go down

ꓶₒ ꓶₙ Y⁻ ꓒⁿ ᑦꓔ" ꓶₒ. ꓒ̣ ꓶᵑ
come above branch tree come. tiger seven

ꓶᔑ ꓶₒ ꓔᵷ, ꓘ ꓕᵷ ꓫ. ꓶ꓄ ’Ɔ"
classifier see finish, rose ran fled. old Miao

ꓕᵷ ⊦ₒ Y⁻ ꓠᔑ ꓶ̣ Ɔ꓄.
ran follow behind pursue went.

125 ꓓ ꓶᵑ ꓶᔑ ꓕᵷ Ɔ꓄ ꓶₒ Ɔ-
tiger seven classifier ran went saw there was

Yⁿ Lᵇ Tᵇ Cᵇ Cⁿᵒ Tⁿ Cⁿᵒ Cₛ
one classifier person plough land situated his

Y⁻ T'₋. Cₛ CT̥ₒ Tᵇ Cᵇ Jᵤ Cⁿᵒ Tⁿ Tₙ, Jⁿ
ahead. he with person who plough land said, we

Jⁿᵹ Lᵇ C̊ Tⁿ CT̥ₒ Lᵢ 'Ɔ" Ɔₙ
seven classifier brothers with old Miao plural

Jⁿᵹ Lᵇ C̊ Tⁿ T'ₛ T̥° Tⁿ Jʼᵓ
seven classifier brothers deploy soldiers show

C̄, Cₛ ϯ" Δᵢ Lᵇ Tᵘ T" Ɔ°
therefore, they six classifier all get sick

Sᵹ. C̄ C̊ Λᵋ 'Ɔ" Cₙ L̊ T⁻ Tᵹ.
away. now old man Miao plural pursue come finish.

Y⁻ Lⁿ J̊ Λ̄ CT̥ₒ Cₛ Λ̄ Cₛ ϯ'₋
make like I want with you want your scrub

J'" Vᵤ Cₛ Y⁻ CTᵘ Tⁿ Δᵹ Y̊ Jᵤ. Y̊ Vⁿᶜ
thorn at your edge land plot there go in. but

Lᵢ 'Ɔ" Ɔₙ Jⁿᵹ Lᵇ C̊ Tⁿ C⁻
old Miao plural seven classifier brothers if

L̊ T⁻, Cₛ Jʼ⁻ Tₙ Jʼᵓ Tⁿ T°.
pursue come, you do not tell at all exclamation.

Lᵢ 'Ɔ" Jᵤ Cⁿᵒ Tⁿ Tₙ, Ʒ" Ɔ⁻, Cₛ
old Miao who plough land said, good then, you

Ɔᵢ CΔᵤ T̥" Vᵤ Cⁿᶜ. C̊ Jⁿᵹ
go hide in there completed. tiger seven

Lᵇ Ɔᵢ CΔᵤ Lᵋ. Lᵢ 'Ɔ" L̊ T⁻
classifier went hide gone. old Miao pursue come

Tᵹ. Lᵢ 'Ɔ" Jₒ ϯʳ Jᵤ Cⁿᵒ Tⁿ. Lᵢ
finish. old Miao saw him who plough land. old

'Ɔ" Tₙ, ϯʳ L₋, Cₛ Cⁿᵒ Tⁿ C̊, Tₙᶜ
Miao said, friend, you plough land here, query

Jₒ Ɔ⁻ Yⁿ Tᵤ C° C'ⁿ" C̊.
see there was one classifier tiger pass here.

ɬʳ ꓖᵤ ꓓⁿᵒ Tⁿ ꓶₙ, ꓖ̆ Cⁿᵒ C̊ ꓓⁿᵒ
he who plough land said, I situated here plough

Tⁿ, ꓶⁿ ꓛₒ Ↄ₋ Ḉ Ꭰ'ⁿᐣ Cⁿ Ↄ⁻.
land, not see there was tiger pass here then.

Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ" ꓶₙ, Y⁻ Lⁿ ꓖ̆ Jₒ C̊ ꓶᵢᵢ Λⁿ S̊.
old Miao said, make like I rest here smoke yet.

145 Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ" Jₒ C̊. Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ" Cꓭʼᵩ Ↄᵢᵢ Δ⁻
old Miao rested here. old Miao desired go go to

ꓖ° Y⁻ ɬ₋. Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ" Ↄᵢᵢ ɬₒ Vᵤ ꓓⁿᵒ Ÿ Y⁻ CTᵘ
cliff. old Miao went reached at plot that edge

ꓖ° Y⁻ ɬ⁻ Tᵷ. Ḉ Jᵑᵡ Lᵡ ꓛₒ Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ"
cliff finish. tiger seven classifier saw old Miao

Ↄᵢᵢ Tᵷ. Cↄ Ɪᵤ J̊ Ɪᵷ.
go finish. he then rose ran.

Ɪᵷ Ↄᵢᵢ ꓛₒ Ↄ- Yⁿ Lᵡ Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ"
ran went saw there was one classifier old Miao

150 CTᵢᵢ. Jʳ J̃. Ḉ Jᵑᵡ Lᵡ CƖₒ Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ"
thresh oats. tiger seven classifier with old Miao

ꓖᵤ CTᵢᵢ Jʳ J̃ ꓶₙ, Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ" L₋ Vᵤ Cↄ.
who thresh oats said, old Miao trouble you.

Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ" Ↄₙ Jᵑᵡ Lᵡ Ḉ̃ Tⁿ CƖₒ
old Miao plural seven classifier brothers with

ꓛⁿ Sᵑᵡ Lᵡ Ḉ̃ Tⁿ T'ↄ Ḉ
us seven classifier brothers deploy soldiers

ꓶⁿ ꓕʼᵡ. ꓛⁿ Δ" Lᵡ Y⁻ Ↄ" Ↄₙ Tᵘ
show. we six classifier brothers plural all

155 Ↄ° ꓖᵤ ꓛᵌ CƖₒ, C̄ C̊ Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ" Ↄₙ L̊
sick that lie down, now old Miao plural pursue

T- Tᵷ. ꓖ̆ CΔᵤ Ɪ" Ꭻↄ Y⁻ Cᵑᵡ C̊ ꓓⁿᶜ
come finish. I hide in you straw here completed

Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ" ꓓ⁻ L̊ T- Ꭻↄ ꓶⁿ Λ̄ ꓶₙ ꓕʼᵡ
old Miao if pursue come you not want tell

ㄱ°. ㄴㅛ ’ㄱ" ㅋㅜ ㄷㅜㅛ ㅈᶣ ᶘ ㄱㅇ, ㅿ",
exclamation. old Miao who thresh oats said, good,

ㄷㅋ ㅅㅜ ㄱㅛ ㅅᵓ ㄷᵑᶜ. ㅌ ㅈᵑᵡ
you go in go lie completed. tiger seven

160 ㄴᵡ ㅅㅜ ㄱㅛ ㅅᵓ ㄴᵩ. ㄴㅛ ’ㄱ" ㅜ-
classifier went in went lay gone. old Miao came

ㅏㅇ ㅜㅎ. ㄴㅛ ’ㄱ" ㄱㅇ, ㅏᶣ ㄴ_ ㅋㅜ ㄷㅜ"
reach finish. old Miao said, friend who thresh

ㅈᶣ ᶘ, ㄷㅋ ㄷᵑᵒ ㄷ̂ ㅜᵑᶜ ㄷㅋ ㅅㅇ ㄱ-
oats, you situated here query you see there was

Yᵑ ㅜㅜ ㅌ ㄷ’ᵑᵐ ㄷ̂. ㄴㅛ ’ㄱ" ㅋㅜ
one classifier tiger pass here. old Miao who

ㄷㅜㅛ ㅈᶣ ᶘ ㄱㅇ, ㅋ̆ ㄷᵑᵒ ㄷ̂ ㄱᵑ ㅅㅇ
thresh oats said, I situated here not see

165 ㄱ- ㅌ ㄷ’ᵑᵐ ㄷ̂. ㄴㅛ ’ㄱ" ㅋㅜ ㄴ̓
there was tiger pass here. old Miao who pursue

ㅌ ㄱㅇ, Y¯ ㄴᵑ ㅋ̆ ㅿㅛ ㄷㅋ ㅜᵑ Y¯ ㄷᵑᵡ
tiger said, make like I sit you the straw

ㄷ̂ ㅅㅇ Yᵑ ㄷㅅᵩ Ṡ, ㅜ¯ ㄴᵑᶜ ㄱㅛ ㄷ̄’.
here rest a while yet, presently go seek.

ㄴㅛ ’ㄱ" ㅿㅛ ㄱㅛ, ㅜ" ㅏㅜ ㅜᵕ ㅌ. ㅌ
old Miao sat went, get squash the tiger. tiger

ㅜㅜ ㄴ̓ ㅜㅎ. ㅜㅎ ㅿ¯ ㄴᵘ Y¯ ㄷᵑᶜ ᶘ"
then rose ran. ran go to the great forest

170 ㄴᵩ. ㄴㅛ ’ㄱ" ㄱᵑ ㄴ̓ ㅜㅎ. ㄴㅛ ’ㄱ" Ṡ
gone. old Miao not pursue finish. old Miao return

ㄴㅇ, ㅜ’" ㅿㅛ ㅜㅜ ㅌ ㅋㅜ ㄷㅋ ㅅ̣
come, from six classifier tigers which he shot

ㅜ_ ㄴᵩ Ỳ Y¯ ㄷᵡ Sᶘ.
dead gone those make eat away.

ㄷ̄ ㄷ̂ ㅌ ㅛ̆ ㄷᵩ ㅋㅜ ㄴㅛ ’ㄱ" ㄷㅜㅇ ㅌ
now tigers very scarce is old Miao with tiger

Jᵑ̊ Lᵓ Ɛ̄ Tⁿ ˥ⁿ Γ̆ Sⁿᶜ ꓘᵓ.
seven classifier brothers divide high low.

175 Lᵢᵢ ’Ɔᵢᵢ ɹ̊ Δᵢᵢ Tᵢ Sᵹ, Jₒ Yⁿ
old Miao shot six classifier away, remained one

Tᵢ Lᶜ T⁻ C̄ Lⁿ Y⁻.
classifier gone only therefore like do.

M421

The Miao man and the seven brothers of the tiger family hold a contest of strength.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 47, page 32).

M422
The man's great feat.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

In this story the animals set out to hold a competition to determine which was the strongest. The site they chose which is called a "pass" was in fact a saddle between two hills where the ground was reasonably level. With the animals went thunder here personified as a great beast, but it was the man, who, compelled to accompany them against his will, proved his superiority by his mastery of fire.

The title "yeu", which means "man" in the sense of an adult male, is accorded to all of the animals including the man himself. In translation it is rendered "old man" in the manner of Rudyard Kipling in his "Just so stories".

M422
The man's great feat.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Once upon a time old man tiger, old man bear, old man wild boar, old man thunder, old man rabbit, old man fox and old man wild cat were going to perform their feats of strength up in a pass. They happened to meet old man Miao and compelled him to go with them and perform to see whose feat was the greatest. Old man Miao had no option, so he went with them and arrived at the pass.

First they made old man tiger perform. Old man tiger roared until he shook the forest, and bounded splitting and crashing among the trees and the rocks. Everyone praised him and said, "Aye! Old man tiger is strong, strong indeed!"

Then they made old man bear perform. Old man bear bounded with great alacrity, climbing the trees and bending the forest together to form a nest in the trees. Then he leapt down to the ground with a crash, and he growled, "beu!" until the forest swayed. Everyone praised him and said. "Aye! Old man bear is strong, strong indeed!"

Then they made old man wild boar perform his feat. Old man wild boar, thrusting with his snout as he went, tore up the roots of the trees until the trees and rocks were lifted and thrown aside. Then grunting, "Nkheu-nkheu!" he ran through the forest undergrowth, blowing it apart as he went. Everyone praised him and said, "Aye! Old man wild boar is strong, strong indeed!"

Then they made old man thunder perform. Old man thunder rose up and belched into the sky. The clouds billowed up until it grew dark, the wind swayed the trees, the rain came in torrents and the water gurgled in the gullies. Then old man thunder belched again and the sky grew bright and clear. Everyone praised him commenting, "Oo-hu! Old man thunder is strong, strong indeed!"

Then they made old man rabbit perform. Old man rabbit ran and hopped up over there and squeaked, "pi-li!" and ran back here and squeaked, "pi-li!" Everyone commented "Oh dear! Old man rabbit! What a waste of time!" Then they made old man fox perform. Old man fox ran over there and barked, "ghao-ghao!" and ran here and barked, "ghao-ghao!" Each one said, "Oh dear! Old man fox! What a weakling!" Then they made old man wild cat perform. Old man wild cat just went over there and mewed, "niao!" and came back here and mewed, "niao!" Everyone said, "Oh dear! Old man wild cat! What an utter weakling!"

When they had finished performing they said to the Miao man, "This time it is your turn. Perform, and be quick about it!" Old man Miao took out his flint and steel, and he rolled a small piece of tinder. He struck until the sparks flew in all directions, and he said, "You go up into the hill above, and wait there and see what I will bring you". They commented, "Oo! That little, tiny old man Miao there, what is he going to do? Let us go on ahead up the hill and see what he brings". When they had all gone the Miao man struck sparks and caught them on the tinder, which he blew gently among some grass until it flamed up. He took this and set fire right around the foot of the hill. The forest crackled when the flames caught it, and the smoke came billowing up. They said, "He is coming! He is coming!" In a very short time the flames reached the place where they were. They fled, but could not escape, they ran, but could get nowhere. Thunder rose and fled up into the sky, but old man tiger

with old man bear, old man wild boar, old man rabbit, old man fox and old man wild cat, in forcing a way out together had their coats all scorched by the flames.

M422

ꓤꒉ ’ꓝ" ꓖ’" ꓒꓖ" ꓵ°.
man Miao stratagem great.

Y⁻ T’" Lᵑ ꓤꒉ L̊, ꓤꒉ Δꓸ ꓤꒉ ꓒꓖ⁻ ʒ̈,
of old man tiger, man bear, man wild pig,

ꓤꒉ S°, ꓤꒉ L̄, ꓤꒉ Tɔ, ꓤꒉ ꓖᵑ Δᵑ
man thunder, man rabbit, man fox, man wild cat

Ā ꓝꓲ ϯᵘ ꓖ’" ꓒꓖ" Δ⁻ ꓶᵑ Δꒉ.
wanted go perform stratagems go to above pass.

ꓝꓲ ꓒꓓʳ ꓤꒉ ’ꓝ" T̒ ꓒₙc Ā ꓲ’ꓬ ꓒɔ ꓒꓶₒ ꓝꓲ
went meet man Miao seize want take him with go

ϯᵘ, ꓒ_ ꓝᵟ ꓖ̄ Tɔ ꓓ’" ꓒꓖ" ꓵ°.
perform, look observe whose stratagem great.

ꓤꒉ ’ꓝ" ꓶᵑ T" D̊ Y⁻ Lᵑ ꓓ%, ꓒꓶₒ ꓝꓲ
man Miao not get way do anything, with go

ꓒꓓₙₗₗ ꓶᵑ Δꒉ.
arrive above pass.

Sᵘ ꓖₒ ꓤꒉ L̊ ϯᵘ. ꓤꒉ L̊ ꓖ⁻
first cause man tiger perform. man tiger roared

ꓓᵑ Y⁻ ꓓ’% ʒ̈ Sᵟ, ꓶ⁻ ꓶᵑ ꓒꓖₗₗ ꓓᵑ
thus made shake forest away, and bounded thus

ꓶᵑ J̆ ꓶᵑ Δ’_ ꓒꓶᵤ Y⁻ ꓒꓓʳ Vᵌ Y⁻ ꓒꓓʳ ꓒT".
cracking splitting within rocks trees.

ꓲ̆’ ꓶᵌ Tᵘ ϯ̈ ꓶᵑ, Yᵤ, ꓤꒉ L̊ Tₗₗ
everyone all praised said, aye, man tiger strong

Tₙc, Tₗₗ Tₙc.
truly, strong truly.

ϯ" Ꞇᵤ ꓖₒ Δꒉ Δꓸ Ꞇᵤ ꓝꓲ ϯᵘ. ꓤꒉ
they then caused man bear then go perform. man

Δꓸ ꓶᵑ ꓒꓖₗₗ ꓒꓓᵑ Y⁻ ꓒꓓʳ ꓒT" ꓓᵑ ꓒꓓ’" ꓶ", ꓶ⁻
bear bounded climbed trees thus alacrity, and

15 Ꮧᐟ ᐯᐣ ᏣᎢᐟ Ꮮᐤ Ꮰᐟ ᐯᐣ Ꭲᐟ ᏣᏣᐢ ᏣᎢᐟ. Ꭲᐡ Ꭲᐞᐟ
bent forest come build nest in trees. then from

Ꮍᐢ ᏣᏣᐢ ᏣᎢᐟ Ꮟᐨ ᏕᏁ Ꮧᐞ Ꭰᐞᐧ Ꮒᐦ ᏗᏁ ᎢᏁ Ꭲᐢ
trees leapt thus crashing landed below and

Ꮧᐢ ᏕᏁ, Ꮧᐦ, Ꮖᐤ Ꮓᐟ Ꮒᐧ ᏕᏁ Ꮍᐢ ᏣᏕᐞᐦᐨ ᏃᏁᐦ
growled thus, beu, cause forest thus make sway

Sᐨ. ᐡᐟ Ꮧᐳ Ꮒᐟ ᎢᏁ, Ꮍᐡ, ᐱᐦ ᎠᏐ ᎢᏠ
away. everyone praised said, aye, man bear strong

ᎢᏁᐦ, ᎢᏠ ᎢᏁᐦ.
truly, strong truly.

20 Ꮳᐧ Ꮒᐠ Ꭲᐡ Ꮖᐤ Ꮠᐦ ᏣᏗᐢ Ꮓᐟ ᐃᏠ Ꮒᐡ Ꮳᐧ ᏗᏁᐦ
they then caused man wild pig go perform his.

ᐱᐦ ᏣᏗᐢ Ꮓᐟ ᏣᏕᐧ Ꮮᐣ ᏣᏕᐧ Ꮍᐢ ᏣᏗᐧ ᐃᏠ, Ꮧᐞᐧ Ꮍᐢ Ꮥᐨ
man wild pig thrust snout went, root up roots

ᏣᎢᐠ Ꮖᐡ ᐯᐣ ᏣᎢᐠ Ꮥᐟ Ꮮᐢ Sᐨ, Ꮖᐢ
trees that rocks trees lift thrown away, and

Ꮧᐢ ᏕᏁ, ᏣᏗᐞᐦ ᏣᏗᐞᐦ, Ꭲᐨ Ꮖᐡ ᐯᐣ ᏣᎢᐠ
grunted thus, nkheu nkheu, ran that rocks trees

ᏣᏗᐧ Ꮍᐢ Ꮒᐞᐟ ᏣᎢ Ꮓᐢ. ᐡᐟ Ꮧᐤ Ꭲᐟ ᎢᏁ
grass made blow apart. everyone praised said,

25 Ꮍᐡ ᐱᐦ ᏣᏗᐢ Ꮓᐟ ᎢᏠ ᎢᏁᐦ, ᎢᏠ ᎢᏁᐦ.
aye, man wild pig strong truly, strong truly.

Ꭲᐡ Ꮖᐤ ᐱᐦ Sᐟ ᐃᏠ Ꮒᐡ. ᐱᐦ Sᐟ
then cause man thunder go perform. man thunder

Ꮖ Ꮧᐦ ᏣᎢᐞᐣ ᏓᏆ Ꭲᐠ Ꮧᐣ Ꮧᐨ, Ꮧᐢ Ꮧᐨ Ꮧᐤ Ꮟᐤ ᏣᏁ ᏣᏂᐟ Ꮓᐤ
rose belched to above, and clouds thus billowed

ᏣᏁ Ꮒᠬ ᏣᎢᐣ. Ꮳᐢ ᏣᏁ Ꮢᐤ Ꮢᐤ ᐯᐣ ᏣᎢᐠ, Ꮳᐨ Ꮮᐤ
thus very dark. wind thus shook forest, rain came

ᏣᏁ ᏣᎢᐢ ᏣᎢᐢ, Ꮍᐢ Ꮥᐤ Ꮍᐠ ᏣᎠᐤ ᏣᏁ Ꮖᐤ Ꮖᐤ
thus splashing, gutters water flowed thus gurgle

30 Sᐨ. ᐱᐦ Sᐟ Ꭲᐡ Ꮧᐦ ᏣᎢᐞᐣ ᏓᏆ, Ꮖᐢ Ꮧᐠ ᏣᎢᐡ ᏣᏁ
away. man thunder then belched, and sky thus

Y⁻ ꓚTᵎ ꓚTᵣ Lₒ ꓒⁿ. ꓲᵕ’ ꓶᵦ ⫯
made clear come shine. everyone praised

ꓒⁿ ꓒᑉ, ꓳᵕ ꓶᵘ, Λᖟ Sᵒ Tᵢᵢ Tₙᵢ,
commenting, oo-hu, man thunder strong truly,

Tᵢᵢ Tₙᵢ.
strong truly.

Tᵢᵤ ꓖₒ Λᖟ L̄ Ɔᵢᵢ ⫯ᵘ. Λᖟ L̄ Tᵻ
then cause man rabbit go perform. man rabbit ran

35 ᖹᵻ Tᵎ J̄’ Vᵤ ꓲ⁻, ꓶ’ⁿ Lⁿ, Tᵻ Lₒ
hopped to that place squeaked, pi-li, ran come

Cⁿ ꓲ⁻, ꓶ’ⁿ Lⁿ. ꓲᵕ’ ꓶᵦ ꓒⁿ ꓒᑉ, Y⁻ Λᵒ,
here squeaked, pi-li. everyone commented, oh dear,

ꓲᖟ L̄ ꓒⁿ ꓚꓒᑉ Ȝᵒ. Tᵢᵤ ꓖₒ Λᖟ Tᵓ
man rabbit thus waste strength. then cause man fox

⫯ᵘ. Λᖟ Tᵓ Tᵻ Vᵤ ꓲ⁻, ⫿ ⫿,
perform. man fox ran there barked, ghao-ghao,

Lⁿ Sᵻ, Tᵻ Cⁿ ꓲ⁻, ⫿ ⫿, Lⁿ
like away, ran here barked, ghao-ghao, like

40 Sᵻ. ⫯’⁻ Lᵡ ꓶₙ, Y⁻ Λᵒ, Λᖟ Tᵓ ꓵᵤ
away. each one said, oh dear, man fox entirely

ꓶⁿ Tᵢᵢ. Tᵢᵤ ꓖₒ Λᖟ ꓖⁿ Δⁿ Ɔᵢᵢ ⫯ᵘ
not strong. then cause man wild cat go perform.

Λᖟ ꓖⁿ Δⁿ Δ⁻ Vᵤ ꓲ⁻, ꓚⁿᵎ, Tᵢᵤ Δ⁻
man wild cat go to there mewed, niao, then go to

Cⁿ ꓲ⁻, ꓚⁿᵎ, Lⁿ T⁻. ꓲᵕ’ ꓶᵨ ꓶₙ,
here mewed, niao, like only. everyone said,

Y⁻ Λᵒ, Λᖟ ꓖⁿ Δⁿ ꓵᵤ ꓵᵤ ꓶⁿ Tᵢᵢ.
oh dear, man wild cat utterly entirely not strong.

45 ꓚᵓ ⫯ᵎ ⫯ᵘ Tᵻ Tᵻ, ꓚTₒ Lᵢᵢ ’Ɔᵎ ꓶₙ,
they perform done finish, with old Miao said,

ꓖᵎ C̄ ⫯ᵘ ꓒᵓ ꓶⁿᑉ ᒥᵕ Lⁿ. Λᖟ ’Ɔᵎ
occasion this perform yours quickly. man Miao

ᑭ’ᑊᖾ ᑕᓗ ᖪᐧ ᒧᑊ ᖪ’ᑊᑦ ᐃ̊ ᕃᓭ ᕃᔅ ᒪᓰ.
took his the flint plus ball tiny tinder come.

ᑕᖪᖈ ᒧᑌ ᖹᐧ ᒪ̊ᒃ ᖪᕐ ᑭᑊ ᒧᑊ ᑭ’ᐧ ᒧᑊ ᑭ’ᐧ. ᑕᒪᓰ
struck that sparks thus flew everywhere. With

ᑕᓗ ᖬᑊ ᒣᑊ, ᑐᑊ ᑐᖈ ᐃᐧ ᒪᑌ ᑕᑭᕽ ᖪᑊ ᒧᑊ ᐃᒍ ᐯᔅ,
them said, you go go to the hill above there,

50 ᖪᐤ ᑕᓭ ᒧ̆ᒍ ᑭᑫ ᖪᐧ ᒥᐟᔆ ᑐᑊ, ᒣᐤ ᒪᑊ ᑭᑊ.
wait look I bring come show you, won’t you thus.

ᑕᓗ ᖬᑊ ᑭᖅ, ᐯ̆, ᐱᕐ ’ᑐᑊ ᖪᐧ ᒥᓭ ᑭᓗ ᐯᑌ ᐯᐧ
they commented, oo, man Miao tiny there do

ᒧ̄ ᒍᕽ ᒪᑌ. ᖪᐧ ᒧᑊ ᑊ’ᔆ ᑕᖪᑊ ᐃᐧ ᒪᑌ ᑕᑭᕽ ᖪᑊ
what query. come we go ahead go to the hill

ᖪᐤ ᑕᓗ ᑭᑫ ᖪᐧ. ᑕᓗ ᖬᑊ ᒪᕐ ᖪᘁ, ᒪᑊ ’ᑐᑊ
wait him bring come. they gone finish, old Miao

ᑕᖪᑊ ᐯᐧ ᒧ̆ᒃ ᖪᕐᑊ ᖪᐧ ᕃᔅ ᒪᓰ. ᖬᑦ ᖪ
struck sparks caught the tinder come, blow to

55 ᑕᐃᐤ ᑕᒍᔆ ᖬ’ᐧ ᒍᓰ ᑭᑊ ᒪᓰ. ᑭᑫ ᐯᔅ
midst grass blow cause burn come. carry went

ᖬ’ ᒍ’ᑊ ᒪᑊ ᒪᑌ ᒍᓰ ᖪᑊ ᐯᑦ ᐱ̊ ᐁ’ ᒧᔆ ᔆᘁ.
lit around the foot hill that one all away.

ᒧ̆ᒃ ᖬᑊ ᑭᑊ ᒧᑊ ᒪᑌ ᑭᑊᑊ ᐯᔆ ᑕᖪᑊ ᑭᑊ ᒧᓰ ᒧ̆ᒍ,
burn off thus flames scorch forest thus crackle,

ᖪᐧ ᒧᘁ ᑕᑭ’ᑊᐤ ᑭᑊ ᒥᐧ ᒪ̆ᒃ ᒪᓰ. ᑕᓗ ᖬᑊ ᒣᑊ, ᖪᐧ
and smoke thus billow came. they said, coming

ᖪᖈ, ᖪᐧ ᖪᖈ. ᐯᑊ ᑕᒧᔅ ᒉᓭ ᖪᐧ, ᒧᑊ ᒪᑌ
finish, coming finish. a short time only, flames

60 ᖪᕽ ᒧ̆ᒃ ᖬᐤ ᑕᓗ ᖬᑊ ᐃ̊’ ᐱ̊ ᖪᖈ.
fire burned reach them place that one finish.

ᑕᓗ ᖬᑊ ᒡᒍ ᒪᓭ ᒡᒍ ᖪᑊ ᖪᑊ, ᖪᖈ ᒪᓭ ᖪᖈ ᖪᑊ
they fled but fled not get, ran but ran not

ᐃᑊ. ᖪᑌ ᔆᐤ ᒥ̆ᒃ ᒡᒍ ᐃᐧ ᒍᑊ ᑕᖪᑌ ᒪᔅ.
far. the thunder rose fled go to sky gone.

ᐱᕐ ᑕ̊ ᑕᒥᓐ ᐱᕐ ᐃᒡ, ᐱᕐ ᑕᒧ̄ ᕿ̈, ᐱᕐ ᒪ̄,
man tiger with man bear, man wild pig, man rabbit,

ᐱᕐ ᒥᓗ, ᐱᕐ ᒧᑦ ᐃᑦ ᒣᑦ ᒪᐟᓘ ᑕᐃᓗ
man fox, man wild cat led one another burst through

ᒐᕐ ᑯᑦ ᑕᓇ ᒧᐟᑦ ᐟᑕᑦᑦ ᒧᐟᑦ ᑕᑕᓗ Sᕝ.
burning thus singed hair away.

M422
The man’s great feat.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 50, page 36).

M423
The foolish monkeys.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

This story is a fable, a warning against the folly of blind copying. Rather different from the majority of Miao animal stories, it does not personify the monkeys. It is just possible that it is not originally Miao, but when the point was put to Yang Xiu-gong, he said that it was told to him as a child in Miao and he had never heard it in Chinese or read it in a Chinese book.

Yi-liang is a small town on the old caravan route from Zhaotung north to the Sichuan border.

M423
The foolish monkeys.

Told by Yan Xiu-gong.

They tell a story that once upon a time, there was a Chinese carrying hats from Sichuan, intending to sell them in Zhaotung. When he reached Yi-liang it was very hot, for it was the time of the fifth and sixth moons. So he went and lay down on the ground at the foot of a large tree, and went to sleep.

In the tree above were many monkeys who saw him sleeping there below. The monkeys came down to look at him. They saw he was wearing a hat, and also that beside him there was a box. The monkeys first came and smelt him. Seeing that he did not move, they then went, opened the box and looked in. They saw a lot of hats inside, they also saw that the Chinese sleeping there had put one on, so the monkeys came and each one took a hat and put it on.

When the Chinese hat-seller woke up he realised that his box was open and saw that all his hats had disappeared. He was too angry for words. He snatched off his hat and flung it down on the ground. The monkeys saw what he did and copied him. Every monkey snatched off his hat and threw it down. So the Chinese man got them all back.

M423

ꓛⁿᶜ ꓖᵤ ꓽ ꓔ꓾.
monkeys which foolish.

ꓒɔ ꓶⁿ ꓫⁿ Tᵢᵢ ꓖᵤ ꓽ T’‴ ꓛⁿ ꓽ ꓽ Yⁿ
they say story that of old there was one

ꓛᵡ ꓽ Y꓾ V‟ ꓔᵣ ꓖᵢᵢ T꓾ V‟ Tⁿ. Ā
classifier Chinese carry hats come Sichuan. want

ꓔᵣ T꓾ Tᵢ Δ꓾ ꓽ Oᵛ Tⁿ Lᵢᵢ. T꓾ ꓽ
carry come sell go to Zhaotung. come reach

ꓖ° ꓕ ꓽ J꓾ T꓾ Tⁿᶜ. ꓒⁿᵎ ꓽ Yⁿ ꓔᵤ ꓽ ꓖᵤ ꓛᵛ ꓫᵡ
Yi-liang warm very. time that then was the five

5 Δ‟ ꓽ ꓽ. ꓽ ꓽ ꓛⁿ ꓒɔ ꓛᵛ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ Yⁿ
six month. make like he just went situated one

ꓕᵟ ꓽ Y꓾ Cⁿᶜ ꓖ° ꓽ CT‟ ꓫᵌ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ
classifier great trunk tree lay on below

ꓒⁿᶜ. ꓽ ꓒɔ T‟ ꓫᵌ ꓽ Lᵩ ꓽ Tᵟ
completed. he get sleep gone finish.

CT‟ ꓽ Y꓾ J ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ
tree above there were monkeys which many live.

ꓫₒ ꓒɔ ꓫᵌ CTₒ ꓫⁿ Tⁿ. ꓽ Tᵛ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ
saw him sleeping below. the monkeys down came

10 ꓒꓽ ꓒɔ. ꓔᵤ ꓫₒ ꓖᵤ ꓒɔ CT‟ ꓽ Yⁿ ꓽ ꓽ Lᵛ
look him. then saw that he wore one classifier

ꓖᵢᵢ. ꓽ Vᵤ ꓒɔ ꓽ Y꓾ CTᵛ ꓽ ꓔᵤ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ
hat. at his side then there was one classifier

ꓷᵛ. ꓽ Tᵛ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ Sᵛ ꓽ T꓾ ꓽ ꓒᵀ ꓽ ꓒɔ, ꓫₒ ꓖᵤ
box. the monkeys first came smelt him, saw that

ꓒɔ ꓶⁿ ꓽ ꓽ ꓷ°. ꓽ Tᵛ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ ꓽ

saw the Chinese who sleep there had put on one

classifier. make like the monkeys each classifier

then came took hat put on. all then return went

go to above gone.

the Chinese who sell hats rose come, saw that

his box open away, then look his hats all not

see finish. he angry that not get way speak.

he took off his hat threw to below. the monkeys

saw he did then copy him do. the monkeys each

classifier took off hat threw come. the Chinese

then got his hats so it was.

M423
The foolish monkeys.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 10, page 5).

M424
Bitterness for the zu-mu of the plain.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

The background to this story is the old Miao spirit worship, in which, very occasionally, a special sacrifice called “zi” was offered to the ancestors. The ritual had to be carried out by the zu-mu, a member of the clan who, chosen while still a youth, had been specifically instructed. He, and he only, might officiate, and tradition demanded that he should be lavishly entertained. The knife which the man seized, was that which, his incantation completed, the zu-mu would have used to dispatch the victim of the sacrifice.

M424
Bitterness for the zu-mu of the plain.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

They say that, once upon a time, there was a man who went and planted millet. When the millet was ripe the monkeys kept coming and eating it. The man went to the foot of the cliff staying there to keep guard against the monkeys. One day he fell asleep. The monkeys came and saw him and said, "Come let us carry him along to be a sacrifice". So the monkeys carried the man to their home.

The monkeys said to one another, "Shall we go and seek the zu-mu of the forest, or shall we go and seek the zu-mu of the plain?" (The zu-mu of the forest was the tiger, and the zu-mu of the plain was the rabbit.) There were some who said, "Since the zu-mu of the forest eats so much, let us seek the zu-mu of the plain".

The monkeys went off, called the zu-mu of the plain and he arrived. They took the man to the head of the room, then they brought all kinds of fine things and set them out. The man was lying at the head of the room with one eye open and the other closed, with one leg straight and the other bent. Then the zu-mu began to chant,

"Ta-pa-pi, ta-pa-pu,
One leg straight, one leg bent,
One eye open, one eye closed, …"

Then the man jumped up to run out. Grabbing the knife he flashed it at the rabbit and cut off its tail. The monkeys said to him, "Where have you been hit, old man zu-mu?" The rabbit replied, "It is only the tail of my coat which has been cut off!" The man, meanwhile, had gathered all the fine things and carried them home.

M424

ꞇᵤ ↄᵤ ᑕꞖᵷ ᑕᵎ Yˉ.
zu-mu plain eats bitterness.

ᑕↄ ᒣₙ ᒧᵤ Yˉ Tʼ‴ Lᵑ ↄ- Yᵑ Lᵡ
they say that of old there was one classifier

Lᵎ ʼↄ" ↄᵎ ᑐₙₒ ꞇ̆ʼ. Tʼ‴ ᒧᵤ ꞇ̆ʼ
old Miao went planted millet. when that millet

J̄ Tᵷ, Lⁿᑦ T- ᑕᵎ ꞇ̆ʼ Tˉ Tₙᑦ.
ripe finish, monkeys came eat millet very much.

Lᵎ ʼↄ" ↄᵎ ᑕⁿᵒ Lᵑ ᒧ° ꓶᵷ ꞇˉ
old Miao went situated the foot bottom cliff

5 Ʒᷱᷱᷱ

15 Tᵕ Lⁿᶜ Ɔ꜀ ꓲ’ᵘ ɬᵤ Ɔᵤ ᑕꓔᵟ T- ᑕᑭ꜀
the monkeys went call zu-mu plain come arrive

Tᵟ. ᑭ’ₙₛ L꜀ ’Ɔ" Ɔ꜀ Ꞇ" Lⁿ ⃜Γ ᑭᔆ
finish. took old Miao went to the head room

ᑭⁿᶜ. Ꞇᵤ ᑭ’ₙₛ ɬ’⁻ Ʒᵟ Ʒ" Δᵟ ᑕᵡ Lₒ
completed. then took each kind good things come

Tᵡ ᑭⁿᶜ. L꜀ ’Ɔ" ꓶᵊ Lⁿ ⃜Γ ᑭᔆ,
set out completed. old Miao lay the head room,

Yⁿ ɬ’ꜛ Y⁻ Ɔ⁻ Ɪ’ᵡ, Yⁿ ɬ’ꜛ Y⁻ Ɔ⁻
one classifier eye open, one classifier eye

20 Ɪᵡ, Yⁿ ɬ’ꜛ ᑭⁿ Jᵑᵟ, Yⁿ
closed, one classifier leg stretched, one

ɬ’ꜛ ᑭⁿ ᑕꓖ꜀. ɬᵤ Ɔᵤ ɬᴿ ꓷₙ,
classifier leg bent. zu-mu intoned said,

T’⁻ ꓶ’⁻ ꓶ’ⁿ, T’⁻ ꓶ’⁻ ꓶ’ᵘ,
ta-pa-pi, ta-pa-pu,

ɬ’ꜛ ᑭⁿ Jᵑᵟ, ɬ’ꜛ ᑭⁿ ᑕꓖ꜀,
classifier leg stretched, classifier leg bent,

ɬ’ꜛ Ɔ⁻ Ɪ’ᵡ, ɬ’ꜛ Ɔ⁻ Ɪᵡ.
classifier eye open, classifier eye closed.

25 L꜀ ’Ɔ" ʖ ꓶₛ. ᑭ’ₙₛ Tᵕ Y⁻ Ꞇ꞊ Lᵤ
old Miao rose burst out. took the knife brandish

Tₛ Ɔ꜀. T" Tᵕ L̄ Tᵕ Y⁻ ᑕɬᵟ ᑭ’ᵟ Sᵟ.
out went. get the rabbit the tail chopped away.

Tᵕ Lⁿᶜ ᑕꓔₒ Tᵕ L̄ ꓷₙ, T" ᑕT꜀ ᑭᵓ
the monkeys with the rabbit said, get hit you

J̊’ Tᵓ Λₛ ɬᵤ Ɔᵤ. Tᵕ L̄ ꓷₙ, T" ᑭ’ᵟ J̆
where man zu-mu. the rabbit said, get chop my

Δ- Ɪᵟ ᑭ’° T⁻. L꜀ ’Ɔ" J" ɬ’⁻ Ʒᵟ
the bottom coat only. old Miao gather each kind

30 Δᵟ ᑕᵡ Ꞇᵣ Ꞇ" ᑕꓖ-
things carried to house.

M424
Bitterness for the zu-mu of the plain.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 10, page 5).

M425
The man's great resourcefulness.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

Although the initial paragraph links this story with the previous one (M424), it is in fact a separate narrative. With some such sentence as, "Once upon a time a man fell down a cliff and broke his leg so that he could not walk", it could well begin at the second paragraph.

The real reason for the man wanting a needle was that he required it for medical purposes. It was believed that the insertion of a needle would facilitate the healing process. The bear did not realise this, but accepted the suggestion that the needle was a kind of dip-stick measuring the amount of fat that the man was putting on.

The wild cat's offer of help was not disinterested. He intended to get his share of the bear's meat, and arranged that the man should not kill the bear until he was on hand. This was the point of the enigmatic call to let the man know that he had arrived, but not to excite the bear's suspicions.

When asked the meaning of the wild cat's call, Yang Xiu-gong said that it had none. It was simply the noise that the wild cat made. However all the syllables are recognisable Miao words. In the incantations, and in the bargaining conducted by the middlemen in fixing a marriage settlement, code words were often used instead of the name of the animal concerned, and this would appear to be the same kind of thing. Two rather archaic words are employed. "Tub", a large wooden vat for holding water, means "man", and "basket", a large bamboo basket for storing grain, means. "bear". In translation the slightly archaic form has been hinted by using "come forth" instead of "come out", and "smite" instead of "kill".

When the bear had been killed the man and the wild cat cut up the carcass into reasonable sized joints to be shared out between them. At this point the man's anger was aroused by the wild cat's greediness, but the latter had the good sense to heed the warning given. The man was pacified, promising that, for the future, the wild cat might take the occasional animal from his farm in recognition for services rendered.

M425
The man's great resourcefulness.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

They say that a man went to see his friend who had good fortune through keeping watch against the monkeys, and he decided to copy him. When his millet was ripe, the monkeys came eating it, and he went to keep watch. He made as though he was heavily asleep. The monkeys came and saw him and said, "Let us take the man and carry him off to be a sacrifice". The monkeys gave the man to a monkey with a deformed hand to carry. He carried him along until they came and reached a very frightening cliff. The man said, "Monkey with a deformed hand, you carry me well". But the monkey threw him off and the man fell down and landed at the bottom breaking his leg so that he could not walk.

There came a bear and saw him. The bear said, "Man, I am going to eat you!" The man said, "I am very thin. If you want to eat me, you first go and find a needle and push it here into my knee. Every day go and find meat for me to eat to make me fatter, then you can eat me!" The bear went and found a needle and pushed it into the man's knee. Every day the bear went in search of meat for the man to eat. Each day he grew fatter than the last, but as he grew fatter he pulled the needle up. Now the bear did not know this, and each day he grew thinner than the last. One day the bear said to the man, "I have grown very thin, so though you may not be fat I am going to eat you!" The man said, "Wait two days , then eat me". The bear said, "No, but tomorrow I will eat you". The man was very troubled.

This day there was a wild cat, which came and saw the man. The man told the wild cat that tomorrow the bear was going to eat him. The wild cat said, "Do not be afraid, I went to a human family and saw that there was an axe there in the doorway. I will go and bring it for you to kill the bear". The wild cat went and brought the axe for the man and said to him, "Tomorrow I will come down there below and call, 'Tub, come forth and smite the basket! Tub, come forth and smite the basket!' then you kill the bear". The next day the wild cat called from the lower side, "Tub, come forth and smite the basket! Tub, come forth and smite the basket!" and the bear said, "Man how is it that you are calling, and what are you calling?" The man said, you stay quiet and I will show you". The man raised the axe up, and the bear said, "Heave it up, but drop it gently!" So the man killed the bear.

The wild cat came running to divide the bear meat with the man. The wild cat said, "Divide out mine first!" Then the wild cat said, "This portion is my grandfather's, this is my grandmother's, this is my father's, this is my mother's, this is my older brother's, this is my sister-in-law's, this is my younger brother's, this is my younger sister's, and this is mine!" When they had finished dividing for all the wild cat's family, for the man, nothing whatever was left. The man was angry and thrust out his stomach. The wild cat saw and said, "What is that for?" The man said, "That is a bag to be filled with wild cat meat!" The wild cat said, "Man, you keep the meat while I run!" The man said, "In that case, I shall eat all this, but in future, if I am keeping livestock, you may come and catch some and go and eat it". Now this is the origin of the wild cat coming and catching people's chicken.

M425

ꓶꓲ ’Ↄꓮ ꓷꓮ ꓖ’ꓮ ꓖ’ꓮ.
old Miao good method.

ꓒꓽ ꓶꓰ ꓖꓵ ꓶꓲ ’Ↄꓮ Ↄꓲ ꓟꓸ ꓒꓽ ꓶ⁻
they say that old Miao went see his friend

ꓷ̊ ꓶᵑᶜ Tꓮ ꓷꓮ ꓚ’ᵑˢ Tƃ. ꓒꓽ ꓶ⁻
guard monkeys get good fortune finish. his friend

ꓔᵤ Ↄꓲ Λꓲ. ꓒꓽ ꓵ̆’ ꓖ̄ Tƃ, ꓶᵑᶜ
then went copy. his millet ripe finish, monkeys

T⁻ ꓒꓮ, ꓒꓽ Ↄꓲ ꓷ̊. ꓒꓽ Y⁻ ꓖᵤ Tꓮ ꓟᐣ
came eat, he went guard. he made that get sleep

5 T⁻ Tₙᶜ Tƃ. Tᵕ ꓶᵑᶜ T⁻ ꓟₒ Tƃ ꓶₙ,
very finish. the monkeys came saw finish said,

ꓟᵑ ꓚ’ᵑˢ ꓶꓲ ’Ↄꓮ ꓔᵣ Ↄꓲ Y⁻ ⊦ᵣ Ↄꓲ
we take old Miao carry go make sacrifice go

Λ⁻. Tᵕ ꓶᵑᶜ ꓚ’ᵑˢ ꓶꓲ ’Ↄꓮ ꓔ’ꓮ Tᵕ
exclamation. the monkeys took old Miao for the

ꓶᵑᶜ ꓶᵑ ↄꓖꓴ Tᵑ ꓔᵣ. ꓔᵣ Ↄꓲ ⊦ₒ ꓶᵕ
monkey deformed hand carry. carry went reach the

Y⁻ ⊦⁻ ꓖᵤ Δ’ᵑᶜ Δ’ᵑᶜ T⁻ Tₙᶜ. ꓶꓲ ’Ↄꓮ ꓶₙ,
cliff which frightening very. old Miao said,

10 ꓶᵑᶜ ꓶᵑ ↄꓖꓴ Tᵑ, ꓔᵣ ꓖ̆ T⁻ ꓷꓮ. Tᵕ
monkey deformed hand, carry me come well. the

ꓶᵑᶜ ꓚ° ꓶ⁻ Sᵟ. ꓶꓲ ’Ↄꓮ ꓖꓲ Ↄꓲ
monkey drop threw away. old Miao fell down went

⊦ˢ ꓖᵑ Tᵑ Tꓮ ꓶ̊ Y⁻ ꓚᵑ Tƃ, Ↄꓲ ꓶᵑ Tꓮ.
landed below get break leg finish, go not get.

Ↄ⁻ Yᵑ Tᵤ Δᵢ T⁻ ꓟₒ ꓒꓽ. Tᵕ
there was one classifier bear came saw him. the

Δᵢ ꓶₙ, ꓶꓲ ’Ↄꓮ ꓖ̆ Λ̄ ꓒꓮ ꓚꓽ ↄꓴꓽ. ꓶꓲ
bear said, old Miao I want eat your flesh. old

15 ’ↄ" ˥ₙ, ǰ̆ Λ˗ T̄ Tₙ˂, Ɛↄ Ɛ̄ Λ̄ Cʺ ǰ̆
Miao said, I thin very, you if want eat my

ꓒꓖˈ, Ɛↄ Sᵛ ↄ„ ꓒ̄’ Yⁿ Tᵛ ꓖʺ
flesh, you first go seek one classifier needle

L꜀ Ɪ’ˌ Ɪʺ ǰ̆ ŧ’ˌ Ï Ɛⁿ‴ Ĉ. Ɛↄ ŧ’˗
come put in my classifier knee this. you every

’Cᵛ ↄ„ ꓒ̄’ ꓒꓖˈ L꜀ Ɪ’‴ ǰ̆ Cʺ, ꓖ꜀ ǰ̆
day go seek meat come for me eat, cause me

Δ꜀ Ŝ, Ɛↄ T̄ Lₙ˂ Cʺ. Δˌ ↄ„ ꓒ̄’
fat still, you presently eat. bear went seek

20 Tʺ Yⁿ Tᵛ ꓖʺ L꜀ Ɪ’ˌ Ɪʺ L„ ’ↄ"
get one classifier needle come put in old Miao

ŧ’ˌ Ï Ɛⁿ‴ Tƨ. Δˌ ŧ’˗ ’Cᵛ ↄ„ ꓒ̄’
classifier knee finish. bear every day went seek

ꓒꓖˈ L꜀ Ɪʺ L„ ’ↄ" Cʺ. L„ ’ↄ" Yⁿ ’Cᵛ Δ꜀
meat come to old Miao eat. old Miao one day fat

L̄ T̆ Yⁿ ’Cᵛ. Ŷ Vⁿ˂ Cↄ Δ꜀ Tƨ Cↄ Ɪᵕ
more than one day. but he fat finish he then

T’° Tᵛ ꓖʺ Ɪʺ Y˗ J̄, Y˗ Lⁿ Δˌ ˥ⁿ
pull the needle to upward, make like bear not

25 ꓖʺ. Δˌ Ɛₙ Yⁿ ’Cᵛ Λ˗ L̄ T̆ Yⁿ ’Cᵛ.
know. bear thus one day thin more than one day.

ↄ˗ Yⁿ ’Cᵛ Δˌ ꓒƖ꜀ L„ ’ↄ" ˥ₙ, ǰ̆
there was one day bear with old Miao said, I

Λ˗ T̄ Tₙ˂ Tƨ, Ɛↄ ˥ⁿ Λ꜀, ǰ̆ Tᵛ Λ̄ Cʺ
thin very finish, you not fat, I all will eat

Ɛↄ Tƨ. L„ ’ↄ" ˥ₙ Ɛↄ T° Y˗ ’Cᵛ
you finish. old Miao said, you wait two days

Ɛↄ T̄ Lₙ˂ Cʺ ǰ̆. Δˌ ˥ₙ Y˗ Lⁿ
you presently eat me. bear said, make like

30 ꓖⁿ Ɛⁿ ǰ̆ Λ̄ Cʺ Ɛↄ Tƨ. L„ ’ↄ" Tᵌ
tomorrow I will eat you finish. old Miao anxious

ᵀ⁻ ᵀᵑᵋ.
very.

ʾᑕᵕ ᑕ̊ ↄ⁻ ʏᑢ ᵀᵤ ᒧᑢ ᐞᑢ ᵀ⁻
day this there was one classifier wild cat came

Vᵤ ᒪᵢᵢ ʾↄ". ᒪᵢᵢ ʾↄ" ᑕᒣₒ ᒧᑢ ᐞᑢ ᒣₙ ᒧᵤ
to old Miao. old Miao with wild cat said that

ᒧᑢ ᗡᑢ ᐞᵢ Ā ᑕᵎ ᑕↄ ᵀȣ. ᒧᑢ ᐞᑢ ᒣₙ
tomorrow bear will eat him finish. wild cat said

35 ᒣᑢ ᑕᗡʹ, ᒡ̆ ↄᵢᵢ ᐞ⁻ ᵀᵡ ᑕᵡ ᐱₙ, ᒡ̆ ᒪₒ ↄ⁻
not fear, I go go to people family, I saw have

ʏᑢ ᵀᵕ ᵀᵎ ᑕᵑᵒ Vᵤ ᒪᵕ ʏ⁻ ᐞᵎ. ᒡ̆ ↄᵢᵢ
one classifier axe situated at the door. I go

ᗡʾᵑᵡ ᒪₒ ᵀʾʹ ᗡↄ ᑕᵀᵢᵢ ᐞᵢ. ᒧᑢ ᐞᑢ ↄᵢᵢ ᗡᵑᵡ
take come for you kill bear. wild cat went took

ᵀᵕ ʏ⁻ ᵀᵎ ᒪₒ ᵀʾʹ ᒪᵢᵢ ʾↄ", ᵀᵤ ᑕᒣₒ ᒪᵢᵢ ʾↄ"
the axe come for old Miao, then with old Miao

ᒣₙ, ᒧᑢ ᗡᑢ ᒡ̆ ᵀ⁻ ᒧᑢ ᵀᑢ ꀤʾᵕ, ᵀ̊ʾ ᵀᵡ
said, tomorrow I come below call, tub come out

40 ᑕᵀᵢᵢ ᒣ̊ʾ ᒣ̊ʾ, ᵀ̊ʾ ᵀᵡ ᑕᵀᵢᵢ ᒣ̊ʾ ᒣ̊ʾ, ᗡₙ ᗡↄ
kill basket, tub come out kill basket, thus you

ᑕᵀᵢᵢ ᵀȣ ᒣᵒ. ʾᑕᵕ ʏ⁻ ᒣᵡ ᵀᵕ ᒧᑢ ᐞᑢ
kill finish exclamation. day after the wild cat

ᑕᵑᵒ Sᵟ ᒧᑢ ᵀᑢ ꀤʾᵕ ᒣₙ, ᵀ̊ʾ ᵀᵡ
situated side below called said, tub come out

ᑕᵀᵢᵢ ᒣ̊ʾ ᒣ̊ʾ, ᵀ̊ʾ ᵀᵡ ᑕᵀᵢᵢ ᒣ̊ʾ ᒣ̊ʾ. ᵀᵕ ᐞᵢ
kill basket, tub come out kill basket. the bear

ᒣₙ, ᒪᵢᵢ ʾↄ" ꀤʾᵕ ᒪᑢ ᗡᵡ ꀤʾᵕ ᒣ̄ ᒍᵣ. ᒪᵢᵢ ʾↄ"
said, old Miao call how call what. old Miao

45 ᒣₙ, ᗡↄ ᑕᵑᵒ ᵀ⁻ ᗡᵣ Vᵤ ᒡ̆ ʏ⁻ ᒣʾᵡ ᗡↄ. ᒪᵢᵢ ʾↄ"
said, you stay quiet I make show you. old Miao

ᗡᵟ ᵀᵕ ʏ⁻ ᵀᵎ ᵀᵎ ᒧᑢ ᒍ⁻. ᵀᵕ ᐞᵢ ᒣₙ, ᵀʾʹ
lifted the axe to above. the bear said, use

ʒ° ⊏ᵹ, Y⁻ Lⁿᶜ ⊏°. Lᵢᵢ ’Ɔ" ⊂Tᵢᵢ
strength lift, slowly let down. old Miao killed

Tᵕ Δᵢ Tᵹ.
the bear finish.

Tᵕ ⊐ⁿ Δⁿ Ʈᵹ T⁻ ⊂Ʈ∘ Lᵢᵢ ’Ɔ" Γᵕ ⊂⊐ᵢ
the wild cat ran come with old Miao divide meat

Δᵢ Tᵹ. Tᵕ ⊐ⁿ Δⁿ ⅂ⁿ, Sᵕ Γᵕ
bear finish. the wild cat said, first divide

ᴗ̆ ⅃ⁿᶜ. Tᵕ ⊐ⁿ Δⁿ Ʈᵕ ⅂ⁿ, T⁻ Cⁿ ⊐ᵕ ᴗ̆
mine. the wild cat then said, piece this is my

Y⁻ Λᶜ Lᵢᵢ ⅃ⁿᶜ, T⁻ Cⁿ ⊐ᵕ ᴗ̆ Y⁻ ⅃∘ Lᵢᵢ
grandfather his, piece this is my grandmother

⅃ⁿᶜ, T⁻ Cⁿ ⊐ᵕ ᴗ̆ Vᵕ ⅃ⁿᶜ, T⁻ Cⁿ
hers, piece this is my father his, piece this

⊐ᵕ ᴗ̆ Cⁿᶜ ⅃ⁿᶜ, T⁻ Cⁿ ⊐ᵕ ᴗ̆ Y⁻ Ɔ"
is my mother hers, piece this is my old brother

⅃ⁿᶜ, T⁻ Cⁿ ⊐ᵕ ᴗ̆ Y⁻ Cⁿᵹ ⅃ⁿᶜ, T⁻
his, piece this is my sister-in-law hers, piece

Cⁿ ⊐ᵕ ᴗ̆ ϯ⁻ ⊏ᵓ ⅃ⁿᶜ, T⁻ Cⁿ ⊐ᵕ ᴗ̆
this is my young brother his, piece this is my

L⁻ ⊏ᵓ ⅃ⁿᶜ, T⁻ Cⁿ ⊐ᵕ ᴗ̆ ⅃ⁿᶜ. Γᵕ
young sister hers, piece this is mine. divide

Tᵹ Tᵕ ⊐ⁿ Δⁿ Cᵓ Λⁿ ⅃ⁿᶜ, Lᵢᵢ ’Ɔ"
finish the wild cat his family theirs, old Miao

⅃ⁿᶜ ⅂ⁿ Ɔ⁻ Yⁿ Tᵕ ɟ⁻ Tᵹ. Lᵢᵢ ’Ɔ" Y° Sⁿᶜ,
his not have one piece at all. old Miao angry,

Lᵢᵢ ’Ɔ" Tᵓ Lᵢᵢ ’Ɔ" Lᵕ Y⁻ ⊏’ⁿᵐ L∘. ⊐ⁿ Δⁿ
old Miao turned old Miao the belly come. wild cat

⅃∘, ⊐ⁿ Δⁿ ⅂ⁿ, Vᵕ ⊐ᵕ Y⁻ Jʳ. Lᵢᵢ ’Ɔ"
saw, wild cat said, that there is what. old Miao

⅂ⁿ, Yⁿ ⊐ᵕ ⊐’" ’Cᵹ ⊂Ʈⁿ ⊂ɟᵢ ⊐ⁿ Δⁿ
said, that is bag fill meat wild cat

ᑕᵑᶜ. ᒧᵑ ᐃᵑ ᒣᵑ, ᒪᵘ ’ᑐᵘ, ᒥ̄ ᑕᵑᶜ
completed. wild cat said, old Miao, hold completed

ᒍᵘ ᒥᵹ. ᒪᵘ ’ᑐᵘ ᒣᵑ ᒍ̄ ᒪᵑ ᒥᵑ ᑕᵑ ᒍᵘ ᑕᵘ
I run. old Miao said, make like this I eat

ᒥᵹ. ᑕᒥᵘ ᒧᵇ ᒍᵘ ᑐᵘ ᒧᵘ ᑕᵊ, ᑕᵊ ᒥ-
finish. in future I go feed livestock, you come

ᑐ̄ ᑐᵘ ᑕᵘ ᒥᵹ. ᑕ̄ ᑕᵑ ᒧᵑ ᐃᵑ ᒥ- ᑐ̄
take go eat finish. now wild cat come take

ᒥᵇ ᑕᵇ ᒧ', ᒍ̄ ᒧᵒ ᒥ- ᑕᵑ ᑕᵑᵒ.
people chicken, origin come here so it is.

M425
The man’s great resourcefulness.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 22, page 13).

M426

How the eagle carried the man out of Dragon-land.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

The mountainous country occupied by the Miao in Yunnan and Guizhou is full of potholes and caves. From time to time cattle, and even people, fall into them. This story concerns a man who, while out hunting, fell into such a hole and dropped right down into an underground world, the abode of dragons. Having been rescued by an eagle he promised that, in the future, it would be in order for the eagle to come and take the occasional lamb or piglet from his farm by way of thanks for his help. This idea links this story to the previous one where, for the same reason, the wild cat was accorded a similar privilege.

M426
How the eagle carried the man out of Dragon-land.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

People tell a story that, once upon a time, there was a man who went hunting and fell down a hole. He fell right through into Dragon-land. From here there was no means of climbing out. Looking up, all he could see was an eagle, so he called to it to come and carry him out. As the eagle was carrying him and had got half way up through the hole, it grew hungry and could not carry him out. There was nothing for it but for the man to tear some flesh from the back of his knee for the eagle to eat. Then the eagle carried him out.

When the eagle came out, he set the man down and let him go, but the man returned to look at the hole. There came a gust of wind which blew the man back into the hole, and there was nothing he could do but to call again and get the eagle to carry him out. As the eagle was carrying him and had got half way up through the hole, it said, "I cannot go on". So the man tore some flesh from his arm pit for the eagle to eat, and presently the eagle carried him out.

This time the eagle said to the man, "Do not go back looking at the hole, now!" The man said to the eagle, "I have nothing with which to thank you, but in future when I am rearing flocks or pigs, then you may come and take away some to eat". So when an eagle takes people's flocks or pigs it is because of the man's promise when he fell down the pit and an eagle carried him out.

M426

ꭤ̌ ꓶᵣ ꓶ꜀꜀ ’Ɔ" ꓶᵩ ʒᵊ Δᵊꞈ ꓛΔᵑᶜ ꓶᵑ.
eagle carried old Miao out of dragon spirit world.

ꓶᵡ ꓛᵡ ꓷᵑ ꓶᵑ꜀ ꓶ꜀ ꓽ꜀ ꓶ’" ꓶᵑ Ɔ- ꓽᵑ
people say story that of old there was one

ꓶᵡ ꓶ꜀꜀ ’Ɔ" Ɔ꜀꜀ Ḽ ꓛꓶˈ ꓚᵑ ꓶ" ꓶ꜀꜀
classifier old Miao went hunting thus get fall

ꓶ̊’ ꓶᵩ. ꓶ꜀꜀ Ɔ꜀꜀ ꓛꓚᵑ꜀ ʒᵊ Δᵊꞈ ꓛΔᵑᶜ ꓶᵑ
pit gone. fall went arrive dragon spirit world

ꓶᵋ. ꓛᵑᵒ Ḉ ꓷᵑ Ɔ- ꓶ’" ꓶ̈’ ꓶᵤ
finish. situated here not have method which

5 ꓛꓚᵑ ꓶₒ. ꓛ_ ꓶ" ꓽ̄ ꓚ_ ꓶₒ ꓶᵕ ꭤ̌
climb come. look to above only see the eagle

ꓶ̄. ꓽ̄ ꓶᵑ ꓛᵓ ꀘ’ᵤ ꓶᵕ ꭤ̌ ꓶₒ Ɔ꜀꜀
alone. make like he called the eagle cause go

ꓶᵣ ꓛᵓ ꓶᵩ ꓶ꜀ ꓛ’ᵕ ꓶᵕ ꭤ̌ ꓶᵣ ꓛᵓ ꓶₒ.
carry him out come. the eagle carried him come,

ꓶₒ ꓵₒ ꓶᵑ ꓛꓶᵟ ꓶ̊’. ꓶᵕ ꭤ̌ ꓚ’ˈ ꓶᵋ,
came reach middle hole. the eagle hungry finish,

ꓶᵣ ꓶₒ ꓷᵑ ꓶ" ꓶᵋ. ꓶ꜀꜀ ’Ɔ" ꓷᵑ ꓶ" Ḉ
carry come not get finish. old Miao not get way

10 ꓽ̄ ꓚ̊ᵟ. ꓶ꜀꜀ ’Ɔ" Δᵑꞈ ꓶ꜀꜀ ’Ɔ" ꓶᵕ
do anything. old Miao pluck old Miao the

ꓶ̄ ̈ꓶ ꓶᵡ ꓶ’" ꓶᵕ ꭤ̌ ꓛ". ꓶᵕ ꭤ̌
back of the knee for the eagle eat. the eagle

ꓶᵤ ꓶᵣ ꓛᵓ ꓶₒ.
then carried him come.

ꓶᵕ ꭤ̌ ꓶₒ ꓶᵡ ꓶᵋ, ꓶᵕ ꭤ̌ ꓚ°
the eagle come out finish, the eagle set down

ꓶ꜀꜀ ’Ɔ" Sᵟ, Ɔ꜀꜀ ꓶ꜀꜀ ’Ɔ" Ɔ꜀꜀ ꓶᵩ ꓶᵋ.
old Miao away, cause old Miao go gone finish.

15 ŶV꜀ Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ" Tᵤ Sᶠ Jᵡ C₋ Lᵘ J̊ʼ. Ɔ-
but old Miao then returned look the hole. have

Yᵑ ɹᵟ Cᵑ ɬʼ⁻ T-, Tᵤ ɬʼ⁻ Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ"
one gust wind blow come, then blew old Miao

Sᵟ Lᵘ J̊ʼ. Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ" Ʇᵑ T" C̊ Y⁻
away the hole. old Miao not get way do

C̊ᵡ. Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ" C₋ T" C̊ Tᵤ Ꞁʼᵛ Ɜₒ
anything. old Miao only get way again call cause

Tᵘ Å̊ Ɔᵢᵢ Tᵣ Cᵓ T-. Tᵘ Å̊ Tᵣ
the eagle go carry him come. the eagle carried

C̓ Lₒ ɬₒ ɹᵑ CTᵟ J̊ʼ. Tᵘ Å̊ Tᵤ
him come reach middle hole. the eagle then

Ʇₙ, J̆ Ɔᵢᵢ Ʇᵑ T" Tᵭ. Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ" Tᵤ Δᵑ
said, I go not get finish. old Miao then pluck

Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ" Tᵑ J⁻ Y⁻ C° Tᵘ Å̊ C". Tᵘ Å̊
old Miao the arm-pit the eagle eat. the eagle

T⁻ L꜀ Tᵣ Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ" Tᵩ Lₒ. Tᵘ Å̊ Ɜ"
presently carry old Miao out come. the eagle time

Ŷ CTₒ Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ" Ʇₙ, C̓ Ʇᵑ Ā Sᶠ
that with old Miao said, you not want return

25 Y⁻ Jᵡ C₋ Lᵛ J̊ʼ Tᵭ Ʇ°. Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ"
back look the hole finish exclamation. old Miao

CTₒ Å̊ Ʇₙ, J̆ Ʇᵑ Ɔ- J̄ Jᶠ L₋ C̓.
with eagle said, I not have anything thank you.

CTᵛ Jᵡ J̆ Ɔᵢᵢ Jᵛ C= Jᵛ CJ⁻ C꜀, C̓
future I go feed stock feed pigs completed, you

T⁻ L꜀ T- Ɔ⁻ Ɔᵢᵢ C". Å̊ Ɔ⁻ Tᵡ Cᵡ
presently come take go eat. eagle take people

C= CJ⁻ Ɜᵤ Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ" Jᵢᵢ J̊ʼ, Å̊ Tᵣ
stock pigs is old Miao fell hole, eagle carried

30 C̓ Tᵩ Lₒ, Lᵢᵢ ʼƆ" Tᵧ T" C̄ Lᵑ Y⁻.
him out come, old Miao promise to that is why.

M426

How the eagle carried the man out of Dragon-land.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 23, page 14).