Hua-Miao Archive
Songs and Stories

Narratives

Good rewarded, Narratives with a Chinese Setting and Narratives which were or are Songs

Animals which became people, and people who turned into animals

Songs M431 to M463

Introduction, Translation, Transcription and Notes

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The Hua-Miao Archive
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M431

The witch and the Miao lad.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

This is a fairy tale. The “witch” in the story is called “a-bo bi-dlang” which means “spirit woman”. She must be distinguished from the shaman-healers, once common in Miao society. These people might be male or female and were known as “a-yeu nw” and “a-bo nw” respectively. In missionary writing they were sometimes referred to as “witch-doctors”, “wizards” or “witches”. Again she is not the same as the “a-bo kha” who figure in some songs and stories and fed on human flesh. This “witch” appears to have been a kindly old lady, who can hardly be blamed for retaliating when she was being robbed.

In the translation the object which the witch used to perform her magic, is called a “bowl”, but the Miao text is not so specific. The expression used is “dlang-nw” which simply means “thing”. The only description is the classifier used, which indicates that it was a small one of its kind. When pressed for more detail Mr.Yang said he did not know, but thought that it was some small bowl or basket into which the rice and the meat materialised.

M431

The Witch and the Miao lad.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong

They tell a story that, once upon a time, a Miao lad went digging and planted millet. When the millet was ripe many birds came eating it, so every day he had to go and drive them off. One day when he was on guard, the witch's chicken came eating his millet. He chased after them until he reached the witch's house. He said, "Old lady, you must look after your chicken carefully, for every day they come eating my millet!" The witch replied, "My boy, come in and sit down and I will find you something to eat". The Miao lad went in and sat down, and the witch went and took out a bowl and said,

"Deu, deu, deu, come forth rice!
Deu, deu, deu, come forth meat!"

At once rice and meat appeared and the witch prepared food and served it for the Miao lad to eat. At night when the witch was asleep the Miao lad went and took the witch's bowl. Having got the witch's bowl, now, what ever he wanted he could get, and whatever he wished to eat he could have.

This Miao lad with the witch's bowl had a friend who one day was going to collect firewood. He called for him and said, "Friend, come and let the two of us collect firewood together". He replied, "Come in and sit down for a smoke, then we will go". His friend said, "You there, so poor, what tobacco have you got?" He said, "I may not have any, but come in and be sociable!" His friend came in and sat down. Then he went and took that bowl he had got and said,

"Deu, deu, deu, come forth rice!
Deu, deu, deu, come forth meat!"

He took the rice and meat, prepared and served food for his friend to eat. His friend said, "How did you get it?" He replied, "I planted some millet and when it was ripe the birds came eating it, so I went to guard it. One day the witch's chicken came to eat. I chased them off and went and told the witch to look after her chicken properly. The witch pressed me to go in, and then took out her bowl, prepared food, and served it for me to eat. I waited until she was asleep and then I took the bowl away.

Hearing this his friend went to copy him. He, too, planted millet and guarded it against the birds. One day the witch's chicken came eating it. He chased them off and reached the witch's house. The witch made food for him to eat. When night came and the witch had gone to bed, he waited until midnight, and was then going to take the witch's bowl. But the witch was not asleep, so when he went to take it, she got up and caught him. She took the bowl and said,

"Deu, deu, deu, nose grow long!"

The Miao lad's nose grew until it was trailing on the ground! He returned home, and he had to speak to his friend and get him to bring his bowl to cure his nose and put it right.

M431

ᒧ° ᒧⁿ Δ³ ᑕᒣ。 Tᵘ ʼↃ".
woman spirit with lad Miao.

ᑕᑐ ᒣₙ ᒧⁿ Tᵢᵢ ᒍᵤ Yˉ T'" Lⁿ Ↄ- Yⁿ
they say story that of old there was one

L⁵ Tᵘ ʼↃ" Ↄᵢᵢ ᑕᒥₙₛ Tⁿ ᒥₙₒ ǔ'.
classifier lad Miao went dig land plant millet.

T'" ᒍᵤ ǔ' J̿ T₃ Ŷ, Ↄˉ ᑕ"
when millet ripe finish there, there were birds

ᒍᵤ ᒥⁿ" Ↄᵢᵢ ᑕ". Yˉ Lⁿ ᑕᑐ ǂ'ˉ ʼᑕᵘ
which many went eat. make like he every day

Ↄᵢᵢ Lˤ ᑕ". Ↄ- Yⁿ ʼᑕᵘ ᑕᑐ Ↄᵢᵢ
went drive birds. there was one day he went

3̊ ᒧ° ᒧⁿ Δ³ T̄ Ɪ' T- ᑕᵢᵢ ᑕᑐ
guard woman spirit the chicken came eat his

ǔ' T₃. ᑕᑐ Lˤ ǂ° Ↄᵢᵢ ǂ₀
millet finish. he chased follow went reached

Lᵇ Yˉ ᒧ° ᒧⁿ Δ³ ᑕᒍ-. ᑕᑐ ᒣₙ, Yˉ ᒧ° Lᵢᵢ ᒥᑐ
the woman spirit house. he said, woman old you

Λ̄ J" ᒥᑐ Tˉ Ɪ' Tˉ ᑕᒣᵣ ǂ'ˉ
must look after your the chicken carefully. every

ʼᑕᵘ Tᵘ T- ᑕ" ǔ ǔ'. ᒧ° ᒧⁿ Δ³ ᒣₙ,
day all come eat my millet. woman spirit said,

ǂˉ ᒥ̆ T- ᑕⁿ°, ǔ ᑕᒣ̿' Ɪ̆ Ɪ'" ᒥᑐ
younger brother come sit, I seek food for you

ᑕ" Ŝ. Tᵘ ʼↃ" ᒧᵤ Ↄᵢᵢ ᑕⁿ°. L° ᒧⁿ Δ³
eat still. lad Miao entered went sat. woman spirit

Ↄᵢᵢ ᒥ'ₙₛ Yⁿ L- Δ³ ᑕ⁵ L₀ ᒣₙ,
went took one little utensil come said,

Tˤ, Tˤ, Tˤ, Tₛ ᑕΔⁿ L₀.
deu, deu, deu, out rice come.

Tˁ, Tˁ, Tˁ, Tꞔ ᑕᒍˈ Lₒ.
deu, deu, deu, out meat come.

Yˉ Lⁿ ᑕΔⁿ ᑕᒪₒ ᑕᒍˈ Tᵕ Tꞔ Lₒ Tᵹ.
make like rice with meat all out came finish.

ᒧ° ᒧⁿ Δᵹ Yˉ ᒍ̉ Гᵤ Tᵕ ʼᑐ" ᑕ". ʼᑐ° ᑕTᵕ
woman spirit made food divide lad Miao eat. night

ᒧ° ᒧⁿ Δᵹ ᒧᵓ Lꞔ Tᵹ, Tᵕ ʼᑐ" ᑐ"
woman spirit sleep gone finish, lad Miao went

ᒪʼₙꞔ ᒧ° ᒧⁿ Δᵹ L- Δᵹ ᑕᑉ Lₒ Lꞔ. ᑕᵓ
took woman spirit little utensil come gone. he

T" ᒧ° ᒧⁿ Δᵹ L- Δᵹ ᑕᑉ Lₒ, Yˉ Lⁿ
get woman spirit little utensil come, make like

ᑕᵓ Λ̄ Yˉ Jʳ ᑕᵓ Tᵕ T", ᑕᵓ Λ̄ ᑕ"
he want anything he all get, he want eat

Yˉ Jʳ Tᵕ ᑐ- Tᵹ.
anything all had finish.

ᑐ- Yⁿ ʼᑕᵕ Tᵕ ʼᑐ" ᒍᵤ ᑐ" T" ᒧ°
there was one day lad Miao who went get woman

ᒧⁿ Δᵹ L- Δᵹ ᑕᑉ Ŷ, ᑐ- Yⁿ Lᑉ
spirit little utensil that, had one classifier

Lˉ ᑐ" J" Tˁ. ᑕᵓ T- lʼᵕ ᑕᵓ
friend went collect firewood. he came call him

ᒣₙ, ϯˉ Lˉ, T- Yˉ Lᑉ ᑐ" J"
said, friend, come two classifier go collect

Tˁ Λˉ. ᑕᵓ ᒣₙ, T- ᑕⁿ° ᒣ" Λⁿ
firewood exclamation. he said come sit smoke

Tˉ Lₙ꜀ ᑐ". ᑕᵓ Lˉ ᒣₙ, ᒪᵓ ϯ̄ J"
presently go. his friend said, you person poor

Vᵤ, ᑐ- Tᵇ Λⁿ ᒍ̄ Jʳ. ᑕᵓ ᒣₙ ᒣⁿ ᑐ-
there, have the tobacco what. he said, not have

L₋ T- ᑕⁿ° Yˉ Yⁿ ϯ" ᑐˉ, ᑕᵓ
but come sit make one company exclamation. his

L¯ T- Cⁿᵒ. Cↄ Ɔ॥ [’∩ʕ Cↄ L-
friend came sat. he went took his little

Δᶾ Cᒃ]ᵤ Cↄ T" Lₒ Y̑ ⅂ₙ,
utensil which he got come that said,

Tˁ ,Tˁ, Tˁ, Tʕ CΔⁿ L̃ₒ
deu, deu, deu, out rice come.

Tˁ, Tˁ, Tˁ, Tʕ CJˈ Lₒ
deu, deu, deu, out meat come.

Cↄ [’∩ʕ CΔⁿ CJˈ Lₒ Y¯ Γᵤ Cↄ L¯
he took rice meat come make divide his friend

C". Cↄ L¯ ⅂ₙ, [ↄ Y¯ Lⁿ [ⁿᶾ T" Lₒ. Cↄ
eat. his friend said, you do how get come. he

⅂ₙ,]̆ Ɔ॥ [ⁿᵒ †̆’ [ₙ, T’"]ᵤ J̿
said, I went sowed millet thus, when that ripe

Y̑, C" T- C" C̄,]̆ Ɔ॥ Ʒ̊.
then, birds came eat therefore, I went guard.

Ɔ- Yⁿ ’Cᵘ ⅃ᵒ ⅃ⁿ Δᶾ T¯ J' T-
there was one day woman spirit the chicken came

C".]̆ Lˁ Ɔ॥,]̆ Ɔ॥ ⅂ₙ]ᵤ Y¯ ⅃ᵒ
eat. I chased went, I went said that woman

⅃ⁿ Δᶾ J" Cↄ T¯ J' T- Ʒ".
spirit look after her the chicken come well.

⅃ᵒ ⅃ⁿ Δᶾ I’ˀ]̆ Ɔ॥, Cↄ [’∩ʕ Cↄ L-
woman spirit took me go, she took her little

Δᶾ Cᒃ Lₒ Y¯ Jᒃ Γᵤ]̆ C".]̆ T°
utensil come made food divide me eat. I waited

]ᵤ Cↄ ⅃ᵓ Lʕ,]̆ [’∩ʕ Lₒ Tᶾ.
that she sleep gone, I took come finish.

Cↄ L¯ ’C̊, Cↄ L¯ Λ॥ Ɔ॥ Y¯. Cↄ
his friend heard, his friend copy go do. his

Lˉ Ɪᵕ ⊏ₙₒ †̆’, Ʒ̊ C", Ↄ-
friend then plant millet, guard birds, there was

Yⁿ ’Cᵘ ᒧ° ᒧⁿ Δᶾ Tˉ Ɪ' T- C". Cᴐ
one day woman spirit the chicken came eat. he

L̔ Ↄ", Ↄ" †ₒ Lᵕ Yˉ ᒧ° ᒧⁿ Δᶾ C]-
chased went, went reach the woman spirit house.

Lᵕ Yˉ ᒧ° ᒧⁿ Δᶾ Yˉ Ɪ̉ Ɪ’" Cᴐ C". ’Ↄ° CTᵘ
the woman spirit made food for him eat. night

Tᶾ, ᒧ° ᒧⁿ Δᶾ Ↄ" ᒧᵓ Lˤ. Cᴐ T° †ₒ
finish, woman spirit go sleep gone. he wait reach

Yˉ Tᶾ Tᶾ ’Ↄ°, Cᴐ Λ̄ Ↄ" ⊏’ₙˤ ᒧ° ᒧⁿ Δᶾ
time half night, he wanted go take woman spirit

L- Δᶾ C⁵ Lˤ. Y̑ Vⁿᶜ Lᵕ ᒧ° ᒧⁿ Δᶾ ᒣⁿ
little utensil gone. but the woman spirit not

T" ᒧᵓ, T°]ᵤ Cᴐ Ↄ" ⊏’ₙˤ, J̔ Lₒ
get sleep, wait that he went take, rose come

Ↄˉ Cᴐ. ⊏’ₙˤ Cᴐ L- Δᶾ C⁵ Lₒ ᒣₙ,
caught him. took her little utensil come said,

Tˤ, Tˤ, Tˤ, Yˉ Cᒧᵓ CT̑.
deu, deu, deu, nose long.

Yˉ Lⁿ Tᵘ ’Ↄ" Yˉ Cᒧᵓ CT̑]ᵤ ᒣⁿ L_ ᒧⁿ Tⁿ.
make like lad Miao nose long that drag ground.

Cᴐ Sʳ Lₒ Δˉ C]-, CꞮₒ Cᴐ Lˉ
he return come go to house, with his friend

ᒣₙ,]ₒ Cᴐ Lˉ Ɪᵕ Ↄˉ Cᴐ L-
said, cause his friend then take his little

Δᶾ C⁵ Lₒ CꞮₒ Cᴐ Λ̄]’ₒ Cᴐ Yˉ Cᒧᵓ Ʒ"
utensil come with him want cure his nose well

Lₒ.
come.

M431

The witch and the Miao lad.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

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

M432

The orphan who gathered firewood.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

Coming home each day with nearly a hundred weight of firewood on his back, the orphan regularly stopped to rest the load on a great rock which was just a convenient height to take the weight without him having to remove the load from his back. This explains the rock's complaint about being constantly "pressed upon".

Dragon month is the last month of the lunar year.

M432
The orphan who gathered firefood.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong

They tell a story that, once upon a time, there was a Miao lad whose mother and father had both died. Every day he gathered firewood to go and sell. From the first day of the first month until Dragon month, every day he went gathering firewood. Every day, carrying the firewood on his back, he rested on the same great rock. Two days before New Year the rock said, “Orphan lad, you carry firewood every day and press on me. Now people are about to celebrate New Year, I will open my mouth and you can stretch in your hand and scoop up silver, to go and buy food to eat, so that you will not need to go gathering firewood”. The orphan stretched his hand and scooped up silver from inside the rock. This he took home and went and bought all kinds of things and all kinds of food.

His friend in the village who was quite well off, called for him one day and said, “Come, let us two go and gather firewood”. He replied, “Come in and sit down for a smoke, then we will go”. His friend said, “You, so poor, what tobacco have you got?” The orphan said, “Though I may not have any, come in and wait for me, we two will go in company”. The rich lad went in and sat down, and the orphan went and found food for him to eat. The rich lad said, “Orphan, how is that you are rich?” The Orphan lad said, “I went to gather fire wood, and every day I carried it back and rested it on a great rock. One day the rock said, ‘Orphan lad, you carry firewood every day and press upon me. Now stretch out your hand and take some silver from my inside and go and buy food to eat. Do not come pressing upon me any more’. This is how I have food to eat”.

The rich lad listened, and went off to do the same. One day the rich lad carried firewood and rested on the rock. The rock said, “You come every day pressing upon me. I will open my mouth and you can stretch out your hand and scoop up some silver”. He had made up his mind that he would scoop up a great deal, and so it was that he could not pull his hand out, and the rock closed its mouth and caught his hand. His wife brought him food every day, but after a long time the lad’s wife became very ragged. One day when she brought the food, her breast was showing. The rock, seeing it, laughed, and so the rich lad got free, but because of his greed, in the end he got not a single piece of silver.

M432

Tᵁ Tᐢ Cϯ¯ ⅃ᵤ J" Tˤ.
the orphan who gathered firewood.

Cᑐ ꓶₙ ⅃ᐢ Tᵢᵢ ⅃ᵤ Y¯ T'" Lᐢ, Ↄ- Yᐢ
they say story that of old, there was one

Lᕽ Tᵁ 'Ↄ", Cᑐ Cᐢᑕ Vᵤ Tᵁ T₋
classifier lad Miao, his mother father all dead

Tᴕ Tᴕ. Cᑐ ϯ'⁻ 'Cᵁ J" Tˤ Ↄᵢᵢ
done finish. he every day gather firewood go

Tᵤ. Ɪ'" Lᵁ Yᐢ Ⳙᐢ Sᐢᑕ Yᐢ ϯₒ Lᵁ
sell. from the first month day one reach the

Ʒᴕ Ⳙᐢ Tᵁ ϯ'⁻ 'Cᵁ Ↄᵢᵢ J" Tˤ.
Dragon month all every day went gather firewood.

ϯ'⁻ 'Cᵁ Cᑐ Ɪᵤ Ɪᵣ Tˤ Lₒ Jₒ Ɪ"
every day he then carry firewood come rest on

Yᐢ Lᵁ Y¯ Cᐢᑕ Vˀ T¯. ϯₒ Y¯ 'Cᵁ
one classifier great rock only. reach two days

⅃ᵤ Λ̄ Y¯ Ⲉ⁼ Tᴕ Lᵁ Y¯ Vˀ ꓶₙ,
that will make new year finish the rock said,

CⲒᵢᵢ Cϯ¯ Ⲉᑐ ϯ'⁻ 'Cᵁ Ɪᵣ Tˤ Lₒ
youth orphan you every day carry firewood come

ϯᵤ ⅃̆. Tᕽ Cᕽ Λ̄ Y¯ Ⲉ⁼ Tᴕ,
press on me. people will make new year finish,

⅃̆ Ɪ¯ Y¯ L°, Ⲉᑐ Jᐢᴕ Tᐢ Ↄᵢᵢ Vᵤ Cᐢᑕ,
I open lips, you stretch hand go scoop silver,

Ↄᵢᵢ Ↄ₋ C", ꓶᵁ, Ⲉᑐ ꓶᐢ Ↄᵤ Ↄᵢᵢ J"
go buy eat, exclamation, you not need go gather

Tˤ Tᴕ, CⲒᵢᵢ Cϯ¯ Jᐢᴕ Tᐢ Ↄᵢᵢ
firewood finish. youth orphan stretched hand went

Vᵤ Cᐢᑕ Δ¯ CΔ° Y¯ Vˀ Lₒ. Ⲉᐢ° Ↄᵢᵢ
scoop silver go to inside rock come. took went

ᐃ¯ ᑕᒧ-, ᑐᐦ ᑐ₋ †’¯ Ʒᵟ ᐃᵟ ᑕᒡ †’¯
go to house, went bought every kind thing every

Ʒᵟ Ɪᒡ ᑕᐦ.
kind food eat.

ᑕᑐ ᐱᑦ ᒪ₋ ᐯᒡ Ʒ°, ᑕᑐ ᒧᵕ ᑐ- ᐯ¯ ᑕᐦ,
his friend in village, he was had food eat,

ᑐ- Yⁿ ’ᑕᵕ I’ᵕ ᑕᑐ ᒣₙ, T- Y¯
there was one day call him said, come two

ᒪᒡ ᑐᐦ ᒍᐦ Tˁ ᐱ¯. ᑕᑐ
classifier go gather firewood exclamation. He

Tⁿ ᒣₙ, T- ᑕⁿ° ᒣᐦ ᐱⁿ T¯ ᒪₙ꜀ ᑐᐦ. ᑕᑐ
replied said, come sit smoke presently go. his

ᒪ¯ ᒣₙ Ɛᑐ †¯ ᒍᐦ ᐯᵕ, ᑐ- Tᑦ
friend said, you person poor there, have the

ᐱⁿ Ɪ̄ ᒍᒥ. Tⁿ ᑕ†₋ ᒣₙ, ᒣⁿ ᑐ- ᒪ₋ T-
tobacco what. orphan said, not have but come

ᑕⁿ° T° ᒧ̆, Y¯ ᒪᒡ Y¯ †ᐦ ᑐᐦ.
sit wait for me, two classifier make company go.

Tᵕ ᑐ- ᒧᵕ ᑐᐦ ᑕⁿ°. Tⁿ ᑕ†¯ ᑐᐦ ᑕⵊ’
the rich entered went sat. orphan went seek

Ɪᒡ ᒪ° Ɪ’ᐦ ᑕᑐ ᑕᐦ. Tᵕ ᑐ- ᒣₙ, ᑕⵊᐦ
food come for him eat. the rich said, youth

ᑕ†¯ Ɛᑐ Y¯ ᒪⁿ Ɛᵟ ᑕ̄ Ɛᑐ ᑐ- ᒪᵕ.
orphan you make how therefore you have query.

ᑕⵊᐦ ᑕ†¯ ᒣₙ, ᒧ̆ ᑐᐦ ᒍᐦ Tˁ, †’¯
youth orphan said, I went gather firewood, every

’ᑕᵕ ᒧ̆ ⵊᵕ ⵊᒥ ᒪ° ᒍ° ᐯᵕ ᒪᵕ Y¯ ᒪᵟ Y¯ ᐯˀ.
day I then carry come rest on the great rock.

ᑐ- Yⁿ ’ᑕᵕ ᒪᵕ Y¯ ᐯˀ ᒣₙ, ᑕⵊᐦ ᑕ†¯
there was one day the rock said, youth orphan

Ɛᑐ †’¯ ’ᑕᵕ Tᵕ ⵊᒥ Tˁ ᒪ° †ᵕ
you every day all carry firewood come press on

ᒧ̆, ᑕ̄ ᑕ̂ ⊏ᵓ Jᶯ Tᶯ ⊏'ᶯ ᑕᶯᶜ ᐃ¯ ᒧ̆
me, now you stretch hand take silver go to my

ᑕᐃ°, ᑐ" ᑐ₋ ᑕ". ⊏ᵓ Ɪ'⁻ T⁻ ᵻᵕ
inside, go buy eat. you must not come press on

ᒧ̆ Tᶯ ᒣᵕ. Y⁻ Lᶯ ᑕ̂ ᑕ̄
me at all exclamation. make like this therefore

ᒧ̆ T" ᑕᶯᶜ ᑐ₋ ᑕ".
I get silver buy eat.

Tᵕ ᑐ⁻ ᑕ" Tᵹ, Tᵕ ᑐ⁻ ᑐ" ᐱ".
the rich listen finish, the rich went copy.

ᑐ⁻ Yᶯ 'ᑕᵕ Tᵕ ᑐ⁻ Ɪᵣ Tˤ Lₒ
there was one day the rich carry firewood came

Jₒ Lᵕ Y⁻ Vˀ. Lᵕ Y⁻ Vˀ ᒣₙ, ⊏ᵓ ᵻ'⁻ 'ᑕᵕ
rested the rock. the rock said, you every day

Lₒ ᵻᵕ ᒧ̆. ᒧ̆ Ɪ⁻ Y⁻ L°, ⊏ᵓ Jᶯ Tᶯ
come press on me. I open lips, you stretch hand

ᑐ" Vᵕ ᑕᶯᶜ. ᑕᵓ ᑕTᵓ ᒧᵤ ᐱ̄ Vᵕ ᒧᵤ
go scoop silver. he thought that want scoop is

Y̆ ⊏ᶯᵒ, Y⁻ Lᶯ ᑕᵓ ᵻ'ᵢ Tᶯ T'ˤ
very much, make like his classifier hand pull

Lₒ ᒣᶯ T". Y⁻ Vˀ Ɪₒ Y⁻ L° T' ᑕᵓ Tᶯ
come not get. rock closed lips caught his hand

⊏ᶯᶜ. ᑕᵓ ᑕᶯ ᵻ'⁻ 'ᑕᵕ T⁻ Sᵹ ᑕᵓ
completed. his wife every day come give him

Ɪ̊. 'ᑕᵕ ᑕₙ" Lₙ Tᵹ, Tᵕ ᑐ⁻ ᑕᶯ ᑕᐃ₋
food. time long finish, the rich wife ragged

T⁻ Tₙᶜ Tᵹ. Yᶯ 'ᑕᵕ Tᵕ ᑐ⁻ ᑕᶯ Sᵹ Ɪ̊
very finish. one day the rich wife give food

Lₒ ᑕᵓ ᵻ'ᵢ ᑐᶯ Tˤ Lₒ. Y⁻ Vˀ ᒧₒ,
come her classifier breast out came. rock saw,

Y⁻ Vˀ T" ᐃₒ. Tᵕ ᑐ⁻ T⁻ Lᶯᶜ T" ᐃₙ
rock get laugh. the rich presently get escape

Lʕ. Tᵕ Ɔ- Sⁿᶜ Γˀ, Ŷ Vⁿᶜ Tᵕ Ɔ-
gone. the rich heart greedy, but the rich

Y⁻ Ɪᵓ L∘ Yⁿ Δⁿ Tᵕ ꓶⁿ Tˮ.
afterwards come one piece all not get.

M432

The orphan who gathered firewood.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 19, page 11).

M433

The Miao lad who went to carry an idol from Sichuan.

Told byYang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

It is not made clear in this story why a Miao lad should want to carry off a Chinese idol. The Miao did not make or worship idols, and would not normally have anything to do with them. Presumably, the intention was to steal a small idol from a local shrine and sell it in some distant place where it was unlikely to be recognised. However, it would be unusual to find any Miao who had the temerity to undertake such an exploit, and equally surprising to find someone who was prepared actually to sleep in a temple full of idols. Be this as it may the story is full of improbable happenings, and since many smaller shrines were completely unattended, it would be easy enough to carry off a small idol if one dared.

The eligible daughter of a wealthy family would normally be betrothed to the son of another wealthy family, which would pay well for an attractive bride. Such payment the Miao lad was in no position to make, which explains, but in no way condones, the wealthy man's churlish behaviour.

M433

The Miao lad who went to carry an idol from Sichuan.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong

They tell a story that, once upon a time, there was a Miao lad who was going to carry an idol from Sichuan. When he arrived he went to sleep in the temple. He slept until midnight when a small idol brought a copper coin to him. The idol said, “Don’t go carrying me away. You take this coin and go and cure people’s diseases”. The next day the lad got up, and having the coin, he came away.

As he was coming he saw an ant, dead in the road. He took his coin, waved it over the ant and said, “I call on you to get up”, and the ant got up. He went on and saw a snake which someone had killed. He took his coin and waved it and the snake got up. He came on and saw a man whom the Chinese had killed beside the road. He took the coin and waved it and the man got up. So the Miao lad arrived home.

On one occasion, where the Miao lad lived, there was a wealthy family with a fine daughter who had been taken ill and died. Someone went and told the wealthy man, who came and said, “Miao lad, if you will arrange to bring my daughter who has died, back to life, I will give her to you to be your wife”. The Miao lad went with him, took his coin and waved it, and the girl got up and walked. But the wealthy family, not only did not give the girl to him, but took him, and beat him until he was very nearly dead, and went and buried him.

After this the ant which was dead and had been called back to life, brought his friends and scooped out a hole to carry rice for him to eat. The snake, which he had cured and revived, went and bit the daughter of the rich family, and she became ill to the point of death. So the wealthy man went and got people to dig out the Miao lad whom he had beaten nearly to death and had buried, wanting him to come and cure her again. He said, “If you will come and cure her this time, I will give her to you, and the house and the place shall all be reckoned yours”. So the Miao lad went and cured her, and this time the wealthy man had no heart to beat him. Because he acted as he did, everything came to the Miao lad.

M433

Tᵕ ’Ɔ" Ɔ‖ Ɪᒥ ┘ˁ Δ¯ V" Tⁿ.
lad Miao went carry idol go to Sichuan.

Cᵓ ٦ₙ ┘ⁿ T‖ ⊐ᵤ Y¯ T’" Lⁿ, Ɔ- Yⁿ
they say story that of old, there was one

Lˀ Tᵕ ’Ɔ" Λ̄ Ɔ‖ Ɪᒥ ┘ˁ Δ¯
classifier lad Miao wanted go carry idol go to

V" Tⁿ. T’" ⊐ᵤ Cᵓ †ₒ Tᴣ, Cᵓ Ɔ‖
Sichuan. when that he reach finish, he went

┘ᵓ Δ¯ Lᒐ C⊐- ┘ˁ. Cᵓ ┘ˁ †ₒ Tᴣ
sleep go to the house idol. he slept reach half

’Ɔ°. Ɔ- Yⁿ T- ┘ˁ [ⁿᵒ Yⁿ
night. there was one small idol brought one

Δ¯ Tᵕ ┌†’ T" T- Ɪ’" Cᵓ. Tᒐ ┘ˁ
classifier money copper come for him. the idol

Ɪᒐ ٦ₙ, [ᵓ Ɪ’¯ Ɪᒥ ⊐̆ Ɔ‖ Tⁿ, [ᵓ
then said, you do not carry me go at all, you

[’ₙˁ Δ¯ Tᵕ ┌†’ Ĉ Ɔ‖, ⊐’° Tˀ Cˀ Ɔ° C†ᴣ
take the money this go, cure people illness

٦ᒐ. ’Cᵕ Y¯ Ɪˀ Tᵕ ’Ɔ" J̊ Lₒ, Tᵕ
exclamation. day after lad Miao rose came, lad

’Ɔ" T" Δ¯ Tᵕ ┌†’, Tᵕ ’Ɔ" Lₒ Lˁ Tᴣ.
Miao got piece money, lad Miao came gone finish.

Cᵓ Lₒ ┘ₒ Yⁿ T¯ ⊐ₙ C†‖ T₋ Ɪ" †°
he came saw one classifier ant dead on the

[̂ [ₙₒ. Cᵓ Ɪ’" Cᵓ Δ¯ Tᵕ ┌†’ Lₒ
road so it was. he with his piece money came

Λₒ Λₒ Tᒐ ⊐ₙ C†‖, Ɪᒐ ٦ₙ, ⊐̆ I’ᵕ [ᵓ J̊
wave over the ant, then said, I call you rise

Lₒ. Tᒐ ⊐ₙ C†‖ J̊ Lₒ Tᴣ. Cᵓ Ɪᒐ Ɔ‖
come. the ant rose came finish. he then went

Δ¯ T’₋. Ɔ₁₁ ˩ₒ Yⁿ Tᵤ ˩ⁿ Cᵟ
go to forward. went saw one classifier snake

ℶᵤ Tᵓ Cᵓ CT₁₁ Sᵟ. Cᴐ Ɔ¯ Cᴐ Δ¯
which people killed away. he took his piece

Tᵘ ꜟ+’ Ɔ₁₁ Λₒ Λₒ. Tᵕ ˩ⁿ Cᵟ Ɪᵤ ʕJ Lₒ
money went wave over. the snake then rose came

Tᵟ. Cᴐ Lₒ, Ɪᵤ Lₒ ˩ₒ Yⁿ Lᵓ
finish. he came, then come see one classifier

Tᵓ Cᵓ ℶᵤ Y¯ V" L₋ CT₁₁ T₋ Ɪ" +° Y¯CTᵘ
person who Chinese had killed dead at the side

ⁿĽ. Cᴐ Ɪ’" Δ¯ Tᵘ ꜟ+’ ⁿC Ɔ₁₁ Λₒ Λₒ. +ᒥ
road. he with piece money this went wave. the

Tᵓ Cᵓ ⁿC Ɪᵤ ʕJ Lₒ Tᵟ. Tᵘ ’Ɔ"
person this then rose come finish. lad Miao

Ɪᵤ Lₒ Δ¯ Cᴐ Cℶ- Lʕ.
then came go to his house gone.

Ɔ- Yⁿ ℶ", Tⁿ Ľ’ⁿʕ ℶᵤ Tᵘ ’Ɔ"
there was one occasion, land place which lad Miao

Cⁿ°, Ɔ- Yⁿ Λₙ Tᵘ Ɔ-, Ɔ- Yⁿ
lived, there was one family wealthy, had one

Lᵓ C+’ₗ ℶᵤ Ʒ" T¯ Tₙ꜀ Ɔ° T₋ Lʕ
classifier daughter who good very ill died gone

Tᵟ. Ɔ- Tᵓ Cᵓ Ɔ₁₁ ˥ₙ Ɪ’ᵓ Tᵘ Ɔ-
finish. there were people went told the wealthy

ⁿC. Tᵘ Ɔ- T- ˥ₙ, Tᵘ ’Ɔ" Ľᴐ Ɔ₁₁
this. the wealthy came said, lad Miao you go

Ľⁿᵟ ℶᵤ ᵘℶ L¯ C+’ₗ ℶᵤ T₋ ⁿY
raise up that my the daughter who dead that one

ʕJ Lₒ, ᵘℶ Ɔ¯ Ɪ’" Ľᴐ I’ₚ Ɔ₁₁ Y¯ Ľᴐ
rise come, I give for you take go make your

Cⁿᵟ. Tᵘ ’Ɔ" CⱵₒ Ɔ₁₁, Ɔ₁₁ Ɔ¯ Cᴐ Δ¯
wife. lad Miao with went, went took his piece

Tᵘ ƚ’ Ɔ꞉ Λₒ Λₒ. Lˀ CꞮ" ’Ɔ" Ĉ ʖ̑ Lˁ
money went waved. the girl Miao this rose gone

Tᶚ. Λₙ Ɔ- Ĉ ˥ⁿ Λ° ꓶᵤ
finish. family wealthy that one not true that

˥ⁿ Ɔ⁻ Cƚ’ᵢ Ɪ’" Cᵓ T⁻, Ɪᵤ Ɔ⁻ Cᵓ
not give daughter for him only, then took him

CT꞉ ꓶᵤ L̄ T₋ L̄ T₋ Sᶚ. Ꞇⁿᵒ
beat that about to die about to die away. brought

Cᵓ Ɔ꞉ Tᵓ Sᶚ. Y⁻ Ɪˀ Lₒ T⁻ ꓶⁿ Cƚ꞉ ꓶᵤ
him went bury away. after come the ant which

T₋ Lˁ Cᵓ Ꞇⁿᶚ ʖ̑ Lₒ Ŷ, I’ˀ
dead gone he raised rise come that one, brought

Cᵓ L⁻ T-, ˩’ⁿ Lⁿ I̊’ CꞆᵢ CΔⁿ Ɔ꞉
his friends come, scoop out hole moved rice went

Ɪ’" Tᵘ ’Ɔ" C". Tᵘ ˩ⁿ Cᶚ ꓶᵤ Cᵓ ꓶ’° ʖ̑
for lad Miao eat. the snake which he cured rise

Lₒ Ŷ, Ɪᵤ Ɔ꞉ CꞆₙˁ Λₙ Tᵘ Ɔ-
come that one, then went bit family wealthy

Ŷ Cƚ’ᵢ. C̄ Ĉ Λ̄ Ɔ° ꓶᵤ
that one daughter. now will sicken that

L̄ T₋ L̄ T₋ Tᶚ. Tᵘ Ɔ- Ĉ
about to die about to die finish. the wealthy this

Ɪᵤ CⲒ̿’ Tˀ Cˀ T-, ˩’ⁿ Lⁿ Tᵘ ’Ɔ" ꓶᵤ
then sought people come, scoop out lad Miao whom

Cᵓ CT꞉ L̄ T₋ L̄ T₋, Ꞇⁿᵒ Ɔ꞉ Tᵓ
he beat about to die about to die, took went bury

Sᶚ Ĉ Lₒ. Λ̄ ꓶₒ Cᵓ Ɪᵤ Ɔ꞉ ꓶ’°,
away this come. want cause him again go cure,

Ɪᵤ ˥ₙ, ꓶ" Ĉ Ꞇᵓ Ɔ꞉ ꓶ’° Ʒ" Ꞇₙ
then said, occasion this you go cure well thus

Ɔ⁻ Ɪ’" Ꞇᵓ Tᶚ, CꓶˉꞆ’ⁿˁ ƚ’⁻ Ʒᶚ Ĭ’˩ˀ
give for you finish, house place every kind all

Sₒ [ᵓ ⅃ⁿᶜ. Tᵘ ’Ɔ" Ɪᒑ Ɔ‖]’° Ʒ"
reckon yours. lad Miao then went cure well

[ⁿᵒ. C̄ Ĉ Tᵘ Ɔ- Ɪᒑ ˥ⁿ J̉ Y¯ Sⁿᶜ
so he did. now the wealthy again not raise heart

]ᵤ CT‖ Cᵓ, Ŷ Vⁿᶜ ┼’¯ Ʒᵹ Tᵘ T- Vᒑ Cᵓ
which beat him, but every kind all came to him

C˒]ᵤ Tᵤ CTⁿ Y¯ [ⁿᵒ Lⁿ Λ¯.
because that before did in this way so it is.

M433

The Miao lad who went to carry an idol from Sichuan.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 33, page 21).

M441

The king who sought a son-in-law and found a beggar.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

This story is about Chinese, in a Chinese setting, with very few references to the Miao. It is clearly related to the traditional Chinese "opera", translated into English under the title "Lady Precious Stream". That some stories, which have a Chinese origin, should be found in Miao is to be expected, but when and how they were introduced is impossible to determine. The subject may be Chinese, but the telling of the story is thoroughly Miao.

The beggar did not try to catch the silver piece with his hands as one might catch a ball, but allowed it to drop into the lap of his gown which he held out in front of him. When it had been caught, presumably, the king turned the silver back into his daughter, though the story does not say so.

The mandarin's question, "How much do you want to eat each time?" means, what wages do you require for each period?" The Miao word used simply means "time" or "occasion" and does not make it clear on what terms the workmen were hired. Most probably it was on a daily basis, in which case the question means, "What wages do you want per day?" The wages were fixed in measures of grain, presumably rice, and not in money. The beggar's request for three "dyu" was extremely high for one individual, but very reasonable from the mandarin's point of view, since he could dismiss the rest of the work force, and the job would be completed in two days. The measures for grain were not standardised, and varied widely from locality to locality. The word "dyu" is used in the Miao New Testament as equivalent to the English "bushel", which translation is also adopted in the present story.

M441

The king who sought a son-in-law and found a beggar.

Told By Yang Xiu-gong.

They tell a story that, once upon a time, there was a royal family which had seven sons but only one daughter. Thus her mother and father were especially fond of her. When she was grown up, her parents and uncles wanted to choose for her a very good husband. Having no better method, when the time for choosing came, they first said to the mandarins from all around, “We wish to choose a husband for this our daughter. You who are seeking a bride, wait until the day of choosing, then let everyone come”. Now that the king’s letter had been received, on the day that the king had specified, people from every place and every district arrived, together with many common folk who came to watch. The king took his daughter and changed her into a piece of silver which he threw into the sky for the suitors to catch. The king said, “Whichever one of you catches it, to him will I give my daughter”. From that day, and for three days, the king kept on throwing, but no one made a catch.

On the last day there was a beggar watching. He wanted to go and join those who were trying to catch the silver piece, but people would not let him go, because he had no high position, no good name, and was poorly clothed. Accordingly he went, and, taking a straw mat that people sleep on, wrapped it around his body, and jumped into someone’s cesspit, so that his body was plastered with excrement and stank terribly. This time when he went, folk got out of his way, and he ran over with the important people to catch the silver piece. As soon as he ran up, the silver piece fell into the skirt of his gown. But the king did not give her to him. The king said, “That time does not count, give it back to me and I will throw it once more. If you catch it again I will give her to you”. So once more the king threw it up into the sky for everyone to catch, but the silver piece dropped again from the sky into the skirt of the beggar’s gown. The king said, “This time she reckons as yours”. But the beggar, having no house, took the king’s daughter to live under a cliff. Every day he went to work for people in the city using the money which they paid him as wages, to buy food for his wife to eat.

On one occasion as he went, he saw that the mandarin was about to build a house, and there were many people busy carrying timber. He also noticed a lot of folk together carrying a single piece. He said, “Why does this timber need such a crowd to carry it?” The people who were carrying the timber said, “Why do you disparage people? You come and carry it and show us how it should be done!” The beggar went, and on each occasion carried two pieces at a time. When people saw it they were all astonished. They went and told the mandarin, who said to him, “Being so strong, how much do you want to eat each time?” The beggar said, “I want three bushels of grain a time”. The mandarin said, “This is not over much. From now on I want you only to carry the timber for my house”. So the beggar carried timber for the mandarin. He carried for only two days and there was no room left in the city to stack it.

The mandarin then said to him, “Now there is one district where there are a lot of robbers. I want you to go and fight them. When you have subdued that district, I will give you the position of a mandarin”. The beggar said, “That is fine, but I have still got my wife at home. I must go back to see her because there is no food to eat in our house”. The mandarin said to him, “Where is your house?” The beggar said, “I have no house to live in. I brought my wife to live under a cliff’. The mandarin said, “You need not worry. You go and fight the robbers, and we will send her food to eat”. Then the mandarin said, “How can one send a letter?" He said, "You may give it to the swallows to take". Since the beggar had been away a long time, his wife had nothing to eat, so that she wanted to go and die. As she was going out she saw a swallow carrying a letter. She took it and read it, and learned that her husband had gone to fight the robbers. She also received a letter saying that the mandarin was sending food for her to eat.   Not many days passed, and she received her husband's letter saying that he had subdued the robbers, that the mandarin had given him a district to govern, and that he was coming to escort her there.

M441

ℶⁿ Ɔᵓ Ṡ V", Ṡ T" Tᵘ J" Iᵇ.
king choose son-in-law, choose get beggar.

Cɔ ٦ₙ ⅃ⁿ Tᵢᵢ ℶᵤ Y¯ T'" Lⁿ Ɔ- Yⁿ Λₙ
they say story that of old there was one family

ℶⁿ Ɔᵓ Ɔ- J᷈ Lᵇ Tᵘ, Ɔ- Yⁿ
king have seven classifier sons, have one

Lᵇ Cϯ'ᵢ T¯. Y¯ Lⁿ Ĉ Cɔ
classifier daughter only. make like this her

Cⁿᶜ Vᵤ Iᵤ ꓩⁿ" CꓩꞋ Cɔ. Cɔ Ƅ°
mother father then much loved her. she big

Tᵹ, Cɔ Cⁿᶜ Vᵤ CIₒ Y¯ Cᵘ Ɔₙ Λ̄
finish, her mother father with uncle plural want

CIₒ Cɔ Ṡ Yⁿ Lᵇ V̈ ℶᵤ Ʒ"
with her choose one classifier husband who good

T¯ Tₙc. Ŷ Vⁿᶜ ٦ⁿ Ɔ- Ʒ" ℶ'" ℶ̈'. Y¯ Lⁿ T'"
very. but not have good method. make like when

ℶᵤ Λ̄ Ṡ Ŷ, Sᵘ CIₒ Y¯ ϯʳ ⅃ⁿ T"
that want choose then, first with surrounding

Vᵢᵢ ϯᵢᵢ ٦ₙ, ⅃ⁿ Lᵇ Cϯ'ᵢ Ĉ, ⅃ⁿ Λ̄
mandarins said, our the daughter this, we want

CIₒ Cɔ Ṡ V̈. Ɔₙ T̂ ℶᵤ Λ̄
with her choose husband. you those who want

C᷈, Ɔₙ T° ϯₒ 'Cᵘ ℶᵤ Λ̄ Ṡ
wife, you wait reach day which want choose

Ĉ, ϯ'¯ Lᵇ Tᵘ T-. C̄ Ĉ ℶⁿ Ɔᵓ Ɔ" L₋
this, each one all come. now king letter had

I" Lᶊ Tᵹ, ϯₒ 'Cᵘ ℶᵤ ℶⁿ Ɔᵓ Tⁿ
sent gone finish, reach day which king fixed

Tᵹ, ϯ'¯ I̊' ϯ'¯ ꓩ'ⁿᶊ Tᵘ T- ϯₒ
finish, every place every district all come reach

Tᶚ. ⅃’⁻ Λ" L̂ Vᵤ]ᵤ T- C₋ L₋ [ⁿ‴
finish. other folk who came look also many

T⁻ Tₙ꜀. ŧ⸢]ⁿ Ɔᵓ [’ₙₛ Cɔ Lᒃ Cŧ’ᵢ [’ₙₛ Lₒ
very. the king took his the daughter took come

Δ’ₙ Y⁻ Yⁿ Lᵘ Cⁿᶜ, L⁻ Ɪ" Ɪ" CTᵘ,
change make one lump silver, throw to sky,

]ₒ ŧ"]ᵤ T- Ṡ Ŷ ŧ'.]ⁿ Ɔᵓ
cause them who come choose those catch. king

⅂ₙ, Ɔₙ Ɪ̄ Tɔ ŧ' T",]̆ Ɔ⁻ Ɪ’" Ɪ̄ Tɔ.
said, you whoever catch get, I give to whoever.

]ⁿ Ɔᵓ Ɪ’" ’Cᵘ Ŷ J̉ L⁻ T" ŧ⸢ ’Cᵘ
king from day that rise threw get three days

Tᶚ. Ŷ Vⁿᶜ ⅂ⁿ Ɔ- Ɪ̄ Tɔ ŧ' T".
finish. but not have anyone catch get.

ŧₒ ’Cᵘ]ᵤ Λ̄ S" Tᶚ, Ɔ- Yⁿ
reach day which want end finish, there was one

Lᒃ Tᵘ J" Ɪᒃ Cⁿ° Ŷ ⅃ₒ. ŧ⸢ Tᵘ J" Ɪᒃ
classifier beggar situated there saw. the beggar

Λ̄ CƗₒ Cɔ ŧ" Ɔ" ŧ' Lᵘ Cⁿᶜ Ĉ. Ŷ Vⁿᶜ
want with them go catch lump silver this. but

Tᒃ Cᒃ ⅂ⁿ [°]ₒ Cɔ Ɔ", Ŷ]ᵤ Cɔ ⅂ⁿ Ɔ-
people not permit him go, because he not have

[’ⁿˢ]ᵤ Sⁿᶜ, ⅂ⁿ Ʒ" Cŧ⸢, Ɪᵤ ’Cᶚ
place which high, not good name, also wearing

⅂ⁿ Ʒ". Y⁻ Lⁿ Cɔ Ɔ" [’ₙₛ Yⁿ ⅃’° Y⁻ Cⁿᶚ
not good. make like he went took one mat straw

]ᵤ Tᒃ Cᒃ ⅃⁻ ⅃ᵓ Lₒ, [’ₙₛ ⅃’° Y⁻ Cⁿᶚ
which people spread sleep come, took mat straw

Ɪ̉’ Cɔ Y⁻ [ⁿ [ⁿᶜ. Cɔ Δ’ⁿᶜ Ɔ" Δ⁻
wrap his body completed. he jump went go to

Tᒃ Cᒃ Tⁿ Ɪ̊’ [̂’. Cɔ Y⁻ [ⁿ L° [̂’
people the cesspit. his body plaster excrement

Tᶾ Tᶾ, [˥ T⁻ Tₙ꜀.]" Ĉ Cᵓ Ↄ״
done finish, smell very. occasion this he went

Tᵓ Cᵓ ┘̓ [̂ Sᶾ. Cᵓ Ɪᶾ Ↄ״ CꞮₒ ϯ"
people fled way away. he ran went with those

Tᵘ T״ ϯ' Cₙ꜀. Cᵓ Iᵤ Ɪᶾ Ↄ״
the strong catch silver. he immediately ran went

Lᵘ Cₙ꜀ ┘" Lₒ Δ⁻ Cᵓ Lᵘ Δᶾ [’°
lump silver fell come go to his the skirt gown

Lᶊ.]ⁿ Ↄᵓ ˥ⁿ Ↄ⁻ Ɪ’" Cᵓ.]ⁿ Ↄᵓ ˥ₙ, ˥ⁿ
gone. king not give to him. king said, not

Sₒ Ŝ, Ɪᵤ Ↄ⁻ Lₒ]̆ Ɪᵤ L⁻ Yⁿ
count yet, again give come I again throw one

]". [⁻]ᵤ [ᵓ Ɪᵤ ϯ' T" [ₙₒ
occasion. if that you again catch get so it is

Ŝ,]̆ Ↄ⁻ Ɪ’" [ᵓ Tᶾ.]" Ĉ]ⁿ Ↄᵓ
yet, I give to you finish. occasion this king

Ɪᵤ Λ̄ Ↄ״ L⁻ Ɪ" Ɪ" CTᵘ Ɪ’" ϯ’⁻ Lᵓ
again wanted go throw to sky for each one

ϯ'. Lᵘ Cₙ꜀ Ɪᵤ Ɪ’" Ɪ" CTᵘ ┘" Lₒ
catch. lump silver again from sky fell came

Δ⁻ ϯᒥ Tᵘ J" Ɪᵓ Lᵘ Y⁻ Δᶾ [’° Lᶊ [ₙₒ.
go to the beggar the skirt gown gone so it is

Ŝ.]ⁿ Ↄᵓ ˥ₙ, C̄ Ĉ Sₒ [ᵓ ┘ⁿᶜ Tᶾ. Ŷ Vⁿᶜ
yet. king said, now counts yours finish. but

Tᵘ J" Ɪᵓ ˥ⁿ Ↄ- C]-, Cᵓ I’ᵓ]ⁿ Ↄᵓ Cϯ’ı
beggar not have house, he took king daughter

Ↄ״ Cⁿᵒ Yⁿ Lᵘ Ɪᶾ ϯ₋. ϯ’⁻ ’Cᵘ
went live one classifier bottom cliff. every day

Ↄ״ CꞮₒ Tᵓ Cᵓ Y⁻ Ʒ° Δ⁻ CΔ° L״. Ↄ⁻
went with people work go to inside city. took

Cₙ꜀]ᵤ Tᵓ Cᵓ Ↄ⁻ Y⁻ CꞮᵓ Ↄ₋ Ɪᵓ
silver which people gave make wages buy food

Lₒ Ɪ’" Cɔ Cᶯ C".
come for his wife eat.

Ɔ- Yᶯ Ɪ" Cɔ Ɔ" Ɉₒ V" ƚ"
there was one occasion he went saw mandarin

Λ̄ ƚ’ₒ CƆ-. Ɔ- Tᵇ Cᵇ Ɔᵤ Ꞓᶯ"
wanted build house. there were people who many

Cᶯᵒ Ẏ C̄ CT", Ɪᵤ Ɉₒ Tᵇ Cᵇ Ɔᵤ
situated there carry timber, also saw people who

Ꞓᶯ" T̄ Tₙ Ꞁᶯ CⅠₒ Ꞓ₋ C̄ Yᶯ Tᵤ T̄.
many very together only carry one piece alone.

Cɔ Ꞁₙ, T̄ CT" Ċ Tᵘ Λ̄ CɈₒ Ċ
he said, the timber this all wants crowd this

Tᵇ Cᵇ C̄ Lᶯ Ꞓᶯ. Tᵇ Cᵇ Ɔᵤ C̄ CT" Ꞁₙ
people carry why. people who carry timber said,

Ꞓɔ Ȳ Ꞓᶯ C̄ C₋ Ꞁᶯ T" Tᵇ Cᵇ. Ꞓɔ T- C̄ Ɪ’ₚ
you why despise people. you come carry show

Ɉᶯ. J" Ɪᵇ Ɔ" Yᶯ Ɪ" C̄ Ȳ Tᵤ.
us. beggar went one occasion carry two pieces.

ƚ" Tᵇ Cᵇ Ẏ Ɉₒ Tᵹ, ƚ’⁻ Lᵇ Tᵘ
those people there saw finish, each one all

Ꞓₙ Tᵹ. Cɔ ƚ" Ɔ" Ꞁₙ Ɪ’ₚ V" ƚ". V" ƚ"
astonish finish. they went told mandarin. mandarin

CⅠₒ Cɔ Ꞁₙ, Ꞓɔ T" Lᶯ Ċ, Ꞓɔ Yᶯ
with him said, you strong like this, you one

Ɪ" Λ̄ C" Ɉᶯ Ꞓᶯ". J" Ɪᵇ Ꞁₙ, Ɪ̆ Yᶯ
occasion want eat how much. beggar said, I one

Ɪ" Λ̄ C" ƚʳ Tᵓ. V" ƚ" Ꞁₙ, T̄ Ċ
occasion want eat three dyu. mandarin said, this

Ꞁᶯ Ƅ°, Ɪ̆ CT" CƆ- C̄ Ċ Ꞓ₋ Λ̄ Ꞓɔ
not big, my timber house now only want you

C̑ T¯. J" Ɪᵇ CꞮₒ Vᵢᵢ ꞇᵢᵢ C̑ CT".
carry alone. beggar with mandarin carry timber.

C̑ Y¯ 'Cᵘ T¯, CΔ° Lᵢᵢ Tᵘ Ꞁⁿ Ɔ-
carry two days only, inside city all not have

C'ⁿˢ C° Ɪ" Tᵹ.
place set down upon finish.

Vᵢᵢ ꞇᵢᵢ Ɪᵤ CꞮₒ Cᵓ Ꞁₙ, C̄ C̑ Ɔ- Yⁿ
mandarin again with him said, now there is one

Ɪ̊' Tⁿ C'ⁿˢ Ɔ- ꞇᵇ T¯ Tₙc. Ɪ̆ Λ̄ Cᵓ Ɔᵢᵢ
place country have robbers much. I want you go

CTᵢᵢ. Cᵓ CTᵢᵢ T" Tⁿ C'ⁿˢ Y̑, Ɪ̆ Λ̄ Ɔ¯
fight. you fight get country that, I will give

Yⁿ Lᵇ Vᵢᵢ ꞇᵢᵢ C'ⁿˢ Ɪ'" Cᵓ Cⁿᵒ.
one classifier mandarin place for you situated.

J" Ɪᵇ Ꞁₙ, Ʒ" Ɉₒ Ʒ" Cₙₒ, Y̑ Vⁿᶜ Ɪ̆ Ɔ-
beggar said, good see good so it is, but I have

Ɪ̆ Cⁿᵹ Cⁿᵒ CꞮ- S̑. Ɪ̆ Λ̄ Sʳ Ɔᵢᵢ
my wife situated house still. I want return go

C₋ Cᵓ, Y̑ Ɪᵤ Ɉⁿ CꞮ- Ꞁⁿ Ɔ- Ɪᵇ Ɪᵤ
look her, because our house not have food which

Cᵢᵢ. Vᵢᵢ ꞇᵢᵢ CꞮₒ Cᵓ Ꞁₙ, Cᵓ CꞮ- Cⁿᵒ
eat. mandarin with him said, your house situated

Ɪ̊' Tᵓ. J" Ɪᵇ Ꞁₙ, Ɪ̆ Ꞁⁿ Ɔ- CꞮ- Ɪᵤ Cⁿᵒ.
where. beggar said, I not have house which live.

Ɪ̆ I'ₚ Ɪ̆ Cⁿᵹ Cⁿᵒ Yⁿ Lᵘ Ɪᵹ
I took my wife live one classifier bottom

ꞇ₋ T¯. Vᵢᵢ ꞇᵢᵢ Ꞁₙ, Cᵓ Ꞁⁿ Ɔᵤ Tᵓ.
cliff only. mandarin said, you not need worry.

Cᵓ Ɔᵢᵢ CTᵢᵢ ꞇᵇ, Ɉⁿ Sᵹ Ɪᵇ Ɔᵢᵢ Ɪ'" Cᵓ
you go fight robbers, we send food go for her

Cᵢᵢ. Vᵢᵢ ꞇᵢᵢ Ɪᵤ Ꞁₙ, Sᵹ Ɔ" Λ̄ Sᵹ
eat. mandarin then said, send letter want send

Lⁿ ⊏ɞ. C⊃ ⅂ₙ, Ɔₙ Ɔ¯ Ɪ’" T¯]’ₙ Lᵤ ⊏ⁿ°
how. he said you give for the swallows take

Ɔ" Tɞ. Y¯ Lⁿ J" Ɪᵓ Tˤ Ɔ" Lˤ]ᵤ
go finish. make like beggar out went gone was

Lⁿ Tɞ. C⊃ Cɞ ⅂ⁿ Ɔ-]ᵤ C"
long time finish. his wife not have which eat

C⊃ Cɞ C̄ C̑ Λ̄ C⊏’ˤ Ɔ" T₋. T’"]ᵤ C⊃
his wife now want desire go die. when that she

Λ̄ Tˤ Ɔ" Y̑, C⊃ ⅃∘ T¯]’ₙ Lᵤ Tı
want out go then, she saw the swallows carry

Yⁿ Δ¯ Ɔ". C⊃ ⊏’ⁿˤ C₋ Sɞ, C⊃
one classifier letter. she took read away, she

⅃"]ᵤ C⊃ V̎ Λ̄ Ɔ" CT" ϯᵓ.
knew that her husband will go fight robbers.

Ɪᵤ Ɪ" Ɔ"]ᵤ V" ϯ" Λ̄ Sɞ Ɪᵓ
again get letter that mandarin will send food

T- Ɪ’" C⊃ C" Tɞ. Ɪᵤ ⊏’" Lˤ
come for her eat finish. again pass gone

⅃ⁿ ⊏ⁿ" ’Cᵘ T¯, Ɪᵤ T" C⊃ V̎ Ɔ"
several days only, again get her husband letter

⅂ₙ, C⊃ V̎ Ɔ" CT" ϯᵓ Sɞ.
said, her husband went fight robbers away.

V" ϯ" L₋ Ɔ¯ Tⁿ ⊏’ⁿˤ Ɪ’" C⊃ ⊏ˀ Tɞ.
mandarin had given country for him rule finish.

Y¯ Lⁿ C⊃ V̎ Λ̄ L∘ ϯı C⊃ Ɔ"
make like her husband will come receive her go

Tɞ.
finish.

M441

The king who sought a son-in-law and found a beggar.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 42, page 27).

M442

Three cowherds and the teacher.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

This is a story of honesty receiving its due reward. There is no feature which is specifically Miao, except possibly the description with which the narrative opens, of three lads, minding the cattle and enjoying themselves climbing over a great rock by the side of an ancient caravan route.

Miao has no word for taking an examination. “Kao” is borrowed from the Chinese.

The present name for Beijing in Miao is “Gi-myu lao”, meaning “the Emperor’s city”. The traditional name, however, was “Ghai-dleu lao”, “White chicken city”. In Miao the sound “ing” does not occur, so that both in speech, and in writing Chinese words it is regularly shortened to a simple “i”. Thus the name “Beijing”, becomes “Beiji”, which, if the right characters are chosen, can mean “white chicken” in Chinese, and so it was translated into Miao.

The Miao word for “slave” means not only a person who is the property of his master and may be bought and sold, but anyone engaged in servile work. So in this story the Miao lad was employed in hard labour, but remained free to move on when he wished.

M442

Three cowherds and the teacher.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong

They tell a story that, once upon a time, there were three Miao lads who went minding the cattle by a main road. The three lads were playing on a rock, and while they were there a teacher, who was going to Beijing for examination to become a mandarin, came to the place where they were and rested there. Having rested sufficiently the teacher departed, but left behind the bag in which he was carrying his silver. He had gone part way on the road when he recalled that he had left his bag of silver, so he returned. When he got back there, he saw that there was only one small lad still there. He said to him, "While you were here did you see that I had left a bag behind?" The Miao lad said, "We found it, and we three opened it and had a look. We saw that there were three pieces of silver, so we took them and shared them, one piece each. The other two have taken their pieces away, but my piece is still here. Let the teacher take his own". The teacher said, "This was to pay for my food and drink on the journey to Beijing, but since you are so good hearted, I will give half to you". The Miao lad said, "The teacher has a long way to go, I do not want it. Let the teacher take it". The teacher said, "Well then, I have here a ring. I will now break it into two parts, I will give you one part. When I have gone, if the day comes when you have any matter to be transacted, come and find me". When he had finished speaking they parted.

The Miao lad returned home and told the folk at home what he had done. The folk at home said, "You fool! When you have food to eat you cannot preserve it. If you are going to act like this you shall no longer live with us!" So the Miao lad's mother and father drove him away, to go where he could. The Miao lad went and did servile work for people, every day moving further from home, and every day moving nearer to Beijing.

On one occasion the Miao lad was living with a very wealthy family. This wealthy family wanted the daughter of the mandarin whose silver the Miao lad had earlier found, for their son. However, the son was not at all engaging and the mandarin wanted someone very engaging indeed. So the wealthy family took their servant along for the mandarin to see, saying this was their son for whom they wanted the mandarin's daughter. The mandarin saw that the Miao lad was very engaging and so gave the family a favourable reply. They waited for the time to fetch the bride and then brought their son. The mandarin saw that it was not the person who had come before, so he said, "This is not the person who came before to see the bride. You must bring me the person who came to see the bride". When they saw how angry the mandarin was, they told him every detail of what they had done. The mandarin therefore made them go and fetch the Miao servant and questioned him about every thing. The mandarin said to the Miao lad, "Why did you come to deceive me?" The Miao lad said, "I am only these people's servant, so I have to do what they tell me". The mandarin said, "Well, where do you come from?" The Miao lad said, "In the past I did have parents. On one occasion I was herding cattle by a main road with two lads from our village, and as we were playing there, a teacher came and rested, and left behind his bag of silver, which we shared out one piece each. The other two, having got the silver, took it to their parents, but I, when I got it, stayed waiting for the teacher. When the teacher returned I gave him back his silver. So the teacher said, 'since you are so good hearted, now I will break my ring into two parts. I will give you one part and I will keep one part. If one day you seek me out I will be able to help you'". When the Miao lad had finished speaking he brought out the ring. So the mandarin, remembering what had happened long ago, gave his daughter to the Miao lad.

M442

†ʳ Lᵇ Tᵘ Λ∾ C∾ CI∘ Tᵘ I’⁻ CTˤ.
three classifier cowherds with teacher.

C⊃ ˥ₙ ⅃ⁿ Tᵢᵢ ⅃ᵤ Y⁻ T’" Lⁿ, Ↄ- †ʳ
they say story that of old, there were three

Lᵇ Tᵘ ’Ↄ" Ↄᵢᵢ Λ∾ C∾ Δ⁻ Yⁿ
classifier Miao lads went herd cattle go to one

†° Y⁻ Cⁿᶜ C̑. †ʳ Tᵘ ’Ↄ" Cⁿᵒ
classifier main road. three Miao lads situated

Vᵤ Yⁿ Lᵘ Y⁻ Vˀ Y⁻ Γᵇ. T’" ⅃ᵤ C⊃ †"
at one classifier rock playing. when that they

Cⁿᵒ Y̑, Ↄ- Yⁿ Lᵇ Tᵘ I’⁻ CTˤ
situated there, there was one classifier teacher

⅃ᵤ Λ̄ Ↄᵢᵢ ⅃’" Vᵢᵢ †ᵢᵢ Δ⁻
who wanted go take examination mandarin go to

I' Δˤ Lᵢᵢ T- †∘ I̊’ ⅃ᵤ C⊃ †" Cⁿᵒ
Beijing come reach place which they situated

Y̑. Iᵤ J∘ I" Y̑ Cⁿᶜ Cₙₒ.
there. then rested at there completed so it was.

J∘ Γ̄ Tᵹ, †ʳ I’⁻ CTˤ Y̑ Lˤ
rested enough finish, the teacher that gone

Tᵹ. Y̑ Vⁿᶜ C⊃ T" Γ̉ C⊃ Lᵘ ’Cᵹ ⅃ᵤ
finish. but he get leave his the bag which

Iᵣ Cⁿᶜ Sᵹ Y̑. C⊃ Ↄᵢᵢ †∘ ⅃ⁿ CIᵹ
carry silver away there. he went reached midst

C̑ Iᵤ CT⊃ †∘ ⅃ᵤ C⊃ Γ̉ C⊃ Lᵘ
road then thought reach that he left his the

’Cᵹ Cⁿᶜ Sᵹ. C⊃ Iᵤ Sʳ L∘. T’"
bag silver away. he then return come. when

⅃ᵤ C⊃ Sʳ L∘ †∘ Y̑ Tᵹ, C⊃ ⅃∘
that he return come reach there finish, he saw

Vᴗ Y̊ Ꮯ₋ Ɔ- Yⁿ Lᵇ Ꮆ₋
at there only there was one classifier child

Cⁿᵒ Y̊ T⁻ Tᵹ. Cↄ CꞮₒ ϯ⁻ Y̊
situated there alone finish. he with that one

˥ₙ, Ɔₙ Cⁿᵒ Ĉ, Ɔₙ Tₙ꜀ ˩ₒ Ŭ T"
said, you situated here, you query see me get

Γ̉ Yⁿ Lᵘ ’Cᵹ Sᵹ Ĉ. Tᵘ ’Ɔ"
leave one classifier bag away here. Miao lad

˥ₙ, ˩ⁿ Ꮯ’ⁿˁ T" Ꮯₙₒ. ˩ⁿ ϯʳ
said, we picked up got so it is. we three

Lᵇ Ꮯ’ₙˁ Ɪ’ᵇ C₋, ˩ⁿ ˩ₒ Ɔ-
classifier took open look, we saw there were

ϯʳ Lᵘ Cₙ꜀ Cⁿᵒ C̄, ˩ⁿ
three classifier silver situated therefore, we

Ꮯ’ₙˁ Γᵕ Yⁿ Lᵇ T" Yⁿ Lᵘ.
took divide one classifier get one classifier.

Cↄ Y⁻ Lᵇ ˩ⁿ꜀ Cↄ Y⁻ Lᵇ
they two classifier theirs they two classifier

Ꮯⁿᵒ Lˁ Tᵹ. Ŭ ˩ⁿ꜀ Cⁿᵒ Ĉ Ŝ,
carry gone finish. mine situated here still,

Ɪ’⁻ CTˁ Ꮯ’ₙˁ Ɪ’⁻ CTˁ ˩ⁿ꜀ Ꮯⁿᵒ Ɔ". ϯʳ Ɪ’⁻ CTˁ
teacher take teacher his carry go. the teacher

˥ₙ, Tⁿ Ĉ ˥ᵤ Ŭ CꞮᵇ Ɪ̈’ ˥ᵤ Ʌ̄ Y⁻
said, this is my price food which want make

C" ˥" Δ⁻ Ɪ' Δˁ L". Ꮯↄ Y⁻ Sⁿ꜀ Ʒ" Lⁿ
eat drink go to Beijing. your heart good like

Ĉ, Ŭ Γᵕ Ꮯↄ Yⁿ ˩ⁿ CꞮᵹ. Tᵘ ’Ɔ" ˥ₙ
this, I divide you one half. Miao lad said,

Ɪ’⁻ CTˁ Ĉ Δⁿ, Ŭ ˥ⁿ Ʌ̄, Ɪ’⁻ CTˁ Ꮯⁿᵒ Ɔ",
teacher road far, I not want, teacher carry go,

ϯʳ Ɪ’⁻ CTˁ ˥ₙ, Y⁻ Lⁿ Ŭ Vᴗ Cⁿ Ɔ-
the teacher said, make like I at here have

Yⁿ Lᵘ ɺ" Cᵓ, C̄ C̑ Ɉ̆ L̊ Y¯ Y¯
one classifier ring, now I break make two

J̃, Ɉ̆ Ɔ¯ Yⁿ J̃ Ɪ’" Ɛᵓ, Ɉ̆ Ɔ₁₁
sections, I give one section for you, I go

Tᵹ, Ɛ¯ Ɔ- ’Cᵘ Ɉᵤ Ɔ- Cᵘ
finish, if there is day which have business

Ɉᵤ Y¯ Tᵹ, Ɛᵓ T- CƗ’ Ɉ̆. ˥ₙ Tᵹ
which do finish, you come seek me. said finish

Cᵓ Y¯ Lᵇ ˥ⁿ Γᶣ Ɛ̑ Lᶜ Tᵹ.
they two classifier separated roads gone finish.

Tᵘ ’Ɔ" Sʳ Lₒ Δ¯ CɈ-, Ɔ¯ Cᵘ
Miao lad return come go to house, took business

Ɉᵤ Cᵓ Y¯ ˥ₙ Ɪ’ˀ Cᵓ Vᶣ CɈ-. Cᵓ Vᶣ CɈ-
which he did tell his at house. his at house

˥ₙ, Ɛᵓ ✝ʳ Tᵇ Cᵇ C̑, Ɛᵓ T" C" Ɛᵓ
said, you the person this, you get eat you

Tᵘ ˥ⁿ ✝ˤ V₋. Y¯ Lⁿ C̑ Ɛᵓ ˥ⁿ
all not able look after. make like this you not

Λ̄ Ɉᵤ CƗₒ ɺⁿ Cⁿᵒ Tᵹ. Y¯ Lⁿ C̑
want that with us live finish. make like this

Lₒ Tᵘ ’Ɔ" Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ Cᵓ Vᶣ Ɛ’ₙᶜ Cᵓ
come Miao lad his mother his father took him

Lˤ Ɉᵤ Ɪ̊’ Ɔ₁₁ Ɔ₁₁ Tᵹ. Tᵘ ’Ɔ" Ɔ₁₁
drive which place go go finish. Miao lad went

CƗₒ Tᵇ Cᵇ Y¯ Ɪ’. Yⁿ ’Cᵘ Γ CɈ-
with people make slave. one day left house

Δⁿ L̄ Ŧ̆ Yⁿ ’Cᵘ, Yⁿ ’Cᵘ Ɪ₋ Ɪ' Δˤ L₁₁
further than one day, one day separated Beijing

Vˀ L̄ Ŧ̆ Yⁿ ’Cᵘ.
nearer than one day.

Ɔ- Yⁿ Ɉ", ✝ʳ Tᵘ ’Ɔ" Ɔ₁₁ CƗₒ
there was one occasion, the Miao lad went with

Yⁿ Λₙ ℷᵤ Ͻ- Tˉ Tₙc Cⁿᵒ. Λₙ Tᵘ Ͻ-
one family which rich very live. family rich

ℷᵤ Λ̄ CꓶʼՙϽₗₗ Ͻˉ ⵜʳ Vₗₗ ⵜₗₗ, ℷᵤ
that wanted desired go take the mandarin, who

Tᵘ ʼϽ" Tᵤ CTⁿ ꓶʼₙₛ T" Cⁿᶜ Y̑, Lᵇ
Miao lad earlier picked up get silver that, the

Cⵜʼₗ Lₒ Ɪʼ" Cₔ Tᵘ. Y̑ Vⁿᶜ Cₔ ⵜʳ Tᵘ
daughter come for their son. but their the son

ꓶⁿ Ʒ" CꓶᵣꓩI̅. Yⁿ ℷᵤ Vₗₗ ⵜₗₗ Λ̄ Yⁿ
not good at all. because mandarin wanted one

Lᵇ ℷᵤ Ʒ" Tˉ Tₙc, Yˉ Lⁿ Λₙ Tᵘ Ͻ-
classifier who good very, make like family rich

C̑ Ͻˉ Cₔ Λₙ ⵜ̄ ℷᵤ CⲒₒ C̑
this took their family person who with this,

Ͻₗₗ Ɪʼ" Vₗₗ ⵜₗₗ C₋, ꓶₙ ⵜ̄ C̑ ℷᵤ
go for mandarin look, said person this was

Cₔ Λₙ Tᵘ ℷᵤ Λ̄ Ͻˉ Vₗₗ ⵜₗₗ
their family son who wanted give mandarin

Cⵜʼₗ Ɪʼ". Vₗₗ ⵜₗₗ ꓲₒ Tᵘ ʼϽ" ℷᵤ Ʒ"
daughter to. mandarin saw Miao lad was good

Tˉ Tₙc, Yˉ Lⁿ Tⁿ Cₔ Λₙ Lᵘ Sᵟ
very, make like replied their family words away

Tᵟ. T° ⵜₒ Tʼ" ℷᵤ T- Iʼₚ Cᵟ
finish. wait reach when that come escort bride

Tᵟ, ꓶ° ℷₒ Cₔ Tᵘ T- Tᵟ.
finish, allow cause their son come finish.

Vₗₗ ⵜₗₗ ꓲₒ ℷᵤ ꓶⁿ Λ° ⵜʳ ℷᵤ Tᵤ CTⁿ
mandarin saw that not true person who before

T- Tᵟ. Vₗₗ ⵜₗₗ Cᵤ ꓶₙ, ⵜʳ Y̑ ꓶⁿ
came finish. mandarin ask said, person that not

Λ° ⵜʳ ℷᵤ Yˉ Tʼ" T- C₋ Cᵟ. Ͻₙ
true person who before came look bride. you

Λ̄ Iʼˀ †ʳ]ᵤ T- C₋ Cⁿᵹ Y̑
must bring person who came look bride that

Lₒ Ɪʼˀ]̆. Cᵓ †ᐦ ᒧₒ]ᵤ Vᐦ †ᐦ Y° Sⁿᶜ,
come show me. they saw that mandarin angry,

65 Yˉ Lⁿ Ɔˉ Cᵘ]ᵤ Tᵤ CTⁿ Yˉ Y̑,
make like took business which before done that,

Yⁿ Ʒᵹ Yⁿ Ʒᵹ ˥ₙ Ɪʼˀ Vᐦ †ᐦ. Vᐦ †ᐦ Ɪᵤ
one piece one piece told mandarin. mandarin then

]ₒ Cᵓ †ᐦ Ɔᐦ Iʼˀ Tᵘ ʼƆ"]ᵤ CⲒₒ T-,
caused them go bring Miao lad who with come,

Cᵤ Cᵓ †ʼˉ Ʒᵹ. Vᐦ †ᐦ CⲒₒ Tᵘ ʼƆ"
ask him every piece, mandarin with Miao lad

˥ₙ, Ꮖᵓ Yˉ Ꮖⁿᵹ Λ̄ T- Ꮖ̉ʼ]̆. Tᵘ ʼƆ"
said, you why want come deceive me. Miao lad

70 ˥ₙ,]̆ CⲒₒ Lˉ Cⁿᵒ Tˉ, Lˉ Iʼˀ]̆
said, I with others live only, others bring me

Yˉ Ɪ̄ Jʳ,]̆ Yˉ Ɪ̄ Jʳ. Vᐦ †ᐦ ˥ₙ, Yˉ Lⁿ
do what, I do what. mandarin said, make like

Ꮖᵓ Ꮖⁿᵹ Yˉ]° T- Ɪ̊ʼ Tᵓ. Tᵘ ʼƆ" ˥ₙ,
your roots come place where. Miao lad said,

Tᵤ CTⁿ]̆ Ɔ- Cⁿᶜ Vᵤ Ꮖₙₒ. Y̑ Vⁿᶜ Ɔ-
before I had mother father so it is. but have

Yⁿ]",]̆ CⲒₒ ᒧⁿ Ʒ° Yˉ Lᵇ
one occasion, I with our village two classifier

75 Tᵘ ʼƆ" Ɔᐦ Λₙ Cₙ Cⁿᵒ Yⁿ †°
Miao lads go herd cattle situated one classifier

Yˉ Cⁿᶜ Ꮖ̑. ᒧⁿ Cⁿᵒ Y̑ Yˉ Γᵇ, Ɔ- Yⁿ
main road. we situated there play, there was one

Lᵇ Tᵘ Ɪʼˉ CTˁ T- Jₒ Ɪ̊ʼ Y̑. Cᵓ T"
classifier teacher came rest place there. he get

Γ̉ Cᵓ ʼCᵹ Cⁿᶜ Sᵹ. ᒧⁿ †ʳ Lᵇ
leave his bag silver away. we three classifier

⊏’ₙₛ ᑕ₋. ᒧⁿ ᒧₒ Ɔ⁻ ϯʳ Lᵘ
pick up look. we saw there are three classifier

80 ᑕⁿᶜ ᑕⁿᵒ. ᒧⁿ ϯʳ Lᵓ ⊏’ₙₛ
silver situated. we three classifier picked up

Lₒ Γᒡ, Yⁿ Lᵓ T" Yⁿ Lᵘ
come divide, one classifier get one classifier

Lₛ. ᑕᴐ Y⁻ Lᵓ T" ᑕⁿᶜ Tᵹ ⊏ⁿᵒ
gone. they two classifier get silver finish take

Ɔᵢᵢ Ɪ’" ᑕⁿᶜ Vᵤ, Y̑ Vⁿᶜ ⊐̆ T" Tᵹ, ⊐̆ ⊏ⁿᵒ
go for mother father, but I get finish, I take

ᑕⁿᵒ Y̑ T° ϯʳ J’⁻ ᑕTˤ. ϯʳ J’⁻ ᑕTˤ
situated there wait the teacher. the teacher

85 Sʳ T⁻ Tᵹ, ⊐̆ Ɔ⁻ J’⁻ ᑕTˤ ᑕⁿᶜ Ɪ’"
return came finish, I gave teacher silver to

J’⁻ ᑕTˤ Tᵹ. Y⁻ Lⁿ ϯʳ J’⁻ ᑕTˤ ⅂ₙ,
teacher finish. make like the teacher said,

⊏ᴐ Sⁿᶜ ⊐ᵤ 3" Lⁿ ᑕⁿ, ᑕ̄ ᑕ̑ ⊐̆ Ɔ⁻ ⊐̆
your heart is good like this, now I take my

Lᵘ ᒧ" ᑕ̑ Lₒ L̊ Y⁻ Y⁻ J̆. ⊐̆
the ring this come break make two sections. I

Ɔ⁻ Yⁿ J̆ Ɪ’" ⊏ᴐ, ⊐ᵘ T" Yⁿ J̆.
give one section for you, I get one section.

90 Ɔ- Yⁿ ’ᑕᵘ ⊏ᴐ ⊏⁻ ᑕꞮ̿’ ϯₒ ⊐̆, ⊐̆ ϯₛ ᑕꞮₒ
have one day you if seek reach me, I can with

⊏ᴐ Y⁻ ᑕᵘ. Tᵘ ’Ɔ" ⅂ₙ Tᵹ Tᵹ, ᑕᴐ
you do business. Miao lad said done finish, he

⊏’ₙₛ Tₛ Lᵘ L" Lₒ. Vᵢᵢ ϯᵢᵢ ᑕ̄ ᑕ̑ ᑕTᴐ
took out the ring come. mandarin now thought

ϯₒ ᑕᵘ ⊐ᵤ Y⁻ T’". Y⁻ Lⁿ Vᵢᵢ ϯᵢᵢ
reach matters which of old. make like mandarin

Ɔ⁻ ᑕᴐ ᑕϯ’ᵢ Ɪ’" Tᵘ ’Ɔ" Y⁻ ᑕⁿᵹ.
gave his daughter to Miao lad make wife.

M442

Three cowherds and the teacher.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 41, page 26).

M443

The wealthy family that chose a beggar for a daughter-in-law.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

The Chinese, Yi and Miao lived together in the same areas of Yunnan and Guizhou, but, though they constantly met in markets and elsewhere, and were interdependent to some degree, they lived in their separate communities, retaining their own customs and traditions. This is a Miao story, told by a Miao for Miao listeners, but the main characters are all Chinese and are, accordingly, portrayed behaving as Chinese. Under the domination of the Chinese mistress of the household, such Miao as appear in the story, themselves become virtually Chinese. In this connection the following points are note-worthy.

The consultation with the soothsayer, doubtless a Taoist priest, in selecting a suitable wife for their son would have been quite normal in a Chinese family, but not among the Miao.

Beggars figure largely in this story, but always with the prefix "Chinese". The reason for this was that, though among the Miao there was much abject poverty and even destitution, professional mendicancy just did not exist, whereas it was widespread in Chinese society. There were no Miao beggars.

A Chinese family might very well own its own land, and therefore be in a position to sell an outcrop of rock to prospectors. Miao families did not own their land and so could not have made such a sale.

In the story the woman's first husband took to gambling, an activity extremely common in the Chinese community, but not among the Miao, if only because few Miao had sufficient money to engage in it.

The costly celebration of the birthday of the ageing head of a well-to-do Chinese family was not unusual, but it was not practised among the Miao.

Ostentatious distribution of largess to an assemblage of beggars was entirely in character for a wealthy Chinese family, as an exercise for accumulating merit for the hereafter, but it did not fit into the very different pattern of Miao religious belief.

M443

The wealthy family that chose a beggar for a daughter-in-law.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

They tell a story that, once upon a time, there was a wealthy family which had an only son. The family, therefore, wanted to choose a very fine daughter-in-law, and they wanted to choose from a wealthy family. First they had to consult their horoscope to determine with whom it would be favourable to intermarry. This being the case the father went everywhere seeking people to consult. The people whom he consulted all said, "You must go and get the Chinese beggar girl who lives in your village". When they said this he was not at all happy, but on returning home the father had no alternative but to go and say to the beggar family, "We want to intermarry with you. We want your daughter as a wife for our son". The Chinese family said, "We will not give her to you. You are very rich and we have nothing. How can we give her to you?" The wealthy family said, "We do not want anything from you, only your daughter, and whatever happens we must have her". So presently the Chinese family gave her, and this wealthy family received the Chinese girl.

Not long afterwards a group of Chinese came to this family and saw that, at the back of the family house, there was a large rock. The group of Chinese offered a great deal of silver to buy the rock from the family. The family was not aware that there was anything valuable in the rock, so they thought, "They will give a lot of silver to buy the rock, better sell it to them". Having bought the rock the group of Chinese took fire to burn it. They burnt it for seven days and seven nights until everyone in the group of Chinese grew very drowsy, and all went off to sleep. The Chinese family's daughter-in-law who had recently been brought home was not yet asleep. She saw that everyone of the group of Chinese was sleeping. She also saw a red cockerel come out of the rock which the Chinese was burning. So the Chinese family's daughter-in-law ran and caught it, brought it back, and cooped it. When the Chinese men awoke the rock they had been burning had split open and there was nothing to be seen, so they had no alternative but to return home. The Chinese family looked after the cockerel, and wherever it left droppings they were all of silver, so the family became even wealthier than before.

By and by the father died and the husband said, "We are so wealthy but do nothing with it. It would be a good idea to take some of it for gambling". So every day the husband did nothing but gamble. However, there was never a day when he won anything. Thus with going and coming his father's silver store had none left. So he said to his wife, "It is because I married you that my household is getting poorer every day. From now on I do not want you". His wife said to him, "Very well, neither do I want anything of yours except only the white horse". His wife, having got the white horse, saddled it and left sitting on the horse's back. She said to the horse, "Horse! You are a stupid creature so you shall take me along. Whatever place we reach tonight that place shall be my home". So the horse started away. They went on all day until evening when they came to a very deep forest. They reached the middle of the forest where there was a Miao family living. This family was very poor indeed; they had on food at all. So, the next day the Miao folk said to the woman, "You must go now for we have nothing for you to eat. We are very poor". The woman said, "I am not going for I have come to be your daughter-in-law". The family said, "We cannot have you for you are the daughter of wealthy people!" The woman said, I will give you silver, so that you may go and buy corn for us to eat". The woman took out some silver and the poor family's son, whose wife she was to become said, "At the foot of our cliff there is a great deal of that stuff! I used to play at building houses with it every day!" The woman said, “Then take me along to look”. The Miao lad took the woman to look, and everywhere she saw silver. The lad and the woman returned and arranged everything. They brought in builders to build a house.

After a long time the lad wanted to celebrate his father’s birthday, so people from all directions came to the family, and the family had to prepare a great deal of food. Many Chinese beggars came as well. They came wanting food from the family. Her husband, who of old did not want her, had now become a beggar, eating what he could get day by day. He came with the other beggars to the family. When it was time to distribute the food, they made the beggars sit down in a line. On the opening day, the former husband of the mistress of the house, now a beggar, sat at the end of the line. The servants who distributed the food began from the family’s front door, distributing until they reached the man in front of the former husband of the mistress of the house, and then had none left. The servants said, “There is none left for today, come again tomorrow”. The next day those who wanted food went again. The beggar who yesterday got none, went and sat down first of all, at the front door. Then the servants came again to distribute the food to them. They went to the far end of the line distributing as they came back. When they reached the person who yesterday got none, again they had none left, so he went away disappointed. Now it was the final day for those who came wanting food. Again that beggar came. He ran and sat down in the middle. The wealthy family again sent servants to distribute food to the beggars. When the servants arrived they said, Both yesterday and the day before we distributed from one end only, but today we will distribute from both ends”. So the servants distributed from both ends until they reached the Chinese man, and again there was none left. So the Chinese man could do nothing but weep bitterly because for three days he had got nothing to eat.

When the servants came and told the mistress of the house, she realised that it was her previous husband who before had not wanted her. So she bade the servants prepare a very good meal for him to eat, and made him rest there several days before sending him away. When he was going to leave, she sent the servants for five measures of corn to make food for the journey for the beggar to carry. She said, when you have got the corn ready let me have it to make up”. So the servants prepared it and gave it to the mistress of the house to make up. She wrapped a piece of silver in every cake, and made a large number, which she gave to the beggar for food on his way. Before he left the mistress of the house said to him, “The cakes which I have made for you to take for your lunch, you must only eat in some place where there are no people about”. The Chinese man left. He went on until he reached a river where the water was very high. Travellers could only get to the other side by boat. The beggar, having no money, gave a cake to the boatmen who realised at once that there was silver inside it. Accordingly, they gave him, in exchange for the cakes he was carrying, an even greater number of cakes, and so got all his silver.

M443

Tᵁ Ɔ- Ṡ Cᵑ Ṡ T" CꓶꞋ J" ꓕ̛.
rich choose wife choose get girl beggar.

Cᵓ ꓶₙ ꓲⁿ Tₙ ꓶᵤ Y¯ T’" Lⁿ Ɔ- Yⁿ Λₙ
they say story that of old there was one family

Tᵁ Ɔ-, Ɔ- Yⁿ Lˀ Tᵁ T¯. Y¯ Lⁿ
rich, had one classifier son only. make like

Cᵓ Λₙ Λ̄ Ṡ Yⁿ Lˀ Cᵑ
their family wanted choose one classifier wife

ꓶᵤ Ʒ" T¯ Tₙ꜀. Iᵤ Λ̄ Ṡ Yⁿ Λₙ Tᵁ Ɔ-
who good very. also want choose one family rich

Eₙₒ. Ŷ Vⁿᶜ Cᵓ Λₙ Λ̄ Sᵁ Ɔₙ Sₒ
so it is. but their family want first go reckon

Cᵓ J̄, Y¯ Lₙ꜀ C₋ Ɔᵟ Cᵓ Λₙ
their life, presently look observe their family

CIₒ Tˀ Cˀ Y¯ Jᴦ Eⁿᶜ Cˀ T¯ Lₙ꜀ Ʒ". Y¯
with people what intermarry presently good. make

Lⁿ Ĉ Cᵓ Vᵤ Ɔₙ Δ¯ ꞁ’¯ I̊’
like this his father went go to every place

CĪ’ Tˀ Cˀ CIₒ Cᵓ Sₒ. Tˀ Cˀ ꓶᵤ CIₒ
seek people with him reckon. people who with

Cᵓ Sₒ Ŷ, ꞁ’¯ Lˀ Tᵁ ꓶₙ,
him reckon those, every classifier all said,

Λ̄ ꓶᵤ Eᵓ Ɔₙ I’ˀ Lˀ CꓶꞋ Y¯ V" ꓶᵤ
want that you go bring the girl Chinese who

J" ꓕ̛ ꓶᵤ Cⁿᵒ Vᵤ Ɔₙ ꞁ" Ʒ°. ꓶₙ ꞁₒ
beggar who lives in your village. said reach

Lⁿ Ĉ Cᵓ Vᵤ ꓶⁿ L₋ Yⁿ CEᵣ I¯. Cᵓ
like this his father not pleased at all. his

Vᵤ Sᴦ Lₒ Cꓶ-, E₋ T" Ê Ɔₙ CIₒ
father return come house, only get way go with

Λₙ Ȳ V"]ᵤ J" Ɪ˒ ˥ₙ, ⅃ⁿ Λ̄ ꓚꞮ∘
family Chinese who beggars say, we want with

Ɔₙ Ɪ'˒ ['", Λ̄ Ɔₙ L˒ ꓚꝉ'ˌ Ɪ'" ⅃ⁿ
you fix marriage, want your the daughter for our

ꝉ⁻ Tᵘ Y⁻ ꓚ᷾. Λₙ Y⁻ V" ˥ₙ, ⅃ⁿ ˥ⁿ
the son make wife. family Chinese said, we not

Ɔ⁻ Ɪ'" Ɔₙ. Ɔₙ Ɔ- T⁻ Tₙ꜀, ⅃ⁿ ˥ⁿ Ɔ- ꓚ[ᵣ Ɪ⁻,
give to you. you rich very, we not rich at all,

Y⁻ [᷾ ⅃ⁿ ꝉˤ Ɔ⁻ Ɪ'" Ɔₙ. Λₙ Tᵘ Ɔ- ˥ₙ
make how we can give to you. family rich said,

⅃ⁿ ˥ⁿ Λ̄ Ɔₙ Y⁻ Jʳ, [₋ Λ̄ Ɔₙ L˒
we not want your anything, only want your the

ꓚꝉ'ˌ T⁻, ꝉˌ Y⁻ Lⁿ [᷾ ⅃ⁿ Tᵘ L̄
daughter only, but make like how we all shall

Λ̄. Y⁻ Ɪ˒ Λₙ Y⁻ V" T⁻ Lₙ꜀ Ɔ⁻ Ɪ'".
want. after family Chinese presently gave to.

Λₙ Tᵘ Ɔ- Ꞇ̂ ꝉ' L˒ ꓚ]" Y⁻ V" L∘.
family rich this receive the girl Chinese come.

˥ⁿ Lⁿ T⁻ Ɔ- Yⁿ ꝉ" Y⁻ V" T-
not long only there was one group Chinese came

Ꞇ₃ Λₙ. ⅃∘ Ꞇ₃ Λₙ Lᵘ Ɪ" ꓚ]-
their family. saw their family the back house

Ɔ- Yⁿ Lᵘ Y⁻ Vˀ]ᵤ Ꮆ° T⁻ Tₙ꜀.
there was one classifier rock which big very.

ꝉ" Y⁻ V" Ŷ Ɪ'" Ꞇₙ꜀]ᵤ [ⁿ" ꓚꞮ∘
group Chinese that offer silver which much with

Ꞇ₃ Λₙ Ɔ₋ L∘ Y⁻ Vˀ Ŷ. Ꞇ₃ Λₙ
their family buy come rock that. their family

˥ⁿ ⅃"]ᵤ Lᵘ Y⁻ Vˀ Ɔ- Δ᷾ Ꞇ˒]ᵤ ꓚꞮ˒ T̄,
not know that the rock had thing which costly,

Ꞇ₃ Λₙ ꓚT₃, L̄ Ɔ⁻ Ꞇₙ꜀]ᵤ [ⁿ"
their family thought, will give silver that much

Ɔ̱ Lᵕ Y⁻ Vˀ, Tᵤ Ɪ’" Cᴐ ƚ" Ʒ" Tठ. ƚ"
buy the rock, sell to them good finish. group

Y⁻ V" Ɔ̱ T" Lᵕ Y⁻ Vˀ Tठ, ƚ" Y⁻ V"
Chinese buy get the rock finish, group Chinese

Ɪᵤ Ɔ⁻ Tˁ ƚ’ Lᵕ Y⁻ Vˀ. ƚ’ T" Jᶯ
then took fire burnt the rock. burnt get seven

’Cᵕ Jᶯ ’Ɔ° Tठ, ƚ" Y⁻ V" ƚ’⁻ Lᵇ
days seven nights finish, group Chinese everyone

Tᵕ CΔठ ɢₒ T⁻ Tₙ꜀. ƚ’⁻ Lᵇ Tᵕ T" ⅃ᵓ Lˁ
all drowsy very. everyone all get sleep gone

Tठ. Λₙ Y⁻ V" Lᵇ Cᶯ Ɪᵤ Ɪ̄’ I’ₚ
finish. family Chinese the wife who just brought

Lₒ Ĉ Ꞁⁿ Cⁿᶜ ⅃ᵓ Ŝ. Cᴐ ⅃ₒ ƚ"
come this not yet sleep yet. she saw group

Y⁻ V" ƚ’⁻ Lᵇ ⅃ᵓ Lˁ Tठ. Ɪᵤ ⅃ₒ Yⁿ
Chinese everyone sleep gone finish. then saw one

Tᵕ Y⁻ L" Ɪ' Lⁿᶜ Tˁ Lₒ Lᵕ Y⁻ Vˀ Ɪᵤ
classifier cockerel red out come the rock which

ƚ" Y⁻ V" ƚ’ Ŷ. Y⁻ Lⁿ Λₙ
group Chinese burn that. make like family

Y⁻ V" Cᶯ Ɪठ Ɔ" Cₙ", Cⁿᵒ Lₒ Cᵓ
Chinese wife ran went catch, carry come cooped

Cⁿᶜ. ƚ" Y⁻ V" J Lₒ, Y⁻ Vˀ Ɪᵤ
completed. group Chinese rose come, rock which

Cᴐ ƚ’ Ŷ Tᵤ Lˁ Sठ, Ꞁⁿ ⅃ₒ Y⁻ Jʳ
they burned that split out away, not see any

Tठ. Cᴐ ƚ" C̱ T" Ĉ Sʳ Ɔ" Δ⁻ CƖ-
finish. they only get way return go go to house

T⁻ Tठ. Λₙ Y⁻ V" Λ₍ Tᵕ Y⁻ L" Ɪ'
only finish. family Chinese nurtured the cockerel

Ŷ Cⁿᶜ. Tᵇ Y⁻ L" Ɪ' Ɪ̊’ Ɪ̄
that completed. the cockerel placed droppings

Lₒ Tᵘ Cⁿᶜ. Yˉ Lⁿ Λₙ Yˉ V" C͡
come all silver. make like family Chinese this

Ꞁᵤ Ɔ- L̄ Ť Tᵤ CTⁿ.
then richer than before.

Yˉ Lⁿᶜ Yˉ Lⁿᶜ Lₒ, Cↄ Vᵤ T₋ Lᵹ
presently presently come, his father dead gone

Tɞ. Cↄ V̈ ꓶₙ, ꓲⁿ Ɔ- Lⁿ C͡, ꓶⁿ
finish. her husband said, we rich like this, not

T" C͡ Yˉ Ī Jʳ, Cⁿᵒ Ɔₙ Yˉ Tᵤ ŧ' Sᵌ Ʒ"
get way do anything, carry go gamble away good

Tɞ. Cↄ V̈ ŧ'ˉ 'Cᵘ C₋ ꓲ" ꓷᵤ Ɔₙ
finish. her husband every day only know that go

Yˉ Tᵤ ŧ' Tˉ. Y͡ Vⁿᶜ ꓶⁿ Ɔ- Yⁿ 'Cᵘ ꓷᵤ Yˉ
gamble only. but not there is one day that make

T" Lₒ. Yˉ Ɔₙ Yˉ Lₒ Cↄ Vᵤ Cꓷ-
get come. make go make come his father house

Cⁿᶜ Tᵘ ꓶⁿ Ɔ- Tɞ. Yˉ Lⁿ Cↄ CꞀₒ
silver all not have finish. make like he with

Cↄ Cᵑᵌ ꓶₙ, ꓷ̆ Cᵹ ꓷᵤ ꓷ̆ I'ₚ Cↄ Lₒ T-
his wife said, I because that I bring you come

C̄ ꓷ̆ Cꓷ- Yⁿ 'Cᵘ Jₙ L̄ Ť Yⁿ 'Cᵘ
therefore my house one day poorer than one day.

Cᵹ C͡ ꓷ̆ ꓶⁿ Λ̄ Cↄ Tɞ. Cↄ Cᵑᵌ
because this I not want you finish. his wife

CꞀₒ Cↄ ꓶₙ, ꓷ̆ ꓶⁿ Λ̄ Cↄ Ī Jʳ, ꓷ̆ C₋
with him said, I not want your anything, I only

Λ̄ Tᵘ Cᵓ ꓷᵤ Δᵹ Tˉ. Cↄ Cᵑᵌ T"
want the horse which white only. his wife got

Tᵘ Cᵓ Δᵹ Tɞ, Cↄ CTₙ Cↄ Cᵓ
the horse white finish, she saddled her horse

Cⁿᶜ, J̉ ꓲ̉ Ʒₙ Ꞁ" Tᵘ Cᵓ Tⁿ Iₙ.
completed, rose fled sit on the horse back.

Ɪᵤ CƖₒ Tᵁ Cᐣ ˥ₙ, Cᐣ Lᵤ, ᑕᵓ
then with the horse said, horse exclamation, you

ᑐᵤ ᑕ₌ Yˉ Ɪ₋, Yˉ Lⁿ ᑕᵓ Λ̄ I’ₚ
are creature stupid, make like you shall take

ᑐ̆ Ↄᵢᵢ. ’Ↄ° C̄ Yˉ Lᐣ Ↄᵢᵢ ϯₒ Ɪ̊’
me go. today two classifier go reach place

Tᵓ Ɪ̊’ Tᵓ ᑐᵤ ᑐ̆ Cᑐ-. Yˉ Lⁿ Tᵁ
what place what is my house. make like the

Cᐣ J̊ ᒧ̊ Lₛ Tᵹ. Ↄᵢᵢ Yⁿ ’Cᵁ ’Ↄ° CTᵁ,
horse rose fled gone finish. go one day night,

Ↄᵢᵢ ϯₒ Yⁿ Lᵁ Yˉ Ʒ̈ ᑐᵤ T° Tˉ Tₙ꜀.
go reach one classifier forest which deep very.

Ↄᵢᵢ ϯₒ Lᵁ ᒧⁿ CƖᵹ Yˉ Ʒ̈ Tᵹ. Vᵤ Y̊
go reach the midst forest finish. at there

Ↄ- Yⁿ Λₙ ’Ↄ" Cⁿ°. Λₙ ’Ↄ"
there was one family Miao living. family Miao

C̊ Jᵢᵢ Tˉ Tₙ꜀, ˥ⁿ Ↄ- Vˉ C" CᑕᵣƗˉ. ’Cᵁ
this poor very, not have food eat at all. day

Yˉ Ɪᐣ Tᵹ, Tᵁ ’Ↄ" Ↄₙ CƖₒ Lᐣ Yˉ ᒧ°
following finish, the Miao plural with the woman

Y̊ ˥ₙ, ᑕᵓ Ↄᵢᵢ Tᵹ Ↄ₋, ᒧⁿ Vᵤ C̊
that said, you go finish exclamation, we at here

˥ⁿ Ↄ- Yˉ Jᣴ Ɪ’" ᑕᵓ C", ᒧⁿ Jᵢᵢ Tˉ Tₙ꜀.
not have anything for you eat, we poor very.

Lᐣ Yˉ ᒧ° Y̊ ˥ₙ, ᑐ̆ ˥ⁿ Ↄᵢᵢ Tᵹ. ᑐ̆ Lₒ
the woman that said, I not go finish. I come

Yˉ Ↄₙ Tᵁ Cⁿᵹ Tᵹ. Λₙ Y̊ ˥ₙ ᒧⁿ
make your son wife finish. family that said we

Λ̄ ˥ⁿ T" ᑕᵓ. ᑕᵓ ᑐᵤ Tᵁ Ↄ- Cϯ’ᵢ. Lᐣ
want not get you. you are rich daughter. the

Yˉ ᒧ° ˥ₙ, ᑐ̆ Ↄˉ Cₙ꜀ Ɪ’" ᑕᵓ, ᑕᵓ Ↄᵢᵢ Ↄ₋
woman said, I give silver to you, you go buy

Ɪ" Lₒ ⅃ⁿ C". Lᵇ Y¯ ⅃ᵒ Ↄ¯ Tꞔ Cⁿᶜ
corn come we eat. the woman took out silver

Lₒ, Λₙ Tᵘ Jₙ Y̊ ƚ¯ Tᵘ Ɪᵤ Cↄ Λ̄
come, family poor that the son who she want

Y¯ Cↄ Cⁿᵟ Y̊ ꓶₙ, T̊ Y̊ Ⅽₙ ⅃ⁿ
make his wife that said, that there thus our

Tᵘ Ɪᵟ ƚ₋ ⅃ₙ Ↄ- T¯ Tₙc, ƚ'¯ 'Cᵘ
the bottom cliff yonder there is very, every day

Ɪ̆ Tᵘ Ↄₙ Ⅽ'ₙꞔ Lₒ ƚ'ₒ CƆ- Y¯ Гᵇ. Lᵇ Y¯ ⅃ᵒ
I all go take come build house play. the woman

ꓶₙ, Y¯ Lⁿ Ⅽↄ I'ₚ Ɪ̆ Ↄₙ C₋. Tᵘ 'Ↄ"
said, make like you take me go look. Miao lad

I'ₚ Lᵇ Y¯ ⅃ᵒ Y̊ Ↄₙ C₋. ƚ'¯ Ɪ̊' Tᵘ
took the woman that go look. every place all

⅃ₒ Cⁿᶜ. Y¯ Lⁿ Tᵘ 'Ↄ" CƖₒ Lᵇ Y¯ ⅃ᵒ
see silver. make like lad Miao with the woman

Y̊ Sʳ Lₒ Δ¯ CƆ- Ɪⁿ ƚⁿᶜ ƚ'¯ Ʒᵟ
that return come go to house prepare everything

I'ₚ Tᵘ ƚↄ CƆ- T- ƚↄ CƆ-.
bring house builders come build house.

'Cᵘ Cₙ Lⁿ Tᵟ, Tᵘ 'Ↄ" Λ̄ CƖₒ Cↄ Vᵤ
time long finish, Miao lad want with his father

Y¯ 'Cᵘ Λₙ Tᵟ. Y¯ Lⁿ Tᵇ Cᵇ Ɪᵤ T-
make birthday finish. make like people who come

Δ" Sᵟ Λ̄ T- Δ¯ Cↄ Λₙ. Cↄ
four sides want come go to his family. his

Λₙ Ɪᵤ Λ̄ Y¯ Ɪᵇ Ɪᵤ Ⅽⁿ. Ɪᵤ
family then wanted make food which much. then

Ↄ- Y¯ V" Ɪᵤ J" Ɪᵇ Ɪᵤ Ⅽⁿ T¯ Tₙc
there were Chinese who beggars who many very

T- Λ̄ Ɪᵇ C" Δ¯ Cↄ Λₙ T'ⁿᶜ. Cↄ
come want food eat go to his family also. Her

V̎ ꓱᵤ Yˉ T’" Lⁿ ꓶⁿ Λ̄ Cᑐ, C̄ C̑ L̲ Yˉ
husband who of old not want her, now had make

Yˉ V" ꓱᵤ J" ꓲᵇ, Yⁿ ’Cᵘ Λ̄ C" Yⁿ ’Cᵘ
Chinese who beggar, one day want eat one day

Sᵟ Tᵟ. Cᑐ L̲ CꓲꜪ ᵻ" Yˉ V" Y̑
away finish. he had with those Chinese them

T- Δˉ Cᑐ Λₙ Cₙₒ. ᵻₒ T’" ꓱᵤ
come go to her family so it was. reach when that

Γᵇ ꓲᵇ Tᵟ, Cᑐ ᵻ" ꓱₒ Yˉ V" ꓱᵤ
distribute food finish, they caused Chinese who

J" ꓲᵇ Ʒ" Yˉ Yⁿ Ʒᵟ Cⁿᶜ. ’Cᵘ Tᵤ CTⁿ
beggars sit make one line completed. day begin

Lᵇ Yˉ ꓩ° C˺ Cꓱ- ᵻʳ V̎ Yˉ L" ꓱᵤ
the woman rule house the husband of old who

Yˉ Yˉ V" ꓱᵤ J" ꓲᵇ Lᵹ Y̑ Ʒ" S" Yˉ ꓲᵇ.
make Chinese who beggar gone there sat at end.

Tⁿ Tᵘ CꓲꜪ ꓱᵤ Ɔ" Γᵇ ꓲᵇ, Sᵘ ꓲ’"
the servants who go distribute food, first from

Vᵤ Cᑐ Λₙ Lᵘ Yˉ Cⁿᶜ Yˉ Δ" Γᵇ Ɔ".
at her family the large door distribute went.

Γᵇ Ɔ" ᵻₒ Lᵇ Yˉ ꓩ° C˺ Cꓱ- ᵻʳ
distribute go reach the woman rule house the

V̎ Yˉ L" ꓶⁿ Δⁿᶜ, ꓶⁿ Ɔ- ꓱᵤ Γᵇ
husband of old in front, not have that distribute

ꓲ’" Cᑐ Tᵟ. Tᵘ CꓲꜪ ꓶₙ, ’Ɔ° C̄ ꓶⁿ Ɔ-
for him finish. servants said, today not have

Tᵟ, ꓩⁿ Cⁿ ꓲᵤ T-. ’Cᵘ Yˉ ꓲᵇ Cᑐ ᵻ"
finish, tomorrow again come. day following those

Tᵘ Λ̄ Vˉ ꓲᵤ Ɔ" Tᵟ. ᵻʳ Yˉ V"
persons want food again went finish. the Chinese

ꓱᵤ J" ꓲᵇ ꓱᵤ Yˉ Cᵟ ꓶⁿ T" C" C̑, ꓲᵤ
who beggar who yesterday not get eat this, then

Sᵁ Ɔ॥ Ʒ॥ Ɪ" Vᵕ Ɛ˺ CƎ- Lᵁ Yˉ Cⁿᶜ Yˉ Δ",
first went sat at ruler house the large door,

ƚʳ T'ᵤ Γ̎ Ɛⁿᶜ. ƚ॥ Tᵁ CⲒₒ L₋ Ɪᵕ
the head completed. those servants had again

T- Γᵕ Ɉˁ Ɪ'" Cↄ ƚ॥. ƚ॥ Tᵁ CⲒₒ
come distribute food for them. those servants

Ɪᵕ T- Ɪ" Ɉᶾ Γᵕ Sʳ Lₒ.
then came to end distribute return come.

Γᵕ ƚₒ ƚʳ Ǝᵤ Yˉ Cᶾ ˥ⁿ T" Ŷ
distribute reach him who yesterday not get that

L₋ Ɪᵕ ˥ⁿ Ɔ- Tᶾ. Cↄ ˥ₙ, ⅃ⁿ Ɛⁿ
had again not have finish. they said, tomorrow

Ɪᵕ T-. ƚʳ Ŷ L₋ Yˉ CTᵁ Vᵤ Lᶊ
again come. person that had disappointed gone

Tᶾ. 'Cᵁ Ĉ Ǝᵤ 'Cᵁ Ǝᵤ Cↄ ƚ॥ T- Λ̄
finish. day this was day which they came want

Ɉˁ 'Cᵁ Ǝᵤ S॥ Tᶾ. 'Ɔ° C̄ ƚʳ Yˉ V"
food day which end finish. today the Chinese

Ǝᵤ J" Ɉˁ Ŷ T-. Cↄ Ɪᶾ Ɔ॥ Ʒ॥ Ɪ"
who beggar that came. he ran went sat in

⅃ⁿ CⲒᶾ Ɛⁿᶜ. Λₙ Tᵁ Ɔ- Ĉ L₋ Ǝₒ
middle completed. family rich this had caused

Tᵁ CⲒₒ Ɔ॥ Γᵕ Yˉ V" Ǝᵤ J" Ɉˁ
servants went distribute Chinese who beggars

Ɛₙₒ Ŝ. Tᵁ CⲒₒ Ɔ॥ Tᶾ. Tᵁ CⲒₒ
so it was still. servants went finish. servants

˥ₙ, Yˉ Cᶾ, Yˉ Ɛ'° ⅃ⁿ Tᵁ T-
said, yesterday, day before yesterday we all came

Yⁿ Sᶾ Γᵕ T-. Ŷ Vⁿᶜ 'Ɔ° C̄ ⅃ⁿ Λ̄
one side distribute come. but today we want

Ɪ’'' Y¯ Sᶾ Γᒡ T-. Tᵘ CⲒₒ Ɪ’''
from two sides distribute come. servants from

Y¯ Sᶾ Γᒡ T-, Γᒡ ƚₒ ƚʳ
two sides distribute come, distribute reach the

Y¯ V'' Ĉ, L₋ Ɪᒡ ˥ⁿ Ɔ- Tᵹ. Y¯
Chinese this, had again not have finish. make

Lⁿ ƚʳ Y¯ V'' Ɛ₋ T'' Ɛ̂ Cⁿᶜ T¯ Tₙ꜀, Ŷ ꓷᵤ
like the Chinese only get way cry very, because

ƚʳ ’Cᵘ Tᵘ ˥ⁿ T'' C'' Tᵹ.
three days all not get eat finish.

Tⁿ Tᵘ CⲒₒ Lₒ ˥ₙ Ɪ’ˀ Lᕗ Y¯ ꓶᵒ ꓷᵤ Ɛ˥
the servants come tell the woman who rule

Cꓷ-. Lᕗ Y¯ ꓶᵒ Ɛ˥ Cꓷ- Ɪᒡ ꓶ'' ꓷᵤ Cᴐ
house. the woman rule house then knew that her

V̈ Y¯ T’'' ꓷᵤ Tᵤ CTⁿ ˥ⁿ Λ̄ Cᴐ. Y¯
husband of old who before not want her. make

Lⁿ Ɪᒡ ꓷₒ Cᴐ Tᵘ CⲒₒ Y¯ Ɪᕗ ꓷᵤ
like then cause her servants make food which

Ʒ'' T¯ Tₙ꜀ Ɪ’'' Cᴐ C''. Ɪᒡ ꓷₒ Cᴐ Jₒ
good very for him eat. then cause him rest

ꓶⁿ Ɛⁿ''' ’Cᵘ T¯ Lₙ꜀ ꓷₒ Cᴐ Ɔ'' T’'' ꓷᵤ
several days presently cause him go. when that

Λ̄ Ɔ'' Tᵹ Cᴐ Ɪᒡ ꓷₒ Tᵘ CⲒₒ Vᒡ
want go finish she then caused servants scoop

ꓶᕗ Jʳ Ɪᕗ Lₒ Y¯ Ɪ̈’ Ɪ’'' ƚʳ
five measures grain come make food for the

Y¯ V'' ꓷᵤ J'' Ɪᕗ Ɪʳ. Cᴐ ˥ₙ, Ɔₙ Ɛ₋
Chinese who beggar carry. she said, you only

ꓷⁿ ƚⁿᶜ Ʒ'' Tᵹ Ɔ¯ Ɪ’'' Y¯ ꓶᵒ Ɛ˥ Cꓷ-
prepare well finish give for woman rule house

Y¯. Y¯ Yⁿ Ɛₙₒ Jⁿᶜ Ɪ’ Yⁿ
make. made one classifier cake wrap one

Lᵁ Cⁿᶜ. Y¯ T" ⊐ᵤ ⊏ⁿ" T¯ Tₙc.
classifier silver. made get that many very.

Y¯ Ʒ" Tᵹ, Ɔ¯ Ɪ’" †ᴦ Y¯ V" ⊐ᵤ
made good finish, gave for the Chinese who

J" Ɪᵓ Y̑ Y¯ Ɪ̎’ Lς Tᵹ. T’" ⊐ᵤ
beggar that make food gone finish. when that

145 ⅂ⁿ Ɔ‖ Y̑ S̑, ⊏˥ C⊐- CⱢₒ Cↄ ⅂ₙ,
not gone then yet, rule house with him said,

Jⁿᶜ ⊐ᵤ ⊐̆ Y¯ Ɪ’" ⊏ↄ Ɪᵣ Y¯ Jᵁ,
cakes which I make for you carry make lunch,

⊏ↄ Λ̄ ⊐ᵤ C" Cⁿᵒ Tⁿ ⊏’ⁿˁ ⊐ᵤ ⅂ⁿ
you must that eat situated place which not

Ɔ- Tᵓ Cᵓ, T¯ Lₙc C". †ᴦ Y¯ V" Ɔ‖,
there are people, presently eat. the Chinese went,

Ɔ‖ †ₒ Yⁿ Lᵁ CTᵁ Δⁿ Tᵹ. Y"
went reach one classifier river finish. water

150 ⊐ᵤ ɓ° T¯ Tₙc. Tᵓ Cᵓ ⊐ᵤ Ɔ‖ Λ̄ ⊐ᵤ Cⁿᵒ
was big very. people who went must that sit

C⊐ₒ T¯ Lₙc T" Δ¯ Lⁿ Tᵤ. †ᴦ Y¯ V"
boat presently get go to far side. the Chinese

⊐ᵤ J" Ɪᵓ ⅂ⁿ Ɔ- Cⁿᶜ, Y¯ Lⁿ Ɔ¯ Yⁿ
who beggar not have silver, make like gave one

⊏° Jⁿᶜ Ɪ’" Tᵁ ⊏ↄ C⊐ₒ. C̄ C̑ Tᵁ ⊏ↄ C⊐ₒ ᒧ"
classifier cake for boatmen. now boatmen knew

⊐ᵤ Cↄ Jⁿᶜ †’¯ Lᵁ Tᵁ Ɔ- Cⁿᶜ. Y¯
that his cakes every one all had silver. make

155 Lⁿ Cↄ †" Ɔ¯ ⊐ᵤ ⊏ⁿ" L̄ T̆ ⊐ᵤ Cↄ Ɪᵣ
like they gave which more than that he carry

Y̑ ɓ̆ Cↄ Cⁿᶜ Sᶾ.
those exchanged his silver away.

M443

The wealthy family that chose a beggar for a daughter-in-law.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 40, page 25).

M451
Ndlie-jia is tricked into divorcing Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

There is a bird in South West China which the Miao call the “ndlie-jia bird”. It is described as being of medium size, brownish in colour, having a distinctive white cap on its head. Its habitat is along the courses of swiftly flowing streams, where it is constantly seen flying back and forth across the water. This bird is the subject of one of the best known Miao stories, which is told to explain the white cap upon its head and its characteristic flitting over the surface of the streams. The Ndlie-jia bird is, in all probability, the white capped river chat, which is also called the white capped river start. It is found widely in mountain valleys from Nepal to Indo China.

There are a number of points in this story which need some explanation. The expression “ngao kha”, used to describe the young woman Ndlie-jia discovered in his house when he returned with a torch to re-light his fire, means literally, “a young female guest”, but it is the name regularly given to a bride as she arrives at her new home.

Chinese thimbles could be purchased in any of the markets. They were not cup shaped, but took the form of a ring made from a flat strip of brass bent around so the ends overlapped. This ring could be adjusted to fit any size of finger. From the end of the strip it was not difficult to break off a small piece of the soft brass.

The pot and the steamer. The former was a black earthenware basin, about fifteen inches in diameter, which could be heated on the fire. The latter was made of wood with a bamboo basketwork bottom fitted some two or three inches up on the inside. The steamer stood in the boiling water in the pot and was used for cooking rice or maize meal. In Yunnan these were always cooked by steaming and not by boiling.

The well dressed Miao girl used to wear strips of coloured cloth some six inches wide bound like bandages around the legs from the ankle to the knee. When removed these left ring-like marks on the skin of the legs for a short time. Ndlie-jia’s cousins suggested to him that these marks were a sign of leprosy.

White being the colour of mourning, the cloth he was given to wear was the sign of perpetual mourning, as the Ndlie-jia bird skims for ever over the surface of the streams in his vain search for Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang.

M451

Ndlie-jia is tricked into divorcing Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

They tell a story that once when Ndlie-jia went fishing he caught a small fish. He no longer had any parents, so that when he reached home and his fire had gone out, he just put the fish down on the pillow of his bed while he went to get fire. When he returned home he saw a bride sitting on his bed. He did not like to go and look on the pillow so he went back and forth but could not see the fish. Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang said, “What are you looking for?” Ndlie-jia replied, “I am not looking for anything!” Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang said, “You are looking for your small fish. It is I, and if you do not believe me look under my arms!” He looked and saw under Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang’s arms there were the fins of a fish. So he stopped looking.

When evening came Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang said, “Ndlie-jia, prepare the supper”. Ndlie-jia said, “I have nothing for supper”. Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang took her thimble, broke off one piece and made a pot, broke off another piece and made a steamer, and broke off a third piece and made food, which she served for Ndlie-jia to eat. From that time, for Ndlie-jia, each day was better than the last, and his livestock more numerous each day than the last.

On one occasion Ndlie-jia’s two cousins tricked him saying, “Ndlie-jia, your wife has leprosy, and if you don’t believe it, you make her take off her leg-bands, and you look. She has got leprosy all right. You divorce her and come and marry us!” Ndlie-jia did as they said. He made his wife take off her leg-bands for him to look. He saw the rings on his wife’s legs and concluded that she had leprosy, so he decided to divorce her.

He took his wife to the river where he used to go fishing and arrived at the same pool. His wife said, “Is it true, Ndlie-jia?” Ndlie-jia said, “It is”. So his wife waded in several steps and said, “Is it true, Ndlie-jia?” Ndlie-jia said, “A man can speak but one word only!” His wife waded in waist deep and said, “Is it true, Ndlie-jia?” Ndlie-jia replied, “A man can speak but one word only!” Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang waded in neck deep and said, “Is it true?” Ndlie-jia said “It is”. So Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang disappeared down into the water pool. Ndlie-jia’s livestock from the coombs and valleys came jumping to follow Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang into the water pool. Ndlie-jia tore down creepers and tied up the sheep and tied up the goats, but the sheep and the goats jumped around three times, the creepers snapped and they jumped away to follow Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang. Now the twisting of the horns of sheep and goats is the result of this.

Ndlie-jia returned with the intention of marrying his two cousins, but his two cousins said, “We were only joking with you!” Now there was nothing he could do. Every day he went searching along the bank of the river. He met a toad who asked him, “What are you doing?” Ndlie-jia said, “I brought Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang to this river and divorced her, now I have come back to look for her”. The toad said, “Do not worry, I will go with you and drink the water of the pool, then you may go and bring her back”. The toad went and drank the water of the pool and revealed Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang. Ndlie-jia was delighted and Ndlie-jia smiled, but the toad’s stomach burst and the pool filled up again. Ndlie-jia took the toad home and healed him, and then took him back to drink the water. This time the toad drank up the water in the pool and Ndlie-jia went and said to Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang, “I have come to take you back”. Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang replied, “I cannot go with you, but now I will cut off some wide, white cloth for you to wear on your head as a sign, and from now on you will search for me all along the river course from its mouth to its source”.

So now when we see the ndlie-jia bird flying along the river, this is the reason.

M451

ᑕΔⁿᶜ ᑢₙ T" ᑢ' ᑕⲒ" Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- ᑢⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵟ
Ndlie-jia get deceived divorce Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang

ᑕᵓ ᒣₙ ᒧⁿ Tᵢᵢ ᒣᵤ Yˉ T'" Lⁿ ᑕΔⁿᶜ ᑢₙ Ɔᵢᵢ
they say story that of old Ndlie-jia went

ᑕ" ᑕᒧˀ ᑢₙ, ᑕ" T" Yⁿ T- ᑕᒧˀ Lₒ.
fishing thus, caught get one small fish come.

ᑕᵓ ᒣⁿ Ɔ- ᑕⁿᶜ Vᵤ Tᵟ, Yˉ Lⁿ ᑕᵓ
he not have mother father finish, make like he

Lₒ ⱡₒ ᑕᒣ- ᑕᵓ Tˤ L₋ T₋ Lˤ Tᵟ
come reach house his fire had died gone finish

ᑕᵓ ᑢ° ᑕᵓ T- ᑕᒧˀ Ⲓ" Vᵤ ⱡᵘ Γ" ᑕᑢᵢᵢ ⱡᵟ
he placed his small fish upon the pillow bed

ᑢⁿᶜ. ᑕᵓ Ɔᵢᵢ Ɔˉ Tˤ Lˤ. T'" ᒣᵤ ᑕᵓ
completed. he went get fire gone. when that he

Sʳ Lₒ ᑕᒣ-, ᑕᵓ ᒧₒ Yⁿ Lᵇ ᑕᒣᵢᵢ
return come house, he saw one classifier girl

Ɪ'ˉ Ʒᵢᵢ ᑕᵓ ⱡᵘ ⱡᵟ ᑢⁿᶜ. ᑕᵓ ᒣⁿ Ʒ"
guest sit his the bed completed. he not good

Sʳ Ɔᵢᵢ ᑕⲒ' Vᵤ Lᵘ Γ" ᑕᑢᵢᵢ, ᒣⁿ ᑕⱡ Ɔᵢᵢ ᒣⁿ ᑕⱡ Lₒ
face go seek at the pillow, went over came back

Tᵘ ᒣⁿ ᒧₒ. Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- ᑢⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵟ ᒣₙ, ᑢᵓ ᑕⲒ'
all not see. Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang said, you seek

Yˉ Jʳ. ᑕΔⁿᶜ ᑢₙ ᒣₙ, ᒣ ᒣⁿ ᑕⲒ'. Ꮆᵤ Ʒ" ᑢⁿᵒ ᑕₙ
what? Ndlie-jia said, I not seek. Nggu-ra-jio-ni-

ᒧᵟ ᒣₙ, ᑢᵓ ᑕⲒ' Yⁿ T- ᑕᒧˀ ᑕ,
bang said, you seek one small fish therefore,

Y ᒣᵤ ᒣ ᑢⁿᵒ. ᑢᵓ ᑢˉ ᒣⁿ ᑕᑢᵇ, ᑢᵓ
that is I so it is. you if not believe, you

ᑕ₋ ⅃̆ Lⁿ ⌶⁻ ⊏ₒ Ɔ⁻. Cᴐ C₋ ⅃ₒ
look my arm pit exclamation. he looked saw

Ꮹᵤ Ʒ- ⊏ⁿᵒ Cₙ ⅃ᵹ Y⁻ ⊏ₒ Ɔ- Y⁻ Tⁿ C⅃ˀ, Y⁻
□ggu·ra·jio·ni·bang arms have fins fish, make

Lⁿ Cᴐ T⁻ Lₙ꜀ ⅂ⁿ CƮ'.
like he presently not seek.

'Ɔ° CTᵘ Tᵹ Ꮹᵤ Ʒ- ⊏ⁿᵒ Cₙ ⅃ᵹ ⅂ₙ, CΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ
evening finish Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang said, Ndlie-jia

Y⁻ 'Ɔ° C" Lⁿ ⊏ₙ. CΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ ⅂ₙ, ⅃̆
make supper eat like thus. Ndlie-jia said, I

⅂ⁿ Ɔ- 'Ɔ°. Ꮹᵤ Ʒ- ⊏ⁿᵒ Cₙ ⅃ᵹ ⊏'ₙ Cᴐ
not have supper. Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang took her

⅃" Cₔ Lₒ, Δⁿ Yⁿ Tᵘ Y⁻ ⅃'",
thimble come, broke off one piece made pot,

Δⁿ Yⁿ Tᵘ Y⁻ ⊏ⁿ, Δⁿ Yⁿ
broke off one piece made steamer, broke off one

Tᵘ Y⁻ V⁻, Γᵤ CΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ C". Y⁻ Lₙ꜀
piece made food, divided Ndlie-jia eat. gradually

CΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ Yⁿ 'Cᵘ Ʒ" L̄ Ť Yⁿ 'Cᵘ Tᵹ.
Ndlie-jia one day better than one day finish.

⊏₌ 'C° Yⁿ 'Cᵘ ⊏ⁿ" L̄ Ť Yⁿ 'Cᵘ.
fat stock one day more than one day.

Ɔ- Yⁿ ⅃" CΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ Cᴐ Y⁻
there was one occasion Ndlie-jia his two

Lᵇ]ₒ Ɔₒ ⊏̄' Cᴐ ⅂ₙ, CΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ
classifier cousins deceived him said, Ndlie-jia

⊏ᴐ Cⁿᵹ C" Sᵹ Tᵹ C̄, ⊏ᴐ ⊏⁻
your wife leprosy away finish therefore, you if

⅂ⁿ C⊏ₔ, ⊏ᴐ]ₒ Cᴐ Δᵹ Cᴐ Y⁻ CƮ'"
not believe, you cause her take off her leg band

Sᵹ, [ↄ C₋, Cↄ C″ Sᵹ T∩⊂ Tȝ.
away, you look, she leprosy away true finish.

Cↄ Ɔ″ CꞮ″ Cↄ Sᵹ, [ↄ T⁻ lʼˀ ┘ⁿ Ɔ″
you go divorce her away, you come marry us go

Y⁻ [ↄ Cᶯᵹ. Y⁻ Lⁿ CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ̱ †∘ Lⁿ
make your wife. make like Ndlie-jia follow like

]ᵤ Cↄ Y⁻ L⁵]∘ Ɔ∘ Lᵘ. Ɔ″
that his two classifier cousins words. went

]∘ Cↄ Cᶯᵹ Δˁ Y⁻ CꞮʼ″ Ɪʼ″ Cↄ C₋.
cause his wife take off leg band for him look.

Cↄ ┘∘ Cↄ Cᶯᵹ]″ Tⁿ Ꮟ″, Cↄ L₋ ˥ₙ]ᵤ
he saw his wife circles legs, he also said that

Cↄ Cᶯᵹ C″ Sᵹ Tȝ. Y⁻ Lⁿ Cↄ Λ̄
his wife leprosy away finish. make like he will

lʼˀ Cↄ Cᶯᵹ Ɔ″ CꞮ″ Sᵹ Tȝ.
take his wife go divorce away finish.

Cↄ lʼˀ Cↄ Cᶯᵹ Ɔ″ †∘ Lᵘ CTᵘ Δⁿ
he took his wife went reach the bank river

]ᵤ Y⁻ Tʼ″ Cↄ C″ C┘ˀ. Ɔ″ C[ₙ″ Lᵘ ┘″
which of old he fished. went arrive the pool

Y″ Y̑. Cↄ Cᶯᵹ ˥ₙ, T∩⊂ T∩⊂
water that. his wife said, query true

Lᵤ, CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ̱. CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ̱ ˥ₙ, T∩⊂. Cↄ
exclamation, Ndlie-jia. Ndlie-jia said, true. his

Cᶯᵹ [ↄ Ɔ″ ┘ⁿ [ⁿ″ Ɪ̄, Ɪᵤ ˥ₙ T∩⊂
wife waded went several steps, again said, query

T∩⊂ Lᵤ, CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ̱. CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ̱ ˥ₙ, Y⁻ Λˁ
true exclamation, Ndlie-jia. Ndlie-jia said, man

[₋ †ˁ ˥ₙ Yⁿ Lᵘ T⁻. Cↄ Cᶯᵹ [ↄ
only able say one word alone. his wife waded

Ↄ꒰ ✝ₒ ┘ⁿ Δ̄, Ꮖᵤ ꓶₙ, Tₙc Tₙc CΔⁿᶜ
went reach waist, again said, query true Ndlie-

ꓭₙ. CΔⁿᶜ ꓭₙ ꓶₙ, Yˉ Λϛ ꓭ₋ ✝ˤ ꓶₙ Yⁿ Lᵘ
jia. Ndlie-jia said, man only able say one word

Tˉ. Ꮹᵤ Ʒ- ꓭⁿᵒ Cₙ ┘ᵟ Ꮖᵤ ꓭ꜊ Ↄ꒰ ✝ₒ
alone. Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang again waded went reach

┘ⁿ ꓶⁿ Δᵟ Tᵟ Ꮖᵤ ꓶₙ, Tₙc Tₙc. CΔⁿᶜ ꓭₙ
neck finish again said, query true. Ndlie-jia

ꓶₙ Tₙc. Yˉ Lⁿ Ꮹᵤ Ʒ- ꓭⁿᵒ Cₙ ┘ᵟ Δ° CΔᵤ
said true. make like Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang disappear

┘꒰ Lᵘ ┘꒰ Y" Lϛ Tᵟ. CΔⁿᶜ ꓭₙ
down into the pool water gone finish. Ndlie-jia

ꓭ₌ 'C° Ꮖ'" Ꮖ'꜊ Λⁿ Ꮖ'꜊ ꓶᵟ Δ'ⁿᶜ Lₒ ✝°
fat-stock from valley coomb jump come follow

Ꮹᵤ Ʒ- ꓭⁿᵒ Cₙ ┘ᵟ Δˉ Lᵘ ┘꒰ Y" Y̑
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang go to the pool water that

Lϛ. CΔⁿᶜ ꓭₙ Tᵘ 'Ↄᵟ Lₒ Ꮖ''
gone. Ndlie-jia broke off creeper come tie up

Λᵟ Ꮖ'' ꓭ'ᵣ. Λᵟ CᏆₒ ꓭ'ᵣ Δ'ⁿᶜ ✝ʳ
sheep tie up goats. sheep with goats jump three

Δ'ⁿᶜ, 'Ↄᵟ Tᵘ Lϛ, Δ'ⁿᶜ ✝° Ꮹᵤ Ʒ-
jumps, creeper broke gone, jump follow Nggu-ra-

ꓭⁿᵒ Cₙ ┘ᵟ Yˉ Ꮖᵇ. Λᵟ ꓭ'ᵣ ꓱᵘ ꓶⁿ C┘꜊ ꓱᵤ
jio-ni-bang after. sheep goats horns twisting is

T- Lⁿ Y̑ ꓭₙₒ.
come like that so it is.

CΔⁿᶜ ꓭₙ Sʳ Lₒ, Λ̄ ꟾ'ₚ C꜊ Yˉ
Ndlie-jia return come, want marry his two

Lᵇ ꓱₒ Ↄₒ Tᵟ. C꜊ Yˉ Lᵇ
classifier cousins finish. his two classifier

]∘ Ɔ∘ ˥ₙ, ⅃ⁿ [̂’ [ᴐ Tˉ. Cᴐ ˥ⁿ T"
cousins said, we deceive you only. he not get

60 [̂ Yˉ [ⁿᵟ. Cᴐ †’ˉ ’Cᵘ Ɔ॥ C[̄’ Iˉ CTᵘ
way do anything. he every day went seek banks

Lᵕ CTᵘ Δⁿ. Cᴐ Ɔ॥ C[ʳ [ₙₛ. [ₙₛ Cᵤ Cᴐ ˥ₙ,
the river. he went met toad. toad ask him said,

[ᴐ Λ̄ Ɔ॥ Yˉ Jʳ. CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ ˥ₙ,]̆ Ꞁ’ʔ
you want go do what. Ndlie-jia said, I brought

Gᵤ Ʒ- [ⁿ∘ Cₙ ⅃ᵟ T- CI" Sᵟ Lᵕ CTᵘ Δⁿ
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang come divorce away the river

Ĉ, C̄ Ĉ T- CĪ’. [ₙₛ ˥ₙ, ˥ⁿ Λ̄ †ᵤ,
this, now come seek. toad said, not want worry,

65]̆ CI∘ [ᴐ Ɔ॥,]̆ Ɔ॥ ˥॥ Lᵘ ⅃॥ Y" Ŷ
I with you go, I go drink the pool water that

Sᵟ, [ᴐ Ɔ॥ Ꞁ’ʔ L∘. [ₙₛ Ɔ॥ ˥॥ Lᵘ
away, you go bring come. toad went drank the

⅃॥ Y" Sᵟ, Tₛ Gᵤ Ʒ- [ⁿ∘ Cₙ ⅃ᵟ L∘
pool water away, came out Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang come

Tᵟ. CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ L₋ Tᵟ, CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ T"
finish. Ndlie-jia pleased finish, Ndlie-jia get

Δ∘. [ₙₛ Lᵕ Yˉ [’ⁿ‴ T" ⅃ᵤ Lₛ, Yˉ
laugh. toad the stomach get split gone, make

70 Lⁿ Lᵕ ⅃॥ Y" ⅃̆ [ⁿᶜ. CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ
like the pool water fill completed. Ndlie-jia

Ꞁ’ʔ [ₙₛ L∘ Δˉ C]-]’° Ʒ" Tᵟ,
took toad come go to house healed well finish,

Iᵤ Ꞁ’ʔ Cᴐ Ɔ॥ ˥॥ Y" Sᵟ, Λ̄ Ɔ॥
again took him go drink water away, want go

Ꞁ’ʔ Gᵤ Ʒ- [ⁿ∘ Cₙ ⅃ᵟ Sʳ L∘.]"
bring Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang return come. occasion

Ĉ [ₙₛ ˥॥ Tᵟ Lᵘ ⅃॥ Y" Sᵟ.
this toad drank finish the pool water away.

CΔⁿᶜ ꓭₙ Ɔ" CꓕꞋ Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- ꓭⁿᵒ Cₙ ꓘ˙ ꓶₙ, Ꞁ̆
Ndlie-jia went with Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang said, I

T- Λ̄ I'ₚ ꓭₚ Ɔ" T̥. Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- ꓭⁿᵒ Cₙ ꓘ
come want take you go finish. Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang

ꓶₙ, Ꞁ̆ ꓶⁿ ϯˤ CꓕꞋ ꓭₚ Ɔ" T. C̄ Ĉ Ꞁ̆
said, I not able with you go finish. now I

ϯ'ₚ ꓘⁿ ꓭⁿ''' Γ CT" Δˤ I'" ꓭₚ CT",
cut some wide cloth white for you wear on head,

Y¯ ꓭₚ ϯ CTᵇ. Tˤ Ĉ ꓭₚ Λ̄ CꞮ' Ꞁ̆
make you sign. from now you will seek me

I¯ I˙ Δⁿ, Γ̈ Δ̃ⁿ
mouth river, head river.

C̄ Ĉ ꓘ̂ ꓘₒ ꓶᵤ T¯ C" CΔⁿᶜ ꓭₙ Λ˙ CꓕꞋ
now we see that the bird ndlie-jia flying along

Δⁿ, ꓭₙₒ. Y¯ ꓶ° ꓶᵤ T- Ĉ.
river, so it is. origin is come this.

M451

Ndlie-jia is tricked into divorcing Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

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

Title. Here, and throughout the narrative, Yang Xiu-gong used the shortened form of the name, Ꮆᵤ Ʒ⁻ Cₙ ⅃ᶾ, but in the present transcription the full name, Ꮆᵤ Ʒ⁻ [ⁿᵒ Cₙ ⅃ᶾ, has been retained.

M452

Ndlie-jia and Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang. (1)

Collected by Wang Ming-ji.

Introduction.

Wang Ming-ji's song version of the Ndlie-jia story exhibits a certain economy of wording and expression. This sometimes gives the impression that descriptive material has actually been left out, and is particularly true of the conversation near the beginning of the story about the erection of a grain store and a building to house cattle. It is again evident in the exchanges between Ndlie-jia and Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang as she waded deeper into the pool.

No attempt has been made to translate the names into English, but it should be remembered that they do have meanings of which a Miao listener would be immediately aware. Ndlie-jia is, of course, the name of a bird with a white cap on its head, which is constantly seen flitting back and forth across rivers and streams. Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang means "Young woman plum blossom", while Nggu-gu is "Young woman gold".

The passage describing how, instructed by Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang, Ndlie-jia approached her father, is a little obscure. In the second song version of this story it is quite clear that Ndlie-jia went and requested that Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang be given him for his wife. Presumably that is also the meaning in this song. Here, however, he was not permitted to say so directly, but rather had to ask for her father's "silk rat, his silken rat" (There are two different Miao words for silk in this name.) This was apparently a code word meaning "his daughter". The use of such code words was not uncommon particularly in making marriage arrangements. However, in the Miao text Wang Ming-ji has added an explanatory note which says that the "silk rat" was the old gentleman's beard, and the song goes on to say that in fact Ndlie-jia was actually given the "silk rat" and carried it home. It would appear then that "silk rat" was a code name for the beard, which was in turn a symbol representing Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang, and with the beard came a rich dowry of livestock and corn.

M452

Ndlie-jia and Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang. (1)

Collected by Wang Ming-ji.

Ndlie-jia took copper and beat it into a hook
And Ndlie-jia went fishing.
Ndlie-jia caught a small silver fish,
Which he carried home and placed upon the bed.

The silver snake-fish changed,
Changed into a wife for Ndlie-jia,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang. She spoke,

“Make a store, Ndlie-jia!”
“If I make a store, there is no grain”.
“Build a house, Ndlie-jia!”
“If I build a house, there are no cattle”.

This year we may know,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang has brought,
Brought Ndlie-jia to ask for breeding stock,
To ask for breeding stock from Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang’s father.

Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang spoke,
Spoke to Ndlie-jia and said,
“When you go do not ask for breeding cattle.
Even if my father offers you breeding horses,
You must not ask for breeding horses.

Let Ndlie-jia ask for my father’s ‘silken-rat, his rat of silk’”
So Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang’s father gave,
Gave his ‘silken rat, his rat of silk’ to Ndlie-jia.
Ndlie-jia having received it returned and reached,
Reached the end of the road.

Though Ndlie-jia had built no house,
There were cattle and pigs of all colours to fill a house.
Though Ndlie-jia had made no store,
There was grain enough to fill a store.

This year we may know,
Know that the Master is worshipping the spirits.
So Ndlie-jia rode,
Rode his stallion and went to watch.

The Master’s daughter Nggu-gu did no good,
Telling Ndlie-jia, as though it were true and believable,
And saying that Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang had leprosy.

Then Ndlie-jia returned and reached,

Reached Ndlie-jia’s house.
Urgently Ndlie-jia reproached Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang
Urgently he led her out to divorce her.

Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang waded in up to the knees.
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang spoke, “Is it true, Ndlie-jia?”
Ndlie-jia replied, “A man has but one word!”

Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang waded in up to the waist.
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang spoke, “Is it true, Ndlie-jia?”
Ndlie-jia replied, “A man may curse!”

Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang waded in up to the neck.
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang spoke, “Is it true, Nddlie-jia?”
Ndlie-jia replied, “A man has but one word!”
So Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang waded in and disappeared.

As Ndlie-jia returned he met,
Met Ndlie-jia’s stallion.
Ndlie-jia jumped to catch it,
To catch Ndlie-jia’s stallion,
But the stallion changed into a dragonfly.

Then Ndlie-jia met,
Met Ndlie-jia’s sheep and goats following,
Following after Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang.

So Ndlie-jia jumped to catch,
To catch Ndlie-jia’s goats by the horns,
And the goats’ horns twisted three times.

Ndlie-jia came and reached his house.
Ndlie-jia would go and marry the Master’s daughter Nggu-gu,
But the Master’s daughter Nggu-gu just spat,
Spat white spittle on Ndlie-jia’s mouth.

So Ndlie-jia returned and remained,
Ndlie-jia would go and marry the Master’s daughter Nggu-gu to form a family and dwell .
But the Master’s daughter Nggu-gu just spat,
Spat white spittle on Ndlie-jia’s head.

“Ndlie-jia is not good enough to gather firing for the Master’s daughter Nggu-gu!”
So Ndlie-jia returned and remained.

Ndlie-jia went in search,
Seeking for Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang each day,
And Ndlie-jia met,
Met the toad out along the road.

The toad was kith,
And Ndlie-jia kin,

And the toad came and drank,
Gradually drank the water from the pool,
Until the hem of Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang’s skirt was revealed.

Ndlie-jia smiled and laughed in his heart,
But the toad’s belly burst,
And the silver water of the pool came bubbling back.

Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang wove a piece of new cloth,
And put it on the top of a rock,
For Ndlie-jia to wear on his head and become,
Become a wild bird flying to and fro in search,
Seeking Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang every day.

Thus it is ended.

M452

CΔⁿᶜ ᑕₙ Cꓕ° Gᵤ Ʒ- ᑕⁿᵒ Cₙ ᒧᵟ. (1)
Ndlie-jia with Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang. (1)

CΔⁿᶜ ᑕₙ ᑕ'ₙₛ ᒧᵟ T" ᒪ° CTᵢᵢ ᑐ",
Ndlie-jia took copper come beat hook,

CΔⁿᶜ ᑕₙ CꞮᵇ C" Cᒧˀ.
Ndlie-jia went fishing.

CΔⁿᶜ ᑕₙ C" T" ᒧⁿ Tᵤ T- Cᒧˀ Cⁿᶜ.
Ndlie-jia fished get a small fish silver.

Cᵓ ᑕⁿᵒ ᒪ° ᑕⁿᶜ CΔⁿᶜ ᑕⁿ T̂ Jᵘ ᚋᵟ.
he carried come place Ndlie-jia the top bed.

5 Cᒧˀ Cⁿᶜ Cᒧˀ Cᵟ ᑕₙ Ɔ₋ ᑕₙ꜀,
fish silver fish snake thus did change into,

ᑕₙ꜀ CΔⁿᶜ ᑕₙ Ɪ⁻ Tᵘ Cᵟ.
changed into Ndlie-jia the wife.

Gᵤ Ʒ- ᑕⁿᵒ Cₙ ᒧᵟ ᑕₙ Ɔ₋ ᑕⁿ,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang thus did speak,

ᚋᵓ Ʒᵘ Λ⁻, CΔⁿᶜ ᑕₙ.
construct store exclamation, Ndlie-jia.

ᚋᵓ Ʒᵘ Jᒥ Ɔ- Ɪ".
construct store not have grain.

10 ᚋ'° Cᑐ- Λ⁻, CΔⁿᶜ ᑕₙ.
build house exclamation, Ndlie-jia.

ᚋ'° Cᑐ- Jᒥ Ɔ- ᑕ₌.
build house not have cattle.

Jₙᵢᵢ C̄ ᚋˁ ᒪ° ᒧ",
year this able come know,

Gᵤ Ʒ- ᑕⁿᵒ Cₙ ᒧᵟ ᑕₙ ᒪ₋ Ɪ'ₚ,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang thus has brought,

Ɪ'ₚ CΔⁿᶜ ᑕₙ Ɔₙ CꞮᵇ Ɔₙ Λ̄ ᑕ̆ ᑕ₌,
brought Ndlie-jia him go him want breed cattle,

Λ̄ Ꞓ̈ᶞ Ꞓ₌ Δ̄ Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- Ꞓⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᶞ
want breed cattle go to Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang

Vᴗ.
father.

Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- Ꞓⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᶞ Ꞓₙ Ↄ₋ Ꞓⁿ,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang thus did speak,

Ꞓⁿ ᑕΔⁿᶜ Ꞓₙ Ꞓⁿ T̄,
spoke to Ndlie-jia speaking,

Ꞓᵓ Ↄᵢᵢ Ꞓᵓ Ꞁ’⁻ Λ̄ Ꞓ̊ᶞ ᑕ~,
you go you must not want breed cattle,

ᒣ̆ Vᴗ Ḻ̄ Ↄ̄ Ꞓ̊ᶞ ᑕᵇ Ɪ’" ᑕΔⁿᶜ ᑕₙ
my father will give breed horses for Ndlie-jia,

ᑕΔⁿᶜ Ꞓₙ Ꞁ’⁻ Λ̄ Ꞓ̊ᶞ ᑕᵇ.
Ndlie-jia must not want breed horses.

ᒣₒ ᑕΔⁿᶜ Ꞓₙ Λ̄ ᒣ̆ Vᴗ Jʳ ᑕᶞ Ꞓᵘ
cause Ndlie-jia want my father rat silk

Jʳ ᑕᶞ ᑕᒧ₋.
rat silken.

Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- Ꞓⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᶞ Vᴗ Ꞓₙ Ↄ₋ Ↄ̄,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang father thus did give,

Ↄ̄ Jʳ ᑕᶞ Ꞓᵘ Jʳ ᑕᶞ ᑕᒧ₋ Ɪ’" ᑕΔⁿᶜ Ꞓₙ.
gave rat silk rat silken for Ndlie-jia.

ᑕΔⁿᶜ ᑕₙ Ꞓⁿᵒ Ɪᴗ Ɪ̊ Sʳ Ɪ̊ Lₒ †ₒ,
Ndlie-jia carry then return come back reach,

ᑕₙ Lₒ †ₒ T̂ ᑕꞒ̄ Ꞓ̂.
connector come reach the length of road.

ᑕΔⁿᶜ Ꞓₙ Jʳ †’ₒ ᑕᒣ-,
Ndlie-jia not build house,

Ꞓ₌ ᑕᒧ̄ ᑕΔᵢᵢ Lⁿ Ꞁ̄ Lₒ Ꞓₙ ᒧ̆ ᑕᒣ-.
cattle pigs of all colours thus fill house.

ᑕΔⁿᶜ Ꞓₙ Jʳ †ᵓ Ʒᵘ,
Ndlie-jia not construct store,

Ɪ" Tⁿ Ɪᕷ ᑕⵊ∘ ᒧ̆ Ʒᵘ.
food grain with fill store.

ᒍₙᵢᵢ ᑕ̄ ᛏᕐ ᒪ∘ ᒧ",
year this able come know,

ᒧ" ᑕᛏᐣ Ɪⁿ ᑕⁿᴵᴵ ᒍʳ Yˉ ᐃᵒ.
know the Master make spirit worship.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ [ₙ [ₙ ᑐ₋ [ⁿᕷ,
Ndlie-jia thus did ride,

[ⁿᕷ ᑕᐃⁿᶜ [ₙ ᑕᕷ ᑐⁿ Tᵘ ᑕⵊ∘ ᑐᵢᵢ ᑕ₋₋.
ride Ndlie-jia stallion with went look.

ᑕₙ Ɪⁿ ᑕⁿᴵᴵ ᑕᛏ'ᵢ Ꮆᵤ Ɪᵘ Yˉ ᒍʳ Ʒ",
connector Master daughter Nggu-gu did not well,

ᑐ₋ ᒣₙ ᑕᐃⁿᶜ [ⁿ Ɪˉ Ṡ Tₙc Ɪˉ Ṡ ᑕ[ᕷ,
did tell Ndlie-jia seeming true seeming credible,

ᑐ₋ [ⁿ Tˉ Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- [ⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵟ ᑕ" Tᵟ.
did say that Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang leprosy finish.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ [ₙ Ɪᵤ Ɪ̊ Sʳ Ɪ̊ ᒪ∘ ᛏ∘,
Ndlie-jia then return come back reach,

ᛏ∘ ᑕᐃⁿᶜ [ₙ Ɪˉ ᑕᐃ̊ ᑕƖ-.
reach Ndlie-jia inside house.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ [ₙ ᒪˉ Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- [ⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵟ [ₙ ᛏ'⁻
Ndlie-jia scolded Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang thus every

'ᑕᵘ,
day,

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ [ₙ Ɩ'ₚ Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- [ⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵟ ᑕⵊ"
Ndlie-jia brought Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang divorce

ᛏ'⁻ 'ᑕᵘ.
every day.

Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- [ⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵟ [ᐣ ᒧₙ ᐱ∘ ᛏʳ Γ̈ [ⁿᴵᴵ.
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang waded up to knees.

Ꮆᵤ Ʒ⁻ ⊏ⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ⅃ᵟ ⊏ⁿ T⁻ Tₙ꜀ Tₙ꜀ Λ₋
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang spoke query true exclamation

ᑕΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ.
Ndlie-jia.

ᑕΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ Ɪ⁻ Λᵴ ƚʳ ᑕᒼ ⊏₋ Yⁿ Lₒ.
Ndlie-jia a man only one word.

Ꮆᵤ Ʒ⁻ ⊏ⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ⅃ᵟ ⊏ₔ ⅃ₙ Λₒ ƚʳ Δ̄ Jʳ.
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang waded up to waste.

45 Ꮆᵤ Ʒ⁻ ⊏ⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ⅃ᵟ ⊏ⁿ T⁻ Tₙ꜀ Tₙ꜀ Λ₋
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang spoke query true exclamation

ᑕΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ.
Ndlie-jia.

ᑕΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ Ɪ⁻ Λᵴ ƚʳ ᑕᒼ ᑕT'ⁿ Tⁿ ᑕⅠ'°.
Ndlie-jia a man curse.

Ꮆᵤ Ʒ⁻ ⊏ⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ⅃ᵟ ⊏ₔ ⅃ₙ Λₒ ƚʳ Jʳ Δᵟ.
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang waded up to neck.

Ꮆᵤ Ʒ⁻ ⊏ⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ⅃ᵟ ⊏ⁿ T⁻ Tₙ꜀ Tₙ꜀ Λ₋
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang spoke query true exclamation

ᑕΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ.
Ndlie-jia.

ᑕΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ Ɪ⁻ Λᵴ ƚʳ ᑕᒼ ⊏₋ Yⁿ Lₒ.
Ndlie-jia a man only one word.

50 Ꮆᵤ Ʒ⁻ ⊏ⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ⅃ᵟ ⊏ₔ ⅃ₙ Λₒ ᑕⅠₒ Δ° ᑕΔᵤ.
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang waded disappeared.

ᑕΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ Ɪᵤ Ɪ̊ Sʳ Ɪ̊ Lₒ ᑕ⊏ʳ,
Ndlie-jia then returned came back met,

ᑕ⊏ʳ ᑕΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ ᑕᒼ Ↄⁿ Tᵘ,
met Ndlie-jia stallion,

ᑕΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ Δ'ⁿᶜ Ɪ⁻ Δ̉' ⊏ₙ,
Ndlie-jia jumped catch,

⊏ₙ ᑕΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ ᑕᒼ Ↄⁿ Tᵘ,
catch Ndlie-jia stallion,

55 ᑕᑋ ᑐⁿ Tᵘ ᒥₙ꜀ ᒥⁿᵟ ᒍ̊.
stallion changed into dragonfly.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᒥₙ₋ ᒥₙ ᑐ₋ ᑕᒥʳ,
Ndlie-jia thus did meet,

ᑕᒥʳ ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᒥₙ₋ ᐱᵟ Tⁿ ᒥʼʳ ᒥₙ ᑐ₋ †ᵒ,
met Ndlie-jia sheep goats thus did follow,

†ᵒ Ꮆᵤ Ʒ⁻ ᒥₙₒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵟ ᒍᑋ.
follow Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang after.

ᒥₙ ᒧᵤ ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᒥₙ₋ ᐃʼⁿᶜ ᒍ⁻ ᐃ̉ʼ ᒥₙ₌,
thus was Ndlie-jia jumped catch,

60 ᒥₙ₌ ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᒥₙ₋ †ʳ ᒥʼʳ ᒧᵘ,
catch Ndlie-jia the goats horns,

†ʳ ᒥʼʳ ᒧᵘ ᑕᒧ꜄ †ʳ ᑕᒧ꜄.
the goats horns twisted three twists.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᒥₙ₋ ᒪₒ †ₒ ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᒥₙ₋ ᒍ⁻ ᑕᐃ̊ ᑕᒧ⁻,
Ndlie-jia come reach Ndlie-jia inside house,

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᒥₙ₋ ᒪ̄ ᑐ₌ ᛁʼˀ ᑕₙ ᒧⁿ ᑕⁿᶦᶦ ᑕ†ʼᵢ
Ndlie-jia will go marry connector Master daughter

Ꮆᵤ ᒧᵘ.
Nggu-gu.

ᒧⁿ ᑕⁿᶦᶦ ᑕ†ʼᵢ Ꮆᵤ ᒧᵘ †ˁ ᒪₒ ᑕT°,
Master daughter Nggu-gu able come spit,

65 ᑕT° ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᒥₙ₋ ᒥₙ ᐃˁ ᑕᒥₙ₌.
spat Ndlie-jia thus white mouth.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᒥₙ₋ ᑭᵤ ᑭ̊ Sʳ ᑭ̊ ᒪₒ ᑕⁿᵒ.
Ndlie-jia then returned came back remained.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᒥₙ₋ ᒪ̄ ᑐ₌ ᛁʼˀ ᒧⁿ ᑕⁿᶦᶦ ᑕ†ʼᵢ Ꮆᵤ ᒧᵘ
Ndlie-jia will go marry Master daughter Nggu-gu

Y⁻ ᐱₙ †₌.
make family dwell.

ᒧⁿ ᑕⁿᶦᶦ ᑕ†ʼᵢ Ꮆᵤ ᒧᵘ †ˁ ᒪₒ ᑕT°,
Master daughter Nggu-gu able come spit,

CT° CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ [ₙ Δˁ Γ".
spat Ndlie-jia thus white head.

CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ ᒍʳ Tˀ]ⁿ Cⁿ" Cϯ'ˌ Ꮆᵤ]ᵘ
Ndlie-jia not equal Master daughter Nggu-gu

Tᵘ J" Tˁ.
person gather firewood.

CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ Ɪᵤ Ɪ̊ Sʳ Ɪ̊ Lₒ Cⁿᵒ.
Ndlie-jia then returned came back remained.

CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ [ₙ Ↄ₋ CⲒ',
Ndlie-jia thus did seek,

CⲒ' Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- [ⁿᵒ Cₙ ᒧᵟ [ₙ ϯ'⁻ 'Cᵘ.
seek Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang thus every day.

CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ [ₙ Ↄ₋ C[ʳ,
Ndlie-jia thus did meet,

Ↄ₋ C[ʳ Cₙ ᒧⁿ Tᵤ Δᵟ Ɪ⁻]ˁ CⲒᵤ Λ̊
did meet connector the toad midst section

[̊.
road.

ᒧⁿ Tᵤ Δᵟ Ɪ⁻]ˁ]ⁿ ϯᵘ Cᵘ,
the toad relative,

CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ]ⁿ ϯᵘ ['ᵘ.
Ndlie-jia relation.

ᒧⁿ Tᵤ Δᵟ Ɪ⁻]ˁ ϯˁ Lₒ ˥ₗₗ,
the toad able come drink,

˥ₗₗ ᒧᵟ Δⁿ ᒧᵟ L" Λₒ Λₒ,
drink water pool gradually,

Ɪˀ Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- [ⁿᵒ Cₙ ᒧᵟ Ť Ɪᵟ T⁼.
revealed Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang the bottom skirt.

CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ Δₒ Cϯ'ᵘ Δₒ Cϯ'ʳ Ɪ" CⲒᵤ Sⁿᶜ.
Ndlie-jia smiled and laughed in midst heart.

ᒧᵤ Cₙ ᒧⁿ Tᵤ Δᵟ Ɪ⁻]ˁ Δᵟ,
burst connector the toad belly,

ᒥₙ ᒧᵟ Yʺ ᒣⁿ ᑕⁿᶜ ᑕᒧʺ ᒧⁿ Λₒ Lₒ.
thus pool water silver bubbling came.

Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- ᒥⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵟ ᑕTᵒ Tʺ ᒧⁿ Δ⁻ T⁻ ᑕTʺ
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang wove get a piece the cloth

ᒥ’⁼,
new,

85 Sʳ Ꮖʺ T̂ Γ̈ Vˀ,
returned on the top rock,

Ɔ⁻ Ꮖ’ʺ ᑕΔⁿᶜ ᒥₙ ᑕTʺ Y⁻,
give for Ndlie-jia wear on the head make,

Y⁻ ᑕʺ ƚʳ ᒧⁿ ᑕₒ ᑕT° ᑕΔ° ᑕᏆ̿’,
make wild bird flying to and fro seek,

ᑕᏆ̿’ Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- ᒥⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵟ ᒥₙ ƚ’⁻ ’ᑕᵘ.
seek Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang thus every day.

ᒥₙ ᒣⁿ Ɔₒ ᑕᏆ₋.
thus ended.

M452
Ndlie-jia and Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang. (1)

Collected by Wang Ming-ji.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document B (no. 15, page 48) and Document C (no. 9, page 9).

Line 38. This line is required by the context, but is missing in the Miao manuscripts.

Lines 39 and 40. The expression ϯ’⁻ ’ᑕᵕ, “every day”, in these lines means “urgently”.

Line 55. A note in the text explains that ⊏ᵹ ⅃̊ means a dragon fly.

Line 77. ⊐ᵔ ϯᵕ ᑕᵕ in this line and ⊐ᵔ ϯᵕ ⊏’ᵕ in the following line both mean “close relative”, hence the translation “kith and kin”. What is being said is that the toad behaved toward Ndlie-jia as though they were blood-relations.

M453
Ndlie-jia and Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang. (2)

Sung by Tao Zi-gai.

Introduction.

The version of the Ndlie-jia story sung by Tao Zi-gai is twice as long as that recorded by Wang Ming-ji. In part this is due to the differences in style between the two singers and to the inclusion of additional material, but there is also a certain amount of repetition. This may have been caused by the singer losing the thread of the song as he had to pause for each line to be written down. The repetition has in turn led to a certain disruption in the sequence of events.

Ndlie-jia’s repeated, and slightly enigmatic, reference to a walnut means that, when a man has spoken, his word stands as invariable as a walnut kernel which always has four sections. Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang uses a similar metaphor when Ndlie-jia asks her to return with him. She says that the water flowing over the rock has worn it smooth and slippery, that is, it can no longer be crossed. Time has moved on and the situation has changed, there can be no coming back. The reason was of course that she was now married to a dragon.

M453
Ndlie-jia and Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang. (2)

Sung by Tao Zi-gai

There was a time when Ndlie-jia fashioned a hook,
Fashioned a shining ring of copper.
Ndlie-jia stood motionless in order to draw up gold,
And with his face shaded he fished,
Fished and caught a little golden fish.

There was a time when Ndlie-jia fashioned a line,
Fashioned a shining ring of lead.
Ndlie-jia stood motionless in order to draw up silver.
Ndlie fished and caught a little silver fish.

Carrying it, Ndlie-jia returned, came back and reached,
Reached Ndlie-jia's home.
Ndlie-jia took his gold and silver fish and laid it on the bed,
While Ndlie-jia went to light the fire.

Then Ndlie-jia returned, came back to put,
To put the gold and silver fish upon the fire.
But the gold and silver fish changed,
Changed into a person, Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang.

Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang laughed heartily,
"Oh Ndlie-jia, you're your gold and silver fish, it is I!"
So the silver and gold fish became Ndlia-jia's wife,
The silver and gold fish became Ndlie-jia's good companion.

Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang spoke,
"Build a house, Ndkie-jia!"
Ndlie-jia replied,
"If I build a house, there is no livestock".

Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang spoke,
"Make a store, Ndlie-jia!"
Ndlie-jia answered,
"If I make a store, there is no grain".

But Ndlie-jia arose and began to build,
To build a dwelling house with timber frame and tiled roof,
And he arose and began to build a store as well.

So Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang spoke,
"Let Ndlie-jia go for breeding stock,
Go far over yonder to Yeu-jio-dlang-rang.

But if Yeu-jio-dlang-rang should offer,
Offer breeding cattle and horses to Ndlie-jia,

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

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

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

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

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

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

While Ndlie-jia sat chatting on the bed,
Sat chatting on the pallet,
The Master's youngest daughter,
The Master's daughter Nggu-gu
Said that Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang had leprosy.

Ndlie-jia did not believe it.
So the Master's youngest daughter spoke,

"If Ndlie-jia does not believe it,
When Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang takes off her leg-bands,
Let Ndlie-jia observe carefully
How the skin of Nggu-ra-jio-ni-pang's legs is ringed!"

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

Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang spoke,

“Is it true, Ndlie-jia?”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

As Ndlie-jia returned, coming back along the way,
He met with the toad.
The toad was kith,
And Ndlie-jia kin.

Ndlie-jia took the toad back and it drank,
Drank the river pool into his stomach,
Revealing Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang to the hem of her skirt and her apron.
Ndlie-jia smiled and laughed as he watched intently.

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

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

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

I will lift up my arms for you to see".
Ndlie-jia raised his head and looked,
And saw a pair of baby dragons there.
Then Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang said,

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

While Ndlie-jia was watching intently,
The toad's belly burst,
And the silver water flooded back to fill the pool,
Filling it level with the banks.

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

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

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

Thus it is ended.

M453

ᑕΔⁿᶜ [ₙ ᑕⲒₒ Ꮹᵤ Ʒ- [ⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ⅃ᶾ. (2)
Ndlie-jia with Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang. (2)

ᑕΔⁿᶜ [ₙ J⁻ Tᶾ Lⁿ ᑕ+⁻]ʺ,
Ndlie-jia time fashioned hook,

ᑕ+⁻ Tⁿ ᑕ+’ₙᶜ Lₙᶜ Ⲓʺ ⅃ʺ Tʺ.
fashioned the shining into ring copper.

ᑕΔⁿᶜ [ₙ Jʿ Tⁿ ᑕⲒᵤ Jʿ [ᶾ]ᵘ.
Ndlie-jia stood motionless stood pull up gold.

Δ’ᵘ Tʺ ᑕⁿᵒ ᑕTʺ ᑕʺ,
face get situated shaded fished,

ᑕʺ Tʺ ⅃ⁿ Tᵘ T- ᑕ⅃ˀ]ᵘ.
caught get the small fish gold.

ᑕΔⁿᶜ [ₙ J⁻ Tᶾ Lⁿ ᑕ+⁻ [ⁿ,
Nddlie-jia time fashioned line,

ᑕ+⁻ Tⁿ ᑕ+’ₙᶜ Lₙᶜ Ⲓʺ ⅃ʺ +’₋.
fashioned the shining into ring lead.

ᑕΔⁿᶜ [ₙ Jʿ Tⁿ ᑕⲒᵤ Jʿ [ᶾ ᑕₙᶜ.
Ndlie-jia stood motionless stood pull up silver.

ᑕΔⁿᶜ [ₙ ᑕʺ Tʺ ⅃ⁿ Tᵘ T- ᑕ⅃ˀ ᑕₙᶜ.
Ndlie-jia caught get the small fish silver.

ᑕΔⁿᶜ [ₙ [ₙ Ɔ₋ [ₙₒ Ⲓᵤ Ⲓ̊ Lⁿ Sʳ Ⲓ̊ Lₒ
Ndlie-jia thus did carry then return come back

+ₒ,
reach,

+ₒ ᑕΔⁿᶜ [ₙ J⁻ ᑕΔ̊ ᑕ]-.
reach Ndlie-jia inside house.

ᑕΔⁿᶜ [ₙ [’ₙʿ ᑕ⅃ˀ]ᵘ ᑕ⅃ˀ ᑕₙᶜ [ⁿᶜ Jᵘ
Ndlie-jia took fish gold fish silver put upon

+ᶾ.
bed.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑦₙ ᑕᒧ₅ ᐃ̈ Tˤ.
Ndlie-jia went light fire.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑦₙ Ꮖᵤ Ꮖ̊ Lⁿ Sʳ Ꮖ̊ Lₒ ᑦ'ₙₛ,
Ndlie-jia then return come back take,

ᑦ'ₙₛ ᑕᒧˀ ᒣᵘ ᑕᒧˀ ᑕⁿᶜ Ꮖ" Jᵘ Tˤ.
take fish gold fish silver at upon fire.

ᑕᒧˀ ᑕⁿᶜ ᑕᒧˀ ᒣᵘ ✝ˤ Lₒ ᐃ'ₙ,
fish silver fish gold able come change,

ᐃ'ₙ Y⁻ Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- ᑦⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧ₃ ᑦⁿᶜ Yⁿ
change make Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang completed one

Lᵇ.
person.

Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- ᑦⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧ₃ Tₙ ᑕᒧ₁ S³ Ꮖ⁻ ᐃₒ.
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang loudly away laughed.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑦₙ Λ₋, ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑦₙ ᑕᒧˀ ᒣᵘ ᑕᒧˀ ᑕⁿᶜ ᒣᵤ
Ndlie-jia oh, Ndlie-jia fish gold fish silver is

ᒣ̆ ᑦⁿᵒ.
I so it is.

ᑕᒧˀ ᑕⁿᶜ ᑕᒧˀ ᒣᵘ Y⁻ ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑦₙ ᑕₙ
fish silver fish gold made Ndlie-jia connector

Yⁿ Lᵇ ᑕⁿ₃.
one classifier wife,

ᑕᒧˀ ᑕⁿᶜ ᑕᒧˀ ᒣᵘ Y⁻ ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑦₙ Yⁿ
fish silver fish gold made Ndlie-jia one

Lᵇ Ʒ" Γˀ.
classifier good companion.

Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- ᑦⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧ₃ Jʳ ᑦⁿᵒ ᑦⁿ,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang spoke,

✝'ₒ Ꮖ⁻ ᑕᒣ- Λ⁻, ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑦₙ.
build house exclamation, Ndlie-jia.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑦₙ Jʳ ᑦⁿᵒ ᑦⁿ,
Ndlie-jia spoke,

25 CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ ϯ’ₒ C]⁻ Jʳ Ɔ⁻ [⁼.
Ndlie-jia build house not have live stock.

Ꮹᵤ Ʒ₋ [ⁿᵒ Cₙ ⅃ᵹ Jʳ [ⁿᵒ [ⁿ,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang spoke,

ϯᵓ Ɪ⁻ Ʒᵘ Λ⁻ CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ.
construct store exclamation, Ndliejia.

CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ Jʳ [ⁿᵒ Tⁿ,
Ndlie-jia replied,

CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ ϯᵓ Ʒᵘ Jʳ Ɔ⁻ Ɪ".
Ndlie-jia construct store not have grain.

30 J̊ ⅃ᵇ J̊ CT’" Jʳ Cₙ ϯ’ₒ,
Ndlie-jia arose and began connector build,

ϯ’ₒ C]⁻ Ɪᵘ C]⁻ V⁻ Jʳ [ⁿᵒ Cⁿᵒ,
build house timber framed house tiled to live in,

J̊ ⅃ᵇ J̊ CT’" ϯᵓ Ʒᵘ.
arose and began construct store.

Ꮹᵤ Ʒ⁻ [ⁿᵒ Cₙ ⅃ᵹ Jʳ [ⁿᵒ [ⁿ,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang spoke,

]ₒ CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ CƗᵇ Λ̄ [̊ [⁼,
cause Ndlie-jia go want breed stock,

35 Λ̄ Lᶪ Λᶪ [ⁿᵒ Δᵹ Ʒᵹ Tⁿ ϯ" T".
want gone Yeu-jio-dlang-rand land on the far side.

Λᶪ [ⁿᵒ Δᵹ Ʒᵹ [ₙ Ɔ₋ Ɔ⁻,
Yeu-jio-dlang-rang thus did give,

Ɔ⁻ [̊ C~ [̊ Cᵇ Ɪ’" CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ,
give breed cattle breed horses to Ndlie-jia,

CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ Jʳ Λ̄ C~,
Ndlie-jia not want cattle,

CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ Jʳ Λ̄ Cᵇ.
Ndlie-jia not want horses.

40 CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ [ᵹ C[ⁿᶦᶦ [ᵹ L° Λ̄,
Ndlie-jia open mouth open lips want,

Λ̄ ᑕΔᐢᑦ ᑕ̲ᐢ ꟷ Ɪ⁻ ˩⁻ Λₙ.
want Ndlie-jia family.

Λς ᑕᐢᵒ Δᵟ Ʒᵟ Ɔ₋ Ɔ⁻,
Yeu-jio-dlang-rang did give,

Ɔ₋ Ɔ⁻ ᑕ̊ Λᵟ ᑕ̊ ᑕ'ᵣ Ɪ'" ᑕΔᐢᑦ ᑕᐢ,
did give breed sheep breed goats to Ndlie-jia,

ᑕΔᐢᑦ ᑕᐢ Jᒥ Λ̄ Λᵟ,
Ndlie-jia not want sheep,

ᑕΔᐢᑦ ᑕᐢ Jᒥ Λ̄ ᑕ'ᵣ,
Ndlie-jia not want goats,

ᑕΔᐢᑦ ᑕᐢ ᑕᵟ ᑕᑕᐢ" ᑕᵟ L° Λ̄,
Ndlie-jia open mouth open lips want,

Λ̄ ᑕΔᐢᑦ ᑕᐢ Ɪ⁻ ˩⁻ ƚ".
want Ndlie-jia household.

Λς ᑕᐢᵒ Δᵟ Ʒᵟ ᑕₙ Ɔ₋ Ɔ⁻,
Yeu-jio-dlang-rang thus did give,

Ɔ⁻ Gᵤ Ʒ- ᑕᐢᵒ ᑕₙ ˩ᵟ Ɪ'" ᑕΔᐢᑦ ᑕᐢ Y⁻ Λₙ
gave Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang to Ndlie-jia make family

ᑕᐢᵒ.
live.

Λς ᑕᐢᵒ Δᵟ Ʒᵟ ᑕₙ Ɔ₋ Ɔ⁻,
Yeu-jio-dlang-rang thus did give,

Ɔ⁻ Gᵤ Ʒ- ᑕᐢᵒ ᑕₙ ˩ᵟ Ɪ'" ᑕΔᐢᑦ ᑕᐢ Y⁻ Λₙ
gave Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang to Ndlie-jia make family

ƚ".
dwell.

ᑕΔᐢᑦ ᑕᐢ Ɪᵤ Ɪ̊ Lᐢ Sᒥ Ɪ̊ Lₒ ƚₒ,
Ndlie-jia then return come back reach,

ƚₒ ᑕΔᐢᑦ ᑕᐢ Ɪ⁻ Jᵘ ᑕƆ-.
reach Ndlie-jia house.

ᑕΔⁿᶜ ᑢₙ ᑢ⁼ Tⁿ ᑕₒ Sᑐ Y" ᑕΔᑐ Lₒ
Ndlie-jia live stock like water flowing come

Jᵘ ᑕᑰ-.
into house.

ᑕΔⁿᶜ ᑢₙ I" Tⁿ Iᑦ ᑕΔ" Lⁿ Λ¯ Lₒ ᑢₙ ᒧ̆ Ʒᵘ.
Ndlie-jia grain food in a shower thus fill store.

ᑕTᵤ T" ᑕTᵤ T'ˀ ᑐˀ.
heaven get heaven constantly.

ᑐ- ᑢₙ ᑕₙ Ī Jʳ ᑢₙ ᑐ₋ Δⁿ,
there was thus connector who thus did twist,

Δⁿ ᑕΔⁿᶜ ᑢₙ Lⁿ Sⁿᶜ ᑢⁿᵒ Lⁿ Sⁿᶜ †₌.
twist Ndlie-jia heart shake heart slander.

ᑐ- ᑕₙ ᑕ†ᑐ ᑰⁿ ᑕⁿ''' ᑕ†'ᵢ Ɠᵤ ᑰᵘ,
there was connector the Master daughter Nggu-gu,

Δⁿ ᑕΔⁿᶜ ᑢₙ Sⁿᶜ ᑢⁿᵒ Sⁿᶜ †₌.
twist Ndlie-jia heart shake heart slander.

Jʳ ᑐ- ᑕₙ Ī Jʳ ˥ₙ.
there was connector what said.

˥ₙ ᑕΔⁿᶜ ᑢₙ Lⁿ Sⁿᶜ ᑢⁿᵒ Lⁿ Sⁿᶜ ᑕᑢᑦ.
said Ndlie-jia heart shake heart believe.

ᑕΔⁿᶜ ᑢₙ Y¯ I¯ L₋ ᑢⁿᶜ Jᵘ †ᵹ,
Ndlie-jia chatted completed upon bed,

Y¯ I¯ L₋ ᑢⁿᶜ Jᵘ ᑢ'ₙᵹ.
chatted completed upon pallet.

ᑰⁿ ᑕⁿ''' ᑕ†'ᵢ Ɠᵤ ᑕ†ᵹ,
Master daughter young woman youngest,

ᑰⁿ ᑕⁿ''' ᑕ†'ᵢ Ɠᵤ ᑰᵘ,
Master daughter Nggu-gu,

˥ₙ ᑰᵤ Ɠᵤ Ʒ- ᑢⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵹ ᑕ" Sᵹ Tᵹ.
said that Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang leprosy away finish

ᑕΔⁿᶜ ᑢₙ ᑢ'¯ Jʳ ᑕᑢᑦ.
Ndlie-jia did not believe.

⊐ⁿ ᑕⁿᑊᑊ ᑕ†ʼˌ Ꮆᵤ ᑕ†ˁ Jʳ ⊏ⁿᵒ ⊏ⁿ,
Master daughter young woman youngest spoke,

70 ᑕΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ ⊏ʼ⁻ Jʳ ᑕ⊏ᵓ,
Ndlie-jia does not believe.

Ꮆᵤ Ʒ⁻ ⊏ⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵌ ᑕⵊᵓ ⊐ʼⁿ ᑕⵊʼ",
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang remove leg bands,

⊐ₒ ᑕΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ Ɪᵤ ᒧⁿ Lᵓ Jʳ ⊏ⁿᵒ Ↄᵌ,
cause Ndlie-jia all around observe,

Ꮆᵤ Ʒ⁻ ⊏ⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵌ ᒧⁿ Tˁ Tⁿ Ꮟ" ᑕTⁿ Lⁿ ⊏ⁿᵒ.
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang skin legs ringed in this way

ᑕΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ Iʼˀ Ꮆᵤ Ʒ⁻ ⊏ⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵌ Sʳ Ↄᵢᵢ
Ndlie-jia took Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang return go

ᑕⵊᵢᵢ.
divorce.

75 Ꮆᵤ Ʒ⁻ ⊏ⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵌ Jʳ ⊏ⁿᵒ ⊏ⁿ,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang spoke,

Tₙᶜ Tₙᶜ Lᵤ, ᑕΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ.
query true exclamation, Ndlie-jia.

ᑕΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ ᒣₙ ⊏ₙ ⵊ⁻ Λˁ †ʳ ᑕᵓ ⊏ᵌ Yⁿ Sᵌ,
Ndlie-jia said thus a man open one away,

Yⁿ Lᵘ †ʳ Δˁ ᑕ⊏ₙᵢᵢ Δ" †ᵢᵢ.
one classifier walnut breaks four pieces.

Ꮆᵤ Ʒ⁻ ⊏ⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵌ Jʳ ⊏ⁿᵒ ⊏ⁿ,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang spoke,

80 Tₙᶜ Tₙᶜ Lᵤ, ᑕΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ.
query true exclamation, Ndlie-jia.

ᑕΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ ᒣₙ ⊏ₙ Y⁻ Λˁ †ʳ ᑕᵓ ᒣⁿ Yⁿ Lₒ,
Ndlie-jia said thus a man say one word,

Yⁿ Lᵘ †ʳ Δˁ ᑕ⊏ᵢᵢ Δ" ᑕ†ᵣ.
one classifier walnut breaks four sections.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑢₙ ǀ’ₚ Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- ᑢⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᶾ Sᒥ ᑐᐦ
Ndlie-jia took Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang return go

ᑕꞮᐦ.
divorce.

ᑐ₋ ᑐᐦ ᵻ∘ ᒧⁿ Λ̊ ᑢ̂,
did go reach section road,

ᑐ₋ ᑐᐦ ᵻ∘ ᒧⁿ Λ̊ ᑕᑢⁿ.
did go reach section way.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑢₙ Λᶾ ᑢ’ᵣ ᑢₙ ᑐ₋ ᐃ’ₙ,
Ndlie-jia sheep goats thus did change,

ᐃ’ₙ Y⁻ ᵻˈ ᑢⁿᵒ ᑐⁿ Jı ᐃ’ⁿᶜ ᒧᐦ Ʒ̈.
change make deer jump enter forest.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑢₙ Tᵘ ’ᑐᶾ ᑢⁿᶾ ᑢₙₒ Tᵘ ᑕᒧᶾ.
Ndlie-jia broke off creeper led so with arm.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑢₙ ǀ’ₚ Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- ᑢⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᶾ ᑢₙ ᑐ₋ ᑐᐦ,
Ndlie-jia took Ngu-ra-jio-ni-bang thus did go,

ᑐᐦ ᵻ∘ ᐃⁿ Jᒥ ᐃⁿ ᒍₙ ᒧᶾ Ɪ⁻ ᑕᐃ° T°.
go reach river pool midst deep.

Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- ᑢⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᶾ ᒍᵓ,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang waded,

ᒍᵓ ᐃⁿ Jᒥ ᐃⁿ ᒍₙ ᒧᶾ ᵻ∘ Γ̈ ᑢⁿᴵᴵ.
waded river pool reach knees.

Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- ᑢⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᶾ ᒣₙ,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang said,

Tₙc Tₙc Λ⁻, ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑢₙ.
query true exclamation, Ndlie-jia.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑢₙ ᵻˤ L∘ ᒣₙ,
Ndlie-jia able come said,

Y⁻ Λᶳ ᵻᒥ ᑕᑋ ᑢᶾ Yⁿ Sᶾ,
a man open one away,

Yⁿ Lᵘ ᵻ̂ ᐃˤ ᑕᑢᐦ ᐃᐦ ᑕᵻᵣ.
one classifier walnut breaks four sections.

Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- [ⁿᵒ Cₙ ⅃ᵹ]ᵓ,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang waded,

]ᵓ Δⁿ J⸢ Δⁿ]ₙ ⅃ᵹ †ₒ Δ̄ J⸢.
waded river pool reach waist.

100 Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- [ⁿᵒ Cₙ ⅃ᵹ J⸢ [ⁿ,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang spoke,

Tₙc Tₙc Λ¯, CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ.
query true exclamation, Ndlie-jia.

CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ †ˤ Lₒ Tⁿ,
Ndlie-jia able come reply,

Y¯ Λᵹ †⸢ Cᵇ ˥ₙ Yⁿ Lₒ,
a man say one word,

Yⁿ Lᵘ †⸢ Δˤ C[ᵢᵢ Δ" †ᵓ.
one classifier walnut breaks four divisions.

105 Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- [ⁿᵒ Cₙ ⅃ᵹ]ᵓ,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang waded,

]ᵓ Δⁿ J⸢ Δⁿ]ₙ ⅃ᵹ †ₒ Γ" [ₙₒ.
waded river pool reach head so it is.

Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- [ⁿᵒ Cₙ ⅃ᵹ J⸢ [ⁿᵒ [ⁿ,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang spoke,

Tₙc Tₙc Λ¯, CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ.
query true exclamation, Ndlie-jia.

CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ ˥⸢ [ⁿᵒ Tⁿ,
Ndlie-jia replied,

110 Y¯ Λᵹ †⸢ Cᵇ ˥ₙ Yⁿ Lₒ.
a man says one word.

CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ Ɪᵤ I̊ Lⁿ S⸢ I̊ Lₒ †ₒ,
Ndlie-jia then return come back reach,

†ₒ CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ Ɪ¯ Jᵘ C]-,
reach Ndlie-jia into house,

CΔⁿᶜ [ₙ C]- [ⁿˤ J⸢ ⅃ₒ Cⁿᵒ,
Ndlie-jia house place not see remain,

ᑢ⁼ Tⁿ ᑕᐃⁿᶜ Tⁿ ᑕᒧ⁻ Jʳ ᒧ。 Lˤ,
live stock pigs not see gone,

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑢₙ ᒍ" Tⁿ ᒍᑉ ᑢₙ ᒍᵘ ᑢ⁻.
Ndlie-jia grain thus quite empty.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑢₙ Ɪᵤ Ɪ̊ Lⁿ Sʳ ᒍᑉ ᑐ" Iʼᑊ,
Ndlie-jia then return go take,

Iʼᑊ ᒍⁿ ᑕⁿ" ᑕ†ʼı Ꮆᵤ ᒍᵘ Y⁻ ᐱₙ ᑕⁿᵒ.
take Master daughter Nggu-gu make family live.

ᒍⁿ ᑕⁿ" ᑕ†ʼı Ꮆᵤ ᒍᵘ Jʳ ᑢⁿᵒ ᑢⁿ,
Master daughter Nggu-gu spoke,

ᑢᑐ Jʳ Tˀ ᒍⁿ ᑕⁿ" ᑕ†ʼı Ꮆᵤ ᒍᵘ ᒍ̊ʼ
you not equal Master daughter Nggu-gu slave

ᐱₙ ᑢ⁼.
pasture cattle.

ᒍⁿ ᑕⁿ" ᑕ†ı Ꮆᵤ ᒍᵘ ᑕT°,
Master daughter Nggu-gu spat,

ᑕT° ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑢₙ ᑢₙ ᐃˤ Γ".
spat Ndlie-jia thus white head.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑢₙ Ɪ̊ Lⁿ Sʳ Ɪ̊ ᑐ" Iʼᑊ,
Ndlie-jia return go back take,

Iʼᑊ ᒍⁿ ᑕⁿ" ᑕ†ʼı Ꮆᵤ ᑕ†ˤ Y⁻
take Master daughter young woman youngest make

ᐱₙ †".
family dwell.

ᒍⁿ ᑕⁿ" ᑕ†ʼı Ꮆᵤ ᑕ†ˤ Jʳ ᑢⁿᵒ ᑢⁿ,
Master daughter young woman youngest spoke,

ᑢᑐ Jʳ Tˀ ᒍ̆ Tᵘ ʼᑐ" ᐱₙ ᑕᒧ⁻.
you not equal my man pasture pigs.

ᒍⁿ ᑕⁿ" ᑕ†ʼı Ꮆᵤ ᑕ†ˤ ᑕT°,
Master daughter young woman youngest spat,

ᑕT° ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑢₙ ᑢₙ ᐃˤ ᑕᑢⁿ".
spat Ndlie-jia thus white mouth.

CΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ Ꮖᵤ Ꮖ̊ Lⁿ Sʳ Ꮖ̊ Lₒ ƚₒ Tⁿ Λ̆
Ndlie-jia then return come back reach section

⊏̂,
road,

C⊏ʳ Cₙ ⅃ⁿ Tᵤ Ɪ⁻ CTₒ Δ̆.
met connector the toad creature.

⅃ⁿ Tᵤ Ɪ⁻ CTₒ Ⅎᵤ ƚᵘ Cᵘ,
the toad was relative,

CΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ Tⁿ Tᴵᴵ ⊏ʼᵘ
Ndlie-jia the relation.

CΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ Iʼₚ ⅃ⁿ Tᵤ Ɪ⁻ CTₒ Sʳ Ↄᵢᵢ Ꞁᵢᵢ,
Ndlie-jia took the toad return go drink,

Ꞁᵢᵢ Δⁿ Jʳ Δⁿ Ⅎₙ ⅃̆ ⊏ₙ Tᵘ Δ̄.
drink river pool thus stomach.

Ↄ₋ Ɪₚ Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- ⊏ⁿᵒ Cₙ ⅃̆ Ɪ⁻ T⁼ ⊏ⁿᵒ Ɪ̆ Ẏ.
did reveal Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang skirt apron bottom

CΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ Δₒ ƚʼᵘ Δₒ Cƚʼʳ Ꮖᵤ ⅃ⁿ Lₚ Jʳ ⊏ⁿᵒ Ↄ̆.
Ndlie-jia smiled and laughed all around observed.

⅃ᵤ Cₙ ⅃ⁿ Tᵤ Ɪ⁻ CTₒ Δ̆.
burst connector the toad belly.

Cₙ ⅃ⁿ Tˁ Ɪ⁻ CTₒ Sʳ Lₒ Ṡ.
connector skin toad return come sew.

⅃ⁿ Tᵤ Ɪ⁻ CTₒ Sʳ Ↄᵢᵢ Ꞁᵢᵢ,
the toad return go drink,

Ꞁᵢᵢ Δⁿ Jʳ Δⁿ Ⅎₙ ⅃̆ ⊏ₙ Tᵘ Δ̄,
drink river pool thus stomach,

Ꮖᵤ Ɪₚ Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- ⊏ⁿᵒ Cₙ ⅃̆ Tⁿ Ɪ⁻ T⁼
again reveal Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang the skirt

⊏ⁿᵒ Ɪ̆ Ẏ.
apron bottom.

CΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ Ꮖᵤ ⅃ⁿ Lₚ Jʳ ⊏ⁿᵒ Ↄ̆,
Ndlie-jia all around observed,

Ↄᵹ ⅃ₒ Ꮹᵤ Ʒ- ⊏ⁿᵒ Ꮯₙ ⅃ᵹ Ꮯⁿᵒ Ɪᵹ Y".
did see Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang situated bottom water

ꓚΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ ✝ˁ Lₒ ˥ₙ
Ndlie-jia able come say,

T- ⅃ⁿ Yⁿ ✝ₗₗ Jᒥ ꓚⵊₒ Ↄₗₗ.
come we one company together go.

145 Ꮹᵤ Ʒ- ⊏ⁿᵒ Ꮯₙ ⅃ᵹ Jᒥ ⊏ⁿᵒ Tⁿ,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang answered,

C̄ Ꮯ̂ Y" Tₙ ✝'ᒥ Vˀ Lₙᶜ Lˁ Tₙᶜ
now water cross slab rock slippery gone truly

Tᵹ.
finish.

ᒧ̆ ꓚⵊₒ ⊏ₚ Ↄₗₗ L₋ Jᒥ ✝ᒥ,
I with you go would be not possible,

ᒧ̆ ꓚⵊₒ ⊏ₚ Ↄₗₗ L₋ Jᒥ Ɪₗₗ.
I with you go would be not fitting.

ᒧ̆ ⊏ᵹ Ɪ⁻ ⊏ₒ ⵊ'" ⊏ₚ C₋.
I raise arms for you look.

150 ꓚΔⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ ⊏ᵹ Γ" ⊏ᵹ Lₒ C₋,
Ndlie-jia raise head raise come look,

Ↄᵹ ⅃ₒ ⅃ⁿ ꓚ⊏ₙₛ Ꮹ̄ Ꮹ₋ Ʒᵹ Ꮯⁿᵒ Vᵤ Ŷ.
did see pair tiny dragons situated at there.

Ꮹᵤ Ʒ- ⊏ⁿᵒ Ꮯₙ ⅃ᵹ ✝ˁ Lₒ ˥ₙ,
Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang able come say,

ᒧ̆ ꓚⵊₒ ⊏ₚ Ↄₗₗ Jᒥ ✝ᒥ Tₙᶜ.
I with you go not possible truly.

ᒧ̆ ⊏₋ Ↄ⁻ Tⁿ ꓚT" Ↄⁿ Ↄⁿ Δˁ ⵊ'" ⊏ₚ
I only give the cloth cotton white for you

ꓚT",
wear,

155 ꓚT" Γ" 'Ꮯ̂ Sᒥ Ↄₗₗ Ɪ'ˀ,
wear forehead return go show,

Ɪʼˀ ꞮꞋ ᑕᐃⁿᶜ Tⁿ Tˀ ᑕˀ Lˀ Lˀ ᑐᵟ,
show to world people everyone observe,

Ɪʼˀ ꞮꞋ ᑕᐃⁿᶜ Tⁿ Tˀ ᑕˀ Lˀ Lˀ ᑕ₋.
show to world people everyone look.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑢₙ Ꮖᵤ ᒧⁿ Lₛ ᒍʳ ᑢⁿᵒ ᑐᵟ,
Ndlie-jia all around observed,

ᑢ₋ ᒧᵤ ᒧⁿ Tᵤ Ɪ⁻ ᑕTₒ ᐃᵟ,
only burst the toad belly,

YꞋ ⱡʼʳ ᑕⁿᶜ ᑕᒧʼꞋ ᑕᒧₒ ᒧ̆,
water silver flooded filled,

ᒧ̆ ᑢₙ ᑐₙ Lⁿᶜ Y⁻ ᒧ̆ ᑕTᵘ.
filled thus smooth make fill banks.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑢₙ ᑕ̂ ᒪᵘ ᑕ̂ ᒪ̂ ᑢₙ ᑐ₋ ᑕꞮ̿ʼ,
Ndlie-jia wept bitterly thus did seek,

ᑕꞮ̿ʼ Ꮆᵤ Ʒ⁻ ᑢⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵟ Lₛ Ɪᵟ ᐃⁿ,
sought Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang gone bottom river,

ᑕꞮ̿ʼ Ꮆᵤ Ʒ⁻ ᑢⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵟ Lₛ Γ̈ ᐃⁿ.
sought Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang gone top river.

ᑕꞮ̿ʼ Ꮆᵤ Ʒ⁻ ᑢⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵟ ᒍʳ TꞋ,
sought Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang not get,

ᑕꞮ̿ʼ Ꮆᵤ Ʒ⁻ ᑢⁿᵒ ᑕₙ ᒧᵟ ᒍʳ ᒧₒ.
sought Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang not see.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑢₙ Ꮖᵤ Ꮖ̊ Lⁿ Sʳ Ꮖ̊ Lₒ ⱡₒ,
Ndlie-jia then return come back reach,

ⱡₒ ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑢₙ Ɪ⁻ ᒍᵘ ᑕᑐ₋,
reach Ndlie-jia into house,

ⱡₒ ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑢₙ Ɪ⁻ ᒍᵘ ᑢʼₙₛ.
reach Ndlie-jia into place.

ᑕᐃⁿᶜ ᑢₙ ᒍᵘ ᑕᑐ₋ ᒍᵘ ᑢʼₙₛ ᒍʳ ᑕⁿᵒ Tᵟ,
Ndlie-jia house place not situated finished,

ᑢ₌ ᑕₒ ꞮꞋ Ɪˀ ᒍʳ ᒧₒ Tᵟ.
live stock grain food not see finish.

ᑕTᵕ   Tʺ   ᑕTᵕ   T’ˀ ᑐˀ,
sky   get   sky   constantly,

ᑕΔⁿᶜ ᒪₙ̲   ᒪₙ   ᑐ₋   ᑕⁿᵒ,
Ndlie-jia   thus   did   live,

ᑕⁿᵒ   Ɉ̊’   Vˀ   Jʺ   ᘓ̄ ᘓ₋,
live   hole   rocks   rear   babies,

175 ᑕⁿᵒ   Ɉ̊’   †⁻   Jʺ   Tᵕ   ᑲ°.
live   hole   cliff   rear   sons   big.

ᒪₙ   ᒧⁿ ᑐ∘ ᑕꞮ₋.
thus   ended.

M453

Ndlie-jia and Nggu-ra-jio-ni-bang. (2)

Sung by Tao Zi-gai.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document F (no. 21, page 22).

Throughout this song the Miao text uses the shortened form of the name Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- Cⁿ Lᶟ. In the present transcription the full form, Ꮆᵤ Ʒ- ⊏ⁿᵒ Cₙ ⅃ᶟ has been retained.

The following pairs of lines are written as single long lines in the Miao text: 41 and 42, 65 and 66, 105 and 106.

M454

The Miao man’s good scheme for marrying a sky-maiden.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

The subject of this song-story is not an animal which changed into a girl who eventually became the young man’s wife, but a visitant from that other world up in the sky, who could not fly back because the man had stolen her wings.

Two kinds of bamboo baskets appear in the narrative. The first was large and conical in shape for carrying on the back. When inverted and stood on the ground it was possible for a man to crouch underneath it unseen. It was, however sufficiently loosely woven for him to prise open a small spy hole. The second was a round, shallow basket used for storing corn and often covered by another similar basket.

The story assumes, without actually saying so, that the two feathers which their mother gave them, developed into wings as the children grew up.

The tests imposed by their grandfather were intended to establish that the two lads were indeed his kin. In the second test the old man sent them into the forest, in the very path of the fire to see whether they could survive the flames.

M454

The Miao man’s good scheme for marrying a sky-maiden.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

They tell a story that, once upon a time, there was a Miao man who went out farming. A bevy of sky-maidens flew down to bathe in the water pool in the middle of his land, and he wanted to find some way of taking one of them to be his wife. So, the next day he brought a large carrying basket and hid himself under it there beside the water. He watched until the sky-maidens came to bathe and then looked to see which one was the prettiest. When he had looked well he went quietly and took the wings of the one that was very good and hid them. Then he rushed out and surprised the sky-maidens. Each took her own wings and flew away into the sky. Having no wings, only that one who was very good could not fly away, so she had no option but to come with the Miao man and be his wife.

After a long time the sky-maiden and the Miao man had two fine big sons. Every day the Miao man made her work out of doors while he remained at home, but one day, the Miao man had to go out to work and leave his wife to look after the children at home. This day the boys wanted their mother to let them have the things to play with that they had every day, but she did not know what it was they wanted. They could not yet talk but only raised their hands upwards. Their mother looked up and saw that on the shelf there was a covered, flat basket. She took it down and looked and saw her wings inside. Their mother took the wings and gave the boys each a wing feather, and told them, “When you two have grown up come and seek me in the sky”. Having said this their mother flew away.

Time passed and when the two had grown up, they took the wings their mother had given them, put them on their arms and flew up to the sky in search of her. When they arrived at their grandfather’s household, their grandfather sought all manner of ways to put them to the test. On the first occasion their grandfather took them out and scattered millet for them to pick up. They went and told their mother, who said, “Do not worry, I can find a way to help you pick it up”. She released the pigeons to go and pick it up. They pecked until not a single grain remained. Their grandfather said, “Indeed, you are truly my grandsons”.

On the next occasion their grandfather wanted to test them by taking them out to burn the scrub. So the two of them went and said to their mother, “Grandfather wants to take us out to burn the scrub, what ought we to do?” Their mother said, “You go and find a hole in the rocks. If you go and stay inside, there is nothing to fear”. Their grandfather took them out and made them go into the middle of the forest while he began to burn off the scrub from the lower side. When it was all burnt off their grandfather called to them and they answered him. Their grandfather said, “So you are truly my grandsons”.

On the last occasion, their grandfather wanted to take them out for hide and seek. They went and told their mother. Their mother said, “When you go with your grandfather, and he goes and hides, if, on the way, you see a water buffalo, go and stroke it and say, “Our grandfather is here, our grandfather is here!” The two of them went off with their grandfather. Their grandfather went and turned into a water buffalo in the marsh. When they saw him they said, “Our grandfather is here, our grandfather is here!” Then their grandfather said, “You are truly my kin, you are truly my grandsons”.

M454

Tᵘ ’Ɔ" Ʒ" Ɉ’" Ɉ̈’ I’ʔ CƆ" CTᵘ.
Miao lad good method marry sky maiden.

Cↄ ˥ₙ ˩ⁿ Tₗₗ Ɉᵤ Yˉ T’" Lⁿ Ɔ- Yⁿ
they say story that of old there was one

L⁵ Tᵘ ’Ɔ" Ɔₗₗ Yˉ Ɪ" Ɛⁿᶜ.
classifier Miao lad went do farming completed.

Ɔ- Yⁿ ✝ₗₗ CƆ" CTᵘ Λᵟ T- Cǂ
there was one group sky-maidens flew come wash

Yˉ Ɛⁿ Ɪ’" Vᵤ ˩ᵟ Y" Ɉᵤ Cⁿᵒ Cↄ Ɛⁿᵒ
body into water pool which situated his plot

˩ⁿ CƗᵟ Tⁿ. Cↄ Λ̄ CƗ̄’ Ɉ’" Ɉ̈’ I’ʔ Yⁿ
midst land. he want seek method bring one

L⁵ CƆ" CTᵘ Yˉ Cↄ Cᵟ. Yˉ Lⁿ
classifier sky-maiden make his wife. make like

’Cᵘ Yˉ Ɪ⁵ Cↄ Ɔₗₗ Ɛ’ₙₛ Yⁿ L- Ɛ̈ Lₒ
day after he went took one large basket come

Ɛ’ↄ Cↄ Ɪ’" ˩ₙ Yˉ CTᵘ Y" Ɛⁿᶜ. Cↄ
coop him at yonder edge water completed. he

C₋ Ɉᵤ CƆ" CTᵘ Λᵟ T- Cǂ Yˉ Ɛⁿ,
look that sky maidens flew came wash body,

Ɪᵤ C₋ Cᵟ L⁵ Lⁿ Ɛᵟ Ʒ" CƆ". Cↄ C₋
then look bride one which good looking. he look

Ʒ" Tᵟ, Cↄ Cⁿᵒ Tˉ Ɛᵣ Vᵤ Ɔₗₗ Ɛ’ₙₛ L⁵ Ɉᵤ
well finish, he quietly went took one who

Ʒ" Tˉ Tₙc Tᵇ Yˉ Tⁿ Vᵤ Sᵟ. Cↄ Tₛ Δₛ
good very the wings hid away. he rushed out

Ɛₙₛ CƆ" CTᵘ. CƆ" CTᵘ ✝’ˉ L⁵ Cⁿᶜ
surprised sky-maidens. sky-maidens every one each

Ɛ’ₙₛ Cⁿᶜ Yˉ Tⁿ Λᵟ Δˉ Ɉ" CTᵘ Lₛ. Ɛ₋
took each wings flew go to sky gone. only

Ɔ- Lˀ]ᵤ Ʒ" T⁻ Tₙ꜀ Y̑ ˥ⁿ T"
there was the one who good very that not get

Cↄ Y⁻ Tⁿ, ˥ⁿ †ˁ Λᶾ Ɪ"]" CTᵘ. Cↄ ˥ⁿ T"
her wings, not able fly to sky. she not get

Ꮯⁿ Y⁻ Ꮯⁿᶾ. Cↄ CⱵₒ Tᵘ ʼƆ" Lₒ Y⁻
way do anything. she with Miao lad come make

Cⁿᶾ Tᶾ.
wife finish.

ʼCᵘ Cₙ॥ Lⁿ Tᶾ, C]" CTᵘ CⱵₒ Tᵘ ʼƆ" T"
time long finish, sky-maiden with Miao lad get

Ɔ- T" Y⁻ Lˀ Tᵘ]ᵤ Y̆ ɮ°
have get two classifier sons who very big

Tᶾ. Tᵘ ʼƆ" †ʼ⁻ ʼCᵘ]ₒ Cↄ Cⁿᶾ Ɔ॥
finish. Miao lad every day caused his wife go

Y⁻ Cᵘ Δ⁻ Ʒ̈, Tᵘ ʼƆ" Cⁿᵒ C]-.
do work go to outside, Miao lad remain house.

Ɔ- Yⁿ ʼCᵘ Tᵘ ʼƆ" Ɔ॥ Y⁻ Cᵘ Lˁ,
there was one day Miao lad went do work gone,

]ₒ Cↄ Cⁿᶾ Iʼˀ Tᵘ C†ʼı Cⁿᵒ C]-.
caused his wife bring children remain house.

ʼCᵘ C̑ Tᵘ CⱵₒ Cↄ Cⁿ꜀ Λ̄ Δᶾ Cˀ
day this sons with their mother want things

]ᵤ Cↄ †ʼ⁻ ʼCᵘ Ꮯʼₙˁ Y⁻ Γˀ Y̑. Cↄ
which they every day took play that. their

Cⁿ꜀ ˥ⁿ ⅃"]ᵤ Cↄ Y⁻ Lˀ Λ̄
mother not know that them two classifier want

Y⁻ Jᒥ. Cↄ Y⁻ Lˀ ˥ⁿ †ˁ ˥ₙ Lᵘ
what. them two classifier not able speak words

S̑, Ꮯ₋ †ˁ Jⁿᶾ Tⁿ Ɪ" Y⁻ J⁻ T⁻.
yet, only able raise hands to upwards alone.

Cↄ Cⁿ꜀ C₋ Ɪ" Y⁻ J̄ ⅃ₒ Y⁻ †ˀ
their mother looked to upwards saw shelf

Cⁿᵒ Yⁿ Lᵘ Vᵟ ŧɔ. Cɔ Cⁿᶜ
situated one classifier basket. their mother

Ↄıı Ꮯ'ₙₛ C₋. ᒧₒ Cɔ Cⁿᶜ Y⁻ Tⁿ Cⁿᵒ.
went take look. saw their mother wings situated.

Cɔ Cⁿᶜ Ꮯ'ₙₛ Lₒ Γᵤ Cɔ Y⁻
their mother took come divided them two

Lᵇ Yⁿ Lᵇ Yⁿ ᒧ̉' Y⁻ Tⁿ Sᵟ,
classifier one classifier one feather wing away,

Ꮖᵤ Ꮖ'⁻ Γ̆ Cɔ Y⁻ Lᵇ ᒣₙ, Ↄₙ
then instructed them two classifier said, you

Y⁻ Lᵇ Ꮯ⁻ ꮟ° Tᵟ Ꮯₙ, Ↄₙ Y⁻
two classifier if big finish thus, you two

Lᵇ T- CꮖͰ' ᒧ̈ Δ⁻ Ꮖ" CTᵘ ᒣ°.
classifier come seek me go to sky exclamation.

Cɔ ᒣₙ Tᵟ Cɔ Cⁿᶜ Λᵟ Lₛ Tᵟ.
she say finish their mother flew gone finish.

Y⁻ Ꮖᵇ Lₒ Cɔ Y⁻ Lᵇ ꮟ° Tᵟ, Cɔ
after come them two classifier big finish, them

Y⁻ Lᵇ Ꮯ'ₙₛ Y⁻ Tⁿ ᒧᵤ Cɔ Cⁿᶜ
two classifier took wings which their mother

Ↄ⁻ Ꮖ'" Cɔ Y⁻ Lᵇ Lₒ, CTₙ Ꮖ'"
gave to them two classifier come, put on to

Y⁻ Ꮯⁿ Ꮯₒ Λᵟ Ↄıı Ꮖ" CTᵘ CꮖͰ' Cɔ Y⁻ Lᵇ
arms, flew went sky seek them two classifier

Cⁿᶜ. T" ᒧᵤ ŧₒ Cɔ Y⁻ Λₛ Ↄₙ
mother. when that reach their grandfather plural

Tᵟ Ẏ, Cɔ Y⁻ Λₛ CꮖͰ' ŧ'⁻ Ʒᵟ
finish there, their grandfather sought every kind

ᒧ'" ᒧ̈' ᒣⁿ ŧₚ Cɔ Lₛ. ᒧ" I'ₚ CTⁿ
method intimidate them gone. occasion leading

Cɔ Y⁻ Λₛ I'ₚ Cɔ Y⁻ Lᵇ Ↄıı
their grandfather took them two classifier went

⅃ˀ ǐ’ Ɪ’" Cↄ Yˉ Lˤ [’ₙₛ.
scatter millet for them two classifier pick up.

Cↄ Yˉ Lˤ Ɔₙ ꓶₙ Ɪ’ₚ Cↄ Yˉ Lˤ
them two classifier go tell them two classifier

Cⁿᶜ. Cↄ Cⁿᶜ ꓶₙ, ꓶⁿ Tˀ, ꓽ̆ ǂˤ CꞮ’
mother. their mother said, not worry, I can seek

ꓽ’" ꓽ̈’ CꞮ₀ Ɔₙ Yˉ Lˤ Ɔₙ [’ₙₛ. Cↄ
method with you two classifier go pick up. their

Cⁿᶜ [° ꓶⁿ CꞮˉ CꞮ₀ Ɔₙ [’ₙₛ. [’ₙₛ
mother release pigeons with go pick up. pick up

ꓽᵤ Yⁿ Δⁿ Tᵘ ꓶⁿ Ɔ- Sᵟ. Cↄ
that one grain all not have away. their

Yˉ Ʌₛ ꓶₙ, Yˉ Lⁿ Ɔₙ ꓽᵤ ꓽ̆ [
grandfather said, make like you are my grandsons

Tₙc.
truly.

ꓽ" Yˉ Ɪˤ Cↄ Yˉ Lˤ Yˉ Ʌₛ
occasion after them two classifier grandfather

Ʌ̄ Ɪᵤ ǂˀ Cↄ Yˉ Lˤ Ɔₙ
want again intimidate them two classifier go

Ꮟ ǂⁿ. Cↄ Yˉ Lˤ Ɪᵤ Ɔₙ CꞮ₀
burn scrub. them two classifier then went with

Cↄ Cⁿᶜ ꓶₙ, Yˉ Ʌₛ Ʌ̄ I’ₚ Yˉ
their mother said, grandfather want take two

Lˤ Ɔₙ Ꮟ ǂⁿ, Yˉ Lˤ Ʌ̄ Yˉ
classifier go burn scrub, two classifier want do

Lⁿ [ⁿᵟ. Cↄ Cⁿᶜ ꓶₙ, Ɔₙ Yˉ Lˤ Ɔₙ
how. their mother said, you two classifier go

CꞮ’ Yⁿ Lᵘ Ɪ̊’ Yˉ Vˀ. ⅃ᵤ Ɔₙ Cⁿᵒ
seek one classifier hole rock. enter go remain

CꞮ₀ CꞮᵇ [ₙ ꓶⁿ C[" Tᵟ ꓶ°.
with inside thus not fear finish exclamation.

Cᑐ Yˉ Lᕑ Yˉ Λᕐ Iʼᕀ Cᑐ Yˉ
them two classifier grandfather took them two

Lᕑ Ɔ״, Ꞁₒ Cᑐ Yˉ Lᕑ Ꞁₙ
classifier go, cause them two classifier thus

ᒣᑎ CꞮₒ Ɔ״ Cᑎᵒ Lᵁ ᒧᑎ CꞮᵟ Yˉ Ʒ̎. Cᑐ
together go stay the midst forest. their

Yˉ Λᕐ Ꞁ° ᕐᑲ ᛏᑎ T- CꞮᵁ Ɪᵟ ᕐᑲ ᛏᑎ
grandfather set burn scrub come below burn scrub

Ꞁₙ Tᵟ Tᵟ, Cᑐ Yˉ Λᕐ Iʼᵁ Cᑐ
thus done finish, their grandfather called them

Yˉ Lᕑ. Cᑐ Yˉ Lᕑ Ɪᵤ Tᑎ
two classifier. them two classifier then replied

Cᑐ Yˉ Λᕐ. Cᑐ Yˉ Λᕐ ᒣₙ, Yˉ
their grandfather. their grandfather said, make

Lᑎ Ɔₙ Ꞁᵤ Ꞁ̆ Ꞁ̑ Tₙ꜀.
like you are my grandsons truly.

Ꞁ״ Yˉ Ɪᕑ Cᑐ Yˉ Λᕐ Λ̄ Ɪᵤ Iʼᕀ
occasion last their grandfather want again take

Cᑐ Yˉ Lᕑ Ɔ״ ᒧ CΔᵤ. Cᑐ Yˉ Lᕑ
them two classifier go hide. them two classifier

Ɔ״ ᒣₙ Ɪʼᕀ Cᑐ Yˉ Lᕑ Cᑎᑕ. Cᑐ Yˉ
go tell them two classifier mother. them two

Lᕑ Cᑎᑕ ᒣₙ, Cₙ Yˉ Lᕑ CꞮₒ
classifier mother said, you two classifier with

Ɔₙ Yˉ Lᕑ Yˉ Λᕐ Ɔ״, Ɔₙ Yˉ
you two classifier grandfather go, you two

Lᕑ Yˉ Λᕐ Ꞁˉ Ɔ״ ᒧ Ꞁᑎᑕ, Ɔₙ
classifier grandfather if go hide completed, you

Yˉ Lᕑ Ɔ״ Ꞁˉ ᒧₒ Yᑎ Tᵤ C∾ Yˉ Tᑐ
two classifier go if see one classifier buffalo

Ꞁₙ, Ɔₙ Yˉ Lᕑ Ɔ״ Δʼᑐ Δʼᑐ ᒣₙ, ᒧᑎ
thus, you two classifier go smooth say, our

Yˉ Λᕐ ᑕᐢᐤ ᑕ̑, ᒧᐢ Yˉ Λᕐ
grandfather situated here, our grandfather

ᑕᐢᐤ ᑕ̑, ᒣ°. ᑕ⊃ Yˉ ᒪᔅ
situated here, exclamation. them two classifier

ᑕIᐤ ᑕ⊃ Yˉ Λᕐ ᑐᐦ. ᑕ⊃ Yˉ Λᕐ
with their grandfather went. their grandfather

ᑐᐦ Yˉ Yᐢ Tᒡ ᑕ∼ Yˉ T⊃ ᑕᐢᐤ ᑕIᐤ
went made one classifier buffalo situated with

Yᐢ ᒪᐡ ᒍᐢ ŧ̚’. ᑕ⊃ Yˉ ᒪᔅ ᑐᐦ
one classifier marsh. them two classifier went

ᒧᐤ. ᑕ⊃ Yˉ ᒪᔅ ᒣᐢ, ᒧᐢ Yˉ Λᕐ
saw. them two classifier said, our grandfather

ᑕᐢᐤ ᑕ̑, ᒧᐢ Yˉ Λᕐ ᑕᐢᐤ ᑕ̑.
situated here, our grandfather situated here.

ᑕ⊃ Yˉ ᒪᔅ Yˉ Λᕐ Iᒡ ᒣᐢ, ᑐᐢ
them two classifier grandfather then said, you

ᒍᐡ ᒍ̆ [͗ Tᐢ⊂, ᑐᐢ ᒍᐡ ᒍ̆ [͗
are my grandsons truly, you are my grandsons

Tᐢ⊂.
truly.

M454

The Miao man’s good scheme for marrying a sky-maiden.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 14, page 7).

M455

The youth who married a sky maiden.

Collected by Wang Ming-ji.

Introduction.

“The continuing adventures of Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv”, would be a more appropriate title for this song, which, after a dozen episodes and nearly 340 lines still reaches no satisfactory conclusion. Retribution still has to be visited on Ndrao-ghu for his cruelty and subterfuge. Was the sole surviving cousin of the monkey family to be its agent? In addition Ndrao-ghv had to find a new mother for his orphaned children, but who and where we still are not told.

The meaning of the names given to the Miao man and the sky maiden is not known, but “Ndrao-ghu” and “Ndrao-ghv” are possibly conventional names for twins.

A note in the text suggests that mule, piebald and grey horses were pseudonyms for a dragon, an elephant and a cloud. Why the actual names could not be used, and how the listener was expected to know, is not explained. Neither is there any explanation why Ndrao-ghv was so upset by the calling of the gi-zhw birds. Was there some superstition, or did he imagine that they were mocking him at the death of his brother?

Another explanatory note in the text says that “the man Dlang-ndu” was “the new father’s name”, implying that this person was the sky-maiden’s second husband, and therefore stepfather to the two young men. In other versions of the story he is their grandfather, and this explained why he was anxious to put them to the test, namely to establish that they were truly his kin. In this version his sole object was to kill them. However, by their own agility they avoided being crushed by the falling tree, and with a circle of magic water supplied by their mother they escaped being burnt alive.

The name “Nggu-yi-nzeu” is reminiscent of Hmao-chi’s youngest daughter who, in another song, was abducted by a tiger. Although the text does not say so, it is implied that this person also consorted with tigers, and her offspring, though human in form were tigers by nature. So the girl whom Ndrao-ghu married soon made an excuse to go off up over the mountain to call her tiger relations together for a kill.

The reason why the stag made Ndrao-ghu “tie himself up” was to fasten his loose fitting clothes tightly around him in order that they might not get caught up when he was tossed into the tree. This particular tree, unknown to Ndrao-ghu, was hollow, so that when he was shown the hole by the bluebottle grub, he was able to climb down on the inside of the trunk, when he had been unable to get down on the outside.

Why Ndrao-ghu shot the monkey maiden is not clear, but it appears that he took offence at the light-hearted, teasing answer he received to his initial question and to his threat to shoot her.

M455

The youth who married a sky-maiden.

Collected by Wang Ming-ji.

The sun was shining brightly,
And the sunshine was good,
Good for the Miao man to go and channel water.
But sky-maidens flew whistling from the sky,
And made the Miao man's stream muddy.

The children went out minding the pigs,
And while minding them crossed the edge of the Miao man's water.
So the Miao man came and scolded,
The Miao man scolded the children.

The children spoke together,
"Who will go and talk to him?
Let the children tell the Miao man".
So the children told the Miao man and said,

"When the sun is shining brightly,
Who is it, at breakfast time,
Who is it that flies whistling from the sky,
And stirs the Miao man's stream to make it muddy?"

The Miao man went and built a booth,
Built a hide, built a booth near the water pool.
The Miao man went and stayed there,
Went to keep watch at his stream of water.

When breakfast time came,
The sky-maidens flew whistling from the sky.
The sky-maidens took off their wings,
Their mottled, dappled wings at the water's edge.

While the sky-maidens were stirring the water,
The Miao man ran and took,
Took a sky-maiden's mottled, dappled wings,
Took them away under his arm.

The Miao man shouted at the sky-maidens,
Who flew whistling back into the sky,
But one sky-maiden could not go.
The Miao man went and brought,
Brought the sky-maiden, returned and reached,
Reached the Miao man's home.

The sky-maiden having no name,
Call the sky-maiden Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu.
The Miao man having no name,

Call the Miao man Di-ya-shi-njiang.

This year we may know,
Know that this year Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu has given birth,
Given birth to two brothers.

The elder brother having no name,
Call the elder brother Ndrao-ghu.
The younger brother having no name,
Call the younger brother Ndrao-ghv.

Bo-tyu-nyu-yyu went farming,
Went farming every day.
But farming and tilling tax the strength,
And it taxed Bo-tyu-nyu-yyu's strength.
So Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu sent Di-ya-shi-njiang out to farm.

Then Di-ya-shi-njiang spoke out,
"You two, do not go troubling your mother!"
But Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv cried incessantly and troubled,
Troubled Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu greatly.

Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu spoke,
Spoke to Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv and said,
"When your father is staying with you,
What does he give you to eat, Ndrao-ghu, Ndrao-ghv?"

Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv replied,
"Father gives us the sky-maiden's mottled dappled wings,
Gives them to us to play with.

Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu asked, "Ndrao-ghu, Ndraoghv,
Where did you put them away?"
"We put them away in the covered basket".
Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu ran to take it and look.
"But where did you put that away?"
"We put it up there in the loft".

Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu went, went and took it and looked.
She took out the sky-maiden's mottled, dappled wings
And measured them against the sky maiden's arms.
They fitted the sky-maiden's arms exactly.

The sky-maiden took them and flew over there,
And Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv, all smiles, went to look.
The sky-maiden flew back over here,
And Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv, laughing aloud, went to look.

Then the sky-maiden spoke,
"When the day comes that you two have finished caring for your father,
Then you may follow the sky-maiden".

As the sky-maiden flew whistling back into the sky,
Her shadow fell across the Miao man.
The Miao man, turning round, looked into the sky above,
But the sky-maiden disappeared into the clouds up in the sky.

The Miao man returned home,
And the Miao man spoke,
Spoke to Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv and said,
"This time indeed you two have eaten your mother!"

There came a day when Ndrau-ghu and Ndrao-ghv were grown up,
And having looked after the Miao man until he died,
Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv followed Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu.

They went and reached an Yi household.
"Today a couple of honourable guests have come,
And we have nothing to kill to entertain them.
To entertain them we must catch and kill a goose".

At midnight that night, while Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv were asleep on the wooden floor upstairs,
The pair of geese were lamenting,
"O that Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv would not eat goose flesh!
Kill the mother goose then the little goose would be motherless,
Kill thelittle goose then pity the mother goose!"

Ndrao-ghu roused Ndrao-ghv to listen quietly
To what the pair of geese were saying. The pair of geese continued,
"O that Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv would not eat goose flesh,
Then would the pair of geese show Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv their road.
O that Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv would not drink gosling broth,
Then would the pair of geese show Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv their home".

Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv replied, "We will not eat goose flesh,
If the pair of geese will show Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv their home.
Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv will not drink gosling broth,
If the little goose will show Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv their way".

"Ndrao-ghu and Ndraso-ghv, go and stay up there in the pass,
For Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu, the three sisters,
Will arrive up in the pass.

Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv, go and stay up there in the pass.
Your eldest aunt, riding a mule, will go first,
Your Middle aunt, riding a piebald horse, will arrive in the middle,
Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu, riding a grey horse, will arrive behind.
Let Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv run and cling to the grey horse".
Ndrao-ghv ran to cling to the grey horse,
But Ndrao-ghu did not listen.
Ndrao-ghu ran and clung,
Clung to the eldest aunt,

But her mule turned back and bit him and Ndrao-ghu died.

The gi-zhw birds were calling,
And vexed Ndrao-ghv's heart.
So Ndrao-ghv went and sought
The gi-zhw birds' roost among the bushes,
And Ndrao-ghv took and strangled the gi-zhw birds' young.

But the gi-zhw birds, still calling, plucked,
Plucked green leaves and went and fanned,
Fanned the heads of the gi-zhw birds' young.

This Ndrao-ghv copied.
Ndrao-ghv ran and plucked,
Plucked green leaves and went and fanned him,
And Ndrao-ghu revived.

Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu took,
Took Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv and they went and reached,
Reached Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu's home.
Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu was overjoyed,
But the man Dlang-ndu hated,
Hated Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv greatly.

When the next day came,
Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv were about to leave.
But the man Dlang-ndu was evil hearted.
The man Dlang-ndu took Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv to cut the forest.
The man Dlang-ndu made Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv cut on the lower side,
While the man Dlang-ndu cut on the higher side

The man Dlang-ndu cut, but was not first to make the tree fall,
Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv cut and were first to make the tree fall.
The man Dlang-ndu called,
Called to Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv to come home,
But Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv kept quiet.

The man Dlang-ndu spoke,
"Surely Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv are dead!"
Then Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv came quickly out,
And the man Dlang-du took,
Took Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv back home.

Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv were about to leave,
But the man Ndlang-ndu was evil hearted.
The man Dlang-ndu would take Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv to burn the scrub.
He made Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv stand on the higher side,
While the man Dlang-ndu burnt from the lower side.
But Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu drew clear water,
For Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv to carry,
And Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv poured out,
Poured out clear water on the earth below to make a refuge.

The man Dlang-ndu burnt,
Burnt and scorched the scrub till it was burnt black,
Until the scrub was scorched completely.
Then the man Dlang-ndu called Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv to come out.

But Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv kept quiet.
“This time, surely, Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv are dead!”
Then Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv came quickly out,
And the man Dlang-ndu took Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv back home.

Next day Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv were about to leave,
When the man Dlang-ndu took Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv out for a game.
The man Dlang-ndu wanted Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv to go first,
But Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv made the man Dlang-ndu go first.

So the man Dlang-ndu went and became,
Became the Ruling Race’s water buffalo grazing yonder.
Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu bade Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv raise,
Raise their hands and point to the buffalo,
And the man Dlang-ndu with Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv came home.

Then the man Dlang-ndu made Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv go and hide.
Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu took Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv and turned,
Turned them into two spoons placed in a covered basket.
The man Dlang-ndu came and called.

But Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv remained quiet.
The man Dlang-ndu was evil hearted,
“Surely Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv are dead!”
Then Ndao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv came quickly from the covered basket.

Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv made the man Dlang-ndu go and hide.
The man Dlang-ndu became the Ruling Race’s capsicum pod,
Which attached itself at once to the Ruling Race’s bunch of capsicum.

Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu made Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv raise,
Raise their hands to point, and to call out,
Call out that the man Dlang-ndu had gone,
Gone to the Ruling Race’s bunch of capsicum.

Then the man Dlang-ndu came out,
Returned with Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv and reached,
Reached the man Dlang-ndu’s house.

The man Dlang-ndu made Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv go and hide,
Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu took Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv and turned them,

Turned them into Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu’s ball of hemp in her hip basket.
The man Dlang-ndu came and called.

But Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv remained quiet.

The man Dlang-ndu said,
“Surely Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv are dead!”
Then Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv jumped quickly from the hip basket.

Next day Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv were about to leave,
And Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu ladled white rice
For Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv to carry for lunch.
Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu bade Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv go,
Go by way of the people’s country of bamboo.

“You two go by the clear water of the river Li-yiu,
And marry the monkey maidens of Li-yiu.
Do not go by the rough roads of Li-hmao,
Do not go by the people’s rough roads.

Should you go and marry by the muddy water of the river Li-hmao,
You two will get in marriage Nggu-yi-nzeu’s tiger maidens.
As you go, should you hear the rustle of a snake you two must not touch it”.

When a snake did rustle on the higher side of the road,
Ndrao-ghv said, “Our mother told us
That we two were not to touch the snake”.
But Ndrao-ghu would not agree.
Ndrao-ghu beat the black snake and killed it,
And thereby he actually beat his own mother.

Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv came and reached a stage on the way,
And Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao took out their lunch to share and eat,
Ndrao-ghu and Ndrao-ghv took out the white rice to share and eat.
But as Ndrao-ghv served out the rice for Ndrao-ghu to eat,
Ndrao-ghu’s white rice turned to sand.

Ndrao-ghv said, “Our mother bade us go,
Go by the people’s country of bamboo,
And forbade us to go by by the rough roads of Li-hmao”.
So Ndrao-ghv arrived in the people’s country of bamboo,
And married a Monkey maiden of Li-yiu.

Ndrao-ghu arrived by the rough roads of Li-hmao.
He went to marry by the muddy water of the river Li-hmao,
And married Nggu-yi-nzeu’s tiger maiden.
The tiger maid wore a patterned apron,
An apron with a pattern of spots.

Nggu-yi-nzeu’s tiger maiden schemed,
Schemed well and schemed with care.
“The Chuan Miao deer are grazing yonder on the mountain,
Let us return and wait for some to eat”.
She made Ndrao-ghu remain by the water,
While Nggu-yi-nzeu’s tiger maiden went yonder to the mountain.

A partridge came along first,

And Ndrao-ghu was about to shoot,
To shoot the partridge,
But the partridge would not agree.
“Do not shoot the partridge,
There is another, better than I, coming behind”.

A pheasant came behind,
And Ndrao-ghu would shoot the pheasant,
But the pheasant would not agree for Ndrao-ghu to shoot it.
“There is another, better than I coming behind”.

A stag came behind,
And Ndrao-ghu would shoot the stag,
But the stag would not agree for Ndrao-ghu to shoot it.
It turned around and looked intently yonder at the mountain,
So Ndrao-ghu turned around and looked intently yonder at the mountain.
The striped tigers were coming in a group from yonder mountain.

The stag spoke to Ndrao-ghu and said,
“Take off your belt and sleeve bands and bind yourself up”.
So Ndrao-ghu took off his belt and sleeve bands and bound himself up.
Then Ndrao-ghu jumped quickly and clung to the stag’s antlers,
And the stag tossed Ndrao-ghu,
Tossed him into the tree above.

The striped tigers arrived running,
And the striped tigers sought,
Sought and sought for Ndrao-ghu.
A big gust of wind blew,
And moved Ndrao-ghu’s shadow as he remained,
Remained in the tree above

Then the striped tigers looked up into,
Up into the tree above,
And there was Ndrao-ghu,
Up there in the tree above.
So the striped tigers called,
Called to Ndrao-ghu up above.

But Ndrao-ghu could not come down.
Then Ndrao-ghu said,
“I cannot come down.
Having reached the tree, the tree holds me,
Having reached the rock, the rock holds me.
I cannot come down”.

As the striped tigers went leaping up,
Ndrao-ghu drew his shining sword and slashed,
Slashed the striped tigers and killed them.
But Ndrao-ghu remained,
Remained in the tree above.

Ndrao-ghu grew hungry, very hungry,
But right at the bottom of Ndrao-ghu’s pouch,
He had one grain of rice which he just licked.
The bluebottles were buzzing noisily around,
And he shared a little bit,
Shared it for the bluebottles to lick.

The bluebottles were going in at the bottom and coming out at the top,
Going in at the top and coming out at the bottom,
And they brought one of their grubs to show Ndrao-ghu the way,
And so Ndrao-ghu came down.

Ndrao-ghu then followed,
Followed Ndrao-ghv and went,
Following after Ndrao-ghv.
Now the monkey maiden was fetching water,
And Ndrao-ghu did evil.

He said, “Monkey maiden what are you fetching water for?”
The Monkey maiden replied, “I am fetching water to make,
To make a skin rash for my brother-in-law!”
Ndrao-ghu replied, “Monkey mother if you do not answer me,
I will shoot you , monkey mother!”

The monkey mother replied, “If you shoot,
I shall hide inside my gourd!”
Then Ndrao-ghu shot,
Shot the monkey maiden,
Shot and killed the monkey maiden.

Ndrao-ghu went on and reached Ndrao-ghv’s house.
Ndrao-ghv’s little ones were crying,
They were crying loudly,
So Ndrao-ghu asked, “Ndrao-ghv,
Where has their mother gone?”
Ndrao-ghv replied, “Our mother has gone to fetch water”.

Ndrao-ghu said, ”I shot and killed the monkey maiden”.
Ndrao-ghv replied, “Then be afraid of the many brothers in the Gi-chi monkey family”.

But Ndrao-ghu made Ndrao-ghv go and gather firewood,
Gather firewood for the monkey maiden to carry,
And make as though the monkey maiden had carried it yonder by the horners’ nest.
Then Ndrao-ghu made Ndrao-ghv go and call,
Go and tell the monkey family
That the hornets had stung her to death.

So the monkey family came to kill,
Came to kill the hornets.
But when the monkey family came to kill the hornets,
The hornets stung the Gi-chi monkey family and killed them all.

Except for one cousin only,
They were wiped out completely.

M455

CꞮ꜊ CꞮᑦ Ꙇʼˀ CꞮ" CTᵕ.
youth went marry sky-maiden.

Ꞁ̊ʼ CTᵕ Ꞁ̊ʼ CꞮ" CꞮᵣ,
sunshine shine very fine,

Ꞁ̊ʼ CTᵕ Ꞁₙ Lₒ Ʒ",
sunshine thus come good,

Ʒ" Ʌʕ ʼƆ" CꞮᑦ Ꙇʼᵤ Y".
good Miao man go channel water.

CꞮ" CTᵕ Ʌᶟ Ş Ş T- Ɪ" CTᵕ,
sky-maidens fly whistling come sky,

Y⁻ Ʌʕ ʼƆ" Δⁿ Y" CΔ̊.
make Miao man stream water muddy.

L̄ Tⁿ Ʌ꜊ Ɔ꜊ Ʌₙ CꞮ⁻,
children go pasturing pigs,

Ʌₙ Ɪ⁻ CꞮ⁻ Tₙ Ʌʕ ʼƆ" Ɔₙ CTᵕ
pasturing the pigs cross Miao man plural edge

Y".
water.

Ʌʕ ,Ɔ" T" Lₒ L⁻,
Miao man get come scold,

Ʌʕ ʼƆ" Ɔᶟ L⁻ L̄ Tⁿ Ʌ꜊.
Miao man did scold children.

L̄ Tⁿ Ʌ꜊ Jʳ Ꞁⁿᵒ Ꞁⁿ,
children spoke,

Cₙ Ī Jʳ CꞮₒ Ɔ꜊ Cᵤ,
connector who with go ask,

Ɪₒ L̄ Tⁿ Ʌ꜊ Ꞁₙ Ɪʼˀ Ʌʕ ʼƆ".
cause children say show Miao man.

L̄ Tⁿ Ʌ꜊ Ꞁₙ Ɪʼˀ Ʌʕ ʼƆ" Ꞁⁿ T-,
children say show Miao man saying,

ᒪ̊’ ᑕTᵕ ᒪ̊’ ᑕꞮᐦ ᑕꞮᣴ,
sunshine shine very fine,

ᒪᐢ ᑕᐢ Ɪ̄ ᒍᣴ ꝉₒ Ɪ⁻ T̊ ᑕᐢ ᑕᐦ
thus connector what reach time connector eat

ᒪ’ᑊ,
breakfast,

ᑕᐢ Ɪ̄ ᒍᣴ Ʌ̊ Ŝ Ŝ T⁻ Ɪ" ᑕTᵕ,
connector what fly whistling come sky,

T⁻ ᑊᵤ Ʌᣵ ’Ↄ" Δᐢ Y" ᑕΔ̊.
come stir Miao man stream water muddy.

Ʌᣵ ’Ↄ" Ↄᐦ ꝉ’ₒ ᑕꝉ’",
Miao man went build booth,

ꝉ’° ᑕꝉ’ᣴ ꝉ’° ᑕꝉ’" Tᐢ Tᐢ ᒧ̊ Y".
build hide build booth near the pool water.

Ʌᣵ ’Ↄ" ᑕꞮₒ Ↄᐦ ᑕᐢ°.
Miao man with went situated,

ᑕꞮₒ Ↄᐦ Ʒ̊ Ʌᣵ ’Ↄ" Ↄᐢ Δᐢ Y".
with went guard Miao man plural stream water.

ꝉₒ Ɪ⁻ T̊ ᑕᐢ ᑕᐦ ᒪ’ᑊ,
reach time connector eat breakfast,

ᑕᒧᐦ ᑕTᵕ Ʌ̊ Ŝ Ŝ T⁻ Ɪ" ᑕTᵕ.
sky-maidens fly whistling come sky.

ᑕᒧᐦ ᑕTᵕ Δᣵ ᑕᒧᐦ ᑕTᵕ Ɪ⁻ Tᐢ,
sky-maidens took off sky-maidens wings,

Ɪ⁻ Tᐢ ꝉ' Ɪ⁻ Tᐢ Γ⁻ Ɪ" ᑕTᵕ Y",
wings mottled wings dappled upon edge water,

ᑕᒧᐦ ᑕTᵕ ᑕꞮₒ Ↄᐦ ᑊᵤ.
sky-maidens with went stir.

Ʌᣵ ’Ↄ" Ɪ̊ Ↄᐦ ᒪ’ᐢᣵ,
Miao man run go take,

ᒪ’ᐢᣵ ᑕᒧᐦ ᑕTᵕ Ɪ⁻ Tᐢ ꝉ' Ɪ⁻ Tᐢ Γ⁻,
take sky-maidens wings mottled wings dappled,

ᑕ’ₙᶊ Lⁿ Ↄ꞉ Ꞁ, Ꞁ¯ ᑕₒ.
take going under his arm.

30 Λᶊ ’Ↄ" ᑕT’ⁿ ᑕꓷ" ᑕTᵘ,
Miao man shouted at sky-maidens,

ᑕꓷ" ᑕTᵘ Λᵊ Ṡ Ṡ ᑕ† ꓷ" ᑕTᵘ,
sky-maidens flew whistling turn back sky,

ᑕꓷ" ᑕTᵘ Yⁿ Tᵤ Ↄ꞉ Jʳ T".
sky-maidens one classifier go not get.

Λᶊ ’Ↄ" ᑕꞮₒ Ↄ꞉ I’ˀ,
Miao man with go bring,

I’ˀ ᑕꓷ" ᑕTᵘ Ɪᵤ Ɪ̊ Sʳ Lₒ Δ¯,
bring sky-maiden then return come go to,

35 Δ¯ Λᶊ ’Ↄ" Ꞁ¯ ᑕΔ° ᑕꓷ-.
go to Miao man inside house.

ᑕꓷ" ᑕTᵘ Jʳ T" Ꞁ¯ ᑕ̂ ᑕₙ Tⁿ ᑕ†ʳ,
sky-maiden not get way connector give name.

ꓷₒ ᑕꓷ" ᑕTᵘ ᑕ†ʳ ˩° Tᵓ ᑕᵓ Λᵓ.
cause sky-maiden name Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu.

Λᶊ ’Ↄ" Jʳ T" Ꞁ¯ ᑕ̂ ᑕₙ Tⁿ ᑕ†ʳ,
Miao man not get way connector give name,

Λᶊ ’Ↄ" ᑕ†ʳ Tⁿ Λ₋ Jʳ ᑕᑕⁿ.
Miao man name Di-ya-shi-njiang.

40 Jₙ꞉ ᑕ̄ †ᶊ Lₒ ˩",
this year able come know,

˩" ˩° Tᵓ ᑕᵓ Λᵓ Jₙ꞉ Ↄ- Tᵘ,
know Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu year have sons,

Ↄ- T" ᑕₙ Y¯ Lᵇ T¯ ᑕ̄ Tⁿ.
have get connector two classifier the brothers.

ᑕₙ Ꞁ¯ Tⁿ Jʳ T" Ꞁ¯ ᑕ̂ ᑕₙ
connector elder brother not get way connector

Tⁿ ᑕ†ʳ,
give name,

ᑕₙ Ɪ¯ Tⁿ ᑕ†ʳ ᑕꞮ꜉ Ɪᵘ.
connector elder brother named Ndrao-ghu.

ᑕₙ Ɪ¯ ᑕ̈ ᒍʳ T" Ɪ¯ ᑕ̂ ᑕₙ
connector younger brother not get way connector

Tⁿ ᑕ†ʳ,
give name,

ᑕₙ Ɪ¯ ᑕ̈ ᑕ†ʳ ᑕꞮ꜉ Ɪₚ.
connector younger brother named Ndrao-ghv.

ᑕₙ ᒧ° Tᵓ ᑕᵓ Λᵓ Ɔ꜉ Y¯ Ɪ",
connector Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu went farming,

Y¯ Ɪ" ᑕₙ †ʼ¯ ʼᑕᵘ.
farming thus every day.

Y¯ Ɪ" Y¯ L꜉ Ɔₙ ᑕ꜉ Ʒₒ,
farming and tilling plural taxed strength,

ᑕ꜉ ᒧ° Tᵓ ᑕᵓ Λᵓ Ʒₒ.
taxed Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu strength.

ᑕₙ ᒧ° Tᵓ ᑕᵓ Λᵓ ᑕ° Tⁿ Λ₋ ᒍʳ ᑕᑕᵑ
connector Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu sent Di-ya-shi-njiang

ᑕꞮₒ Y¯ Ɪ".
with farming.

Tⁿ Λ₋ ᒍʳ ᑕᑕᵑ ᒍʳ ᑕⁿᵒ ᑕⁿ,
Di-ya-shi-njiang spoke,

Ɔ¯ Lᵇ Ɪʼ¯ ᑕʼₒ Ɔ¯ Lᵇ ᑕⁿᶜ.
you two do not trouble you two mother.

ᑕꞮ꜉ Ɪᵘ ᑕꞮ꜉ Ɪₚ Ɔ₋ ᑕ̂ ᒪᵘ ᑕ̂ ᒪ ᑕʼₒ,
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv did cry incessantly troubled,

ᑕʼₒ ᑕₙ ᒧ° Tᵓ ᑕᵓ Λᵓ ᑕₙ Y¯
troubled connector Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu thus made

ᑕʼₒ.
trouble.

ᒧ° Tᵓ ᑕᵓ Λᵓ ᑕₙ Ɔ₋ ᑕⁿ,
Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu thus did speak,

Ꞇⁿ ᑕꞮ̤ ꞮᵁꝮ ᑕꞮ̤ Ʞ˒ Ꞇⁿ T˗,
speak Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv speaking,

Ↄ¯ Lᒾ V꜀ l’˒ Ↄ¯ Lᒾ Cⁿᵒ,
you two father bring you two stay,

Ↄ¯ Ī Jᒥ Ɪ’ˮ Ↄₙ Cˮ Λ¯ ᑕꞮ̤ Ɪᵁ
give what for you eat exclamation Ndrao-ghu

Λ¯ ᑕꞮ̤ Ɪ˒.
exclamation Ndrao-ghv.

ᑕꞮ̤ Ɪᵁ ᑕꞮ̤ Ɪ˒ Ꞇₙ Ↄ₋ Ꞇⁿ,
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv thus did speak,

ᒧⁿ V꜀ Ↄ¯ ᑕꞮˮ ᑕTᵁ Ɪ¯ Tⁿ ƚ' Ɪ¯ Tⁿ
our father gives sky-maiden wings mottled wings

Γ̄,
dappled,

Ↄ¯ Ɪ’ˮ ᒧⁿ Ꞇⁿᵒ ᒧⁿ Y¯ Γᒾ.
give for us carry we play.

ᒧ° Tᑐ Cᑐ Λᑐ Cᵤ, ᑕꞮ̤ Ɪᵁ Λ¯
Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu asked, Ndrao-ghu exclamation

ᑕꞮ̤ Ɪ˒,
Ndrao-ghv,

Ↄₙ ƚᒥ Ꞇⁿᶜ Tⁿ Ꞇ’ⁿˤ Tᑐ.
you put away place where.

ᒧⁿ ƚᒥ Ꞇⁿᶜ V꜀ Vᵟ ƚᑐ.
we put away in covered basket.

Cₙ ᒧ° Tᑐ Cᑐ Λᑐ Ɪᵟ Ↄ̤ Ꞇ’ⁿˤ C₋.
connector Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu ran go take look.

Ↄₙ ƚᒥ Ꞇⁿᶜ Ꞇ’ⁿˤ Tᑐ.
you put away place where.

ᒧⁿ ƚᒥ Ꞇⁿᶜ ᒧₙ Λᒾ ᑕT’ᵟ.
we put away there in the loft.

ᒧ° Tᑐ Cᑐ Λᑐ Lⁿ Ↄ̤ Ↄ̤ Ꞇ’ₙˤ C₋
Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu going went took look.

70 [’ₙₛ T" CJ" CTᵘ Jˉ Tⁿ †' Jˉ Tⁿ Γ̣ˉ
took get sky-maiden wings mottled wings dappled

[’ₙₛ Lₒ C[₋ CJ" CTᵘ CȷȢ,
took come measure sky-maiden arms,

C†ᵣ CJ" CTᵘ CȷȢ ȷⁿ Lⁿᶜ.
fitted sky-maiden arms exactly.

CJ" CTᵘ [’ₙₛ ΛȢ I" ȷⁿ Tⁿ Ẏⁿ,
sky-maiden took flew to over there,

CI" Jᵘ CI" J› Δₒ C†’ᵘ Δₒ C†’ʳ CIₒ Ɔ" C₋.
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv smiled with go look.

75 CJ" CTᵘ ΛȢ I" ȷⁿ Tⁿ Ċⁿ,
sky-maiden flew to over here,

CI" Jᵘ CI" J› Δₒ Tₙ CJ’₋ CIₒ Ɔ" C₋.
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv laughed aloud with go look.

CJ" CTᵘ Jʳ [ⁿᵒ [ⁿ,
sky-maiden spoke,

Ɔ- ’Cᵘ Ɔˉ Lᵇ J" Ɔˉ Lᵇ Vᵤ Tȣ,
have day you two support you two father finish,

Ꞁˉ Ɔˉ Lᵇ †ᵒ CJ" CTᵘ Jᵇ.
and you two follow sky-maiden after.

80 CJ" CTᵘ ΛȢ Ṡʳ Ṡʳ C†ᵇ J" CTᵘ,
sky-maiden flew whistling turn back sky,

Yˉ Ɔⁿ Δ₋ [ⁿᵒ Jˉ C†" [’ⁿ" Λₛ ’Ɔ".
made the classifier shadow fall across Miao man.

Λₛ ’Ɔ" Iᵤ ȷⁿ Lᵦ Jʳ [ⁿᵒ ƆȢ I" J" CTᵘ ȷⁿ Jˉ,
Miao man turned gazing into sky above,

CJ" CTᵘ CIₒ Jˉ Δᵒ ꞀȢ ȷₒ Δᵒ ȷₙ CTᵘ.
Sky-maiden with clouds disappear up there sky.

Λₛ ’Ɔ" Iᵤ I̊ Sʳ I̊ Lₒ C[ₙ" CJ-.
Miao man then return come back arrive house.

85 Λₛ ’Ɔ" [ₙ Ɔ₋ [ⁿ,
Miao man thus did speak,

Ꮭⁿ CIıı Iᵘ CIıı Iˀ Ꮭⁿ T-,
speak Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv speaking,

Ɪ" C̄ Ɔ¯ L⁵ C" Ɔ¯ L⁵ Cⁿᶜ Tₒ
this time you two eaten you two mother done

Tₒ.
finish.

Ɔ- ’Cᵘ CIıı Iᵘ CIıı Iˀ Ꮟ°,
have day Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv grew big,

CIıı Iᵘ CIıı Iˀ J" Λᶊ ’Ɔ" T₋ Lᶊ
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv supported Miao man dead gone

Tₒ Tₒ.
done finish.

CIıı Iᵘ CIıı Iˀ †° ˩° Tᵓ Cᵓ Λᵓ I⁵.
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv followed Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu after.

Cₙ Ɔıı †ₒ Lıı Yⁿ.
connector go reach old Yi.

’Ɔ° C̄ Cₙ Yⁿ CꓭₙᶊƷ" Δᵟ Lⁿ I’⁻ T-,
today connector one pair good guests come,

Jʳ T" Ī Jʳ Lₒ T¯ †₋.
not get anything come kill entertain.

Ꮭₙııı ˩ⁿ Tᵤ Ꮆᵘ Lₒ T¯ †₋.
catch the goose come kill entertain.

’Ɔ° CTᵘ Jʳ Tₒ ’Ɔ° CIıı Iᵘ CIıı Iˀ ˩ᵓ Jᵘ
night at midnight Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv lay on

Iᵘ,
boards,

Cꓭₙᶊ Ꮆᵘ J̊ Lⁿ Λ₅,
pair geese lamented,

T" Ɔᵤ ˥ᵤ CIıı Iᵘ CIıı Iˀ I’⁻ Cıı Cꓭₙᶊ
would that Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv forbid eat pair

Ꮆᵘ CIˈ.
geese flesh.

Tˉ Cⁿᶜ Gᵘ G₋ Gᵘ Jʳ Ɔ- Cⁿᶜ,
kill mother goose little goose not have mother,

Tˉ G₋ Gᵘ Ləᵘ Gᵘ Cⁿᶜ.
kill little goose pity goose mother.

100 CI͈ Iᵘ Ȼ̊ CI͈ I˒ Ꞓₙ C͈ Tˉ Ꞓᵣ Vₗ
Ndrao-ghu raised Ndrao-ghv thus listen quietly

CꞒₙₛ Gᵘ Ꞁₙ Ī Jʳ. CꞒₙₛ Gᵘ Ꞓⁿ T-,
pair geese said what. pair geese spoke,

T'' Ɔᵤ Ɉᵤ CI͈ Iᵘ CI͈ I˒ I'ˉ C'' CꞒₙₛ
would that Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv forbid eat pair

Gᵘ CI',
geese flesh,

CꞒₙₛ Gᵘ I'˒ CI͈ Iᵘ CI͈ I˒ Ꞓ̂.
pair geese show Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv road.

T'' Ɔᵤ Ɉᵤ CI͈ Iᵘ CI͈ I˒ I'ˉ Ꞁ͈
would that Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv forbid drink

G₋ Gᵘ Ɉˉ,
little goose broth,

105 CꞒₙₛ Gᵘ I'ˀ CI͈ Iᵘ CI͈ I˒ CɈ-.
pair geese show Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv home.

CI͈ Iᵘ CI͈ I˒ Ꞓⁿ T- Ɔˉ C'' CꞒₙₛ Gᵘ
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv spoke not eat pair geese

CI',
flesh,

Ꞓ₋ Λ̄ Ɉᵤ CꞒₙₛ Gᵘ I'ˀ CI͈ Iᵘ
only want that pair geese show Ndrao-ghu

CI͈ I˒ CɈ-.
Ndrao-ghv home.

ᑕꞮıı Jᵘ ᑕꞮıı Jˀ Ɔ̄ ˥ıı Ᏻ₋ Ᏻᵘ
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghw not drink little goose

]̄,
broth,

ᒪ₋ Λ̄]ᵤ Ᏻ₋ Ᏻᵘ J'ˀ ᑕꞮıı Jᵘ
only want that little goose show Ndrao-ghu

ᑕꞮıı Λˀ ᒪ̑.
Ndrao-ghv way.

110̣ ᑕꞮıı Jᵘ ᑕꞮıı Jˀ Ɔₙ Ɔıı ᑕⁿᵒ Jᒥ ⅃ₙ Δꞩ,
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv you go remain up there pass,

⅃ᵒ Tᵓ ᑕᴐ Λᵓ ⱡᒥ Lᕝ T̄ ᒪ̆ Ʒ̑
Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu three classifier the sisters

Ɔₙ,
plural,

ᑕᒪₙııı Ʒ" Jᒥ ⅃ₙ Δꞩ.
arrive well up there pass.

ᒪₙ ᑕꞮıı Jᵘ ᑕꞮıı Jˀ Ɔₙ Ɔıı ᑕⁿᵒ ⅃ₙ Δꞩ,
thus Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv you go remain up pass,

Ɔₙ ᑕⁿᶜ J̄ ᒺ° ᒪⁿᕝ ᑕᕝ Ʒᵹ ᑕꞮₒ I'ˀ ᑕTⁿ,
your eldest aunt ride mule with go ahead,

115̣ Ɔₙ ᑕⁿᶜ ⅃ⁿ ᑕꞮᵹ ᒪⁿᕝ ᑕᕝ ᒪ'ᵓ ᑕᒪₙııı ⅃ⁿ ᑕꞮᵹ,
your middle aunt ride piebald horse arrive middle

⅃ᵒ Tᵓ ᑕᴐ Λᵓ ᒪⁿᕝ ᑕᕝ ᒪ̎' ᑕᒪₙııı J̄ Jᕝ.
Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu ride grey horse arrive behind.

]ₒ ᑕꞮıı Jᵘ ᑕꞮıı Jˀ Ɪᵹ Ɔıı Ʒₙᶜ
cause Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv run go cling to

ᑕᕝ ᒪ̎'.
grey horse.

ᑕꞮıı Jˀ Ɪᵹ Ɔıı ᑕꞮₒ Ʒₙᶜ ᑕᕝ ᒪ̎'.
Ndrao-ghv ran went with cling grey horse.

ᑕꞮıı Jᵘ Jᒥ ᑕıı Lᵘ,
Ndrao-ghu not listen words,

120̣ CꞮˌˌ Jᵕ Ɪᵹ Lⁿ Ɔˌˌ Ʒₙᴄ,
Ndrao-ghu ran going clung to,

Ʒₙᴄ Cₙ Cⁿᶜ J⁻ ɓ°,
clung to connector eldest aunt,

Cˀ Ʒᵹ Ɪ̊ Lⁿ T∘ CꞮˌˌ Jᵕ T₋ Lⁿ Ɔˌˌ.
mule turned back biting Ndrao-ghu dead going.

Cʺ Ɉⁿ Ꞁᵓ Ꞁₙ Ɔ₋ J⁻,
bird gi-zhw thus did call,

Y° CꞮˌˌ Jˀ Sⁿᶜ.
angered Ndrao-ghv heart.

125̣ CꞮˌˌ Jˀ CꞮ∘ Ɔˌˌ CꞮ̿’,
Ndrao-ghv with went seek,

Cʺ Ɉⁿ Ꞁᵓ Y⁻ Ɪˌˌ Tⁿ Ɉ° ƚ₋.
bird gi-zhw roost the bushes.

CꞮˌˌ Jˀ Ꞁ’ₙς Cʺ Ɉⁿ Ꞁᵓ Tⁿ G₋
Ndrao-ghv took bird gi-zhw the small ones

CꞮ∘ Cˈ Tᵹ.
with strangled finish.

Ꞁₙ Cʺ Ɉⁿ Ꞁᵓ Ɔₙ J⁻ Ꞁₙ Cₙ
thus bird gi-zhw plural call thus connector

Δⁿ,
picked,

Δⁿ CΔʺ Ɔⁿ Sⁿᶜ Ꞁⁿ° Ɔˌˌ ƚ’⁻,
picked leaves green carried go blow,

130̣ Ɔ₋ ƚ’⁻ Ɪʺ Cʺ Ɉⁿ Cᵓ Ɔₙ Tⁿ G₋
did blow upon bird gi-zhw plural the small ones

Ɔₙ Lⁿ Γʺ.
plural heads.

Ꞁₙ CꞮˌˌ Jˀ CꞮ∘ Ɔˌˌ Λˌˌ.
thus Ndrao-ghv with went copy.

CꞮˌˌ Jˀ Ɪᵹ Ɔˌˌ Δⁿ,
Ndrao-ghv ran went picked,

Δⁿ ᑕΔ" Ɔⁿ Sⁿᶜ ᑕⲒₒ Ɔ״ ϯ'⁻,
picked leaves green with went blow,

ᑕⲒ״ Iᵕ ᑕⲒₒ [ⁿᶜ Lₒ.
Ndrao-ghu with revive come.

ᒧ° T⊃ ᑕ⊃ Λ⊃ ǀ'ˀ
Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu took,

ǀ'ˀ ᑕⲒ״ Iᵕ ᑕⲒ״ Iˀ ᑕⲒₒ Ɔ״ ϯₒ,
took Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv with went reach,

ϯₒ ᒧ° T⊃ ᑕ⊃ Λ⊃ ᑕ]⁻.
reach Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu house.

ᒧ° T⊃ ᑕ⊃ Λ⊃ Y⁻ Ⲓₒ L₋.
Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu very happy.

Λʕ [ⁿᵒ Δᶾ ᑕTᵕ [ₙ Ɔ₋ Jᵕ,
the man Dlang-ndu thus did hate,

Jᵕ ᑕⲒ״ Iᵕ ᑕⲒ״ Iˀ [ₙ Y⁻ J̃ᵕ.
hate Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv thus made hate.

ᒧₙ [ₙ ϯʕ Lₒ Sᶾ,
tomorrow able come away,

ᑕⲒ״ Iᵕ ᑕⲒ״ Iˀ L̄ Ɔ״ Tᶾ.
Ndrao-ghv Ndrao-ghu will go finish.

Λʕ [ⁿᵒ Δᶾ ᑕTᵕ Sⁿᶜ Jᴦ Ʒ".
the man Dlang-ndu heart not good.

Λʕ [ⁿᵒ Δᶾ ᑕTᵕ ǀ'ˀ ᑕⲒ״ Iᵕ ᑕⲒ״ Iˀ ᑕIˀ L⁻
the man Dlang-ndu took Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv go cut

L".
forest.

Λʕ [ⁿᵒ Δᶾ ᑕTᵕ [°]ₒ ᑕⲒ״ Iᵕ ᑕⲒ״ Iˀ L⁻
the man Dlang-ndu caused Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv cut

ᑕⲒᵕ Iᶾ,
lower side,

Λʕ [ⁿᵒ Δᶾ ᑕTᵕ L⁻ ᒧⁿ Γ̈.
the man Dlang-ndu cut up above.

Λˁ ꓭⁿᵒ Δᵟ ꓛTᵘ L¯ Ɔ₋ Sᵘ ꓘ₁₁,
the man Dlang-ndu cut not first fall,

ꓛꓲ₁₁ ꓘᵘ ꓛꓲ₁₁ ꓘˀ L¯ Sᵘ ꓘ₁₁.
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv cut first fall.

Λˁ ꓭⁿᵒ Δᵟ ꓛTᵘ I’ᵘ,
the man Dlang-ndu called,

I’ᵘ ꓛꓲ₁₁ ꓘᵘ ꓛꓲ₁₁ ꓘˀ L₀ Δ¯ ꓛꓷ-.
called Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv come go to house.

ꓛꓲ₁₁ ꓘᵘ ꓛꓲ₁₁ ꓘˀ ꓛⁿᵒ ꓭᵣ V₀.
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv remained quiet.

Λˁ ꓭⁿᵒ Δᵟ ꓛTᵘ ꓭⁿ T-,
the man Dlang-ndu spoke,

ꓛꓲ₁₁ ꓘᵘ ꓛꓲ₁₁ ꓘˀ Ɔₙ T₋ Lˁ Tₙ꜀
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv plural dead gone truly

T₃.
finish.

ꓛꓲ₁₁ ꓘᵘ ꓛꓲ₁₁ ꓘˀ Tˁ Δˁ L₀.
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv out suddenly came.

Λˁ ꓭⁿᵒ Δᵟ ꓛTᵘ I’ˀ,
the man Dlang-ndu took,

I’ˀ ꓛꓲ₁₁ ꓘᵘ ꓛꓲ₁₁ ꓘˀ L₀ †₀ ꓛꓷ-.
took Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv come reach house.

ꓛꓲ₁₁ ꓘᵘ ꓛꓲ₁₁ ꓘˀ Λ̄ Ɔ₁₁ T₃,
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv will go finish,

Λˁ ꓭⁿᵒ Δᵟ ꓛTᵘ Sⁿᶜ Jʳ Ʒ".
the man Dlang-du heart not good.

Λˁ ꓭⁿᵒ Δᵟ ꓛTᵘ Λ̄ I’ˀ ꓛꓲ₁₁ ꓘᵘ ꓛꓲ₁₁ ꓘˀ
the man Dlang-ndu will take Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv

ꓛꓘ₅ ˁ₆ L",
go burn undergrowth,

ꓷ₀ ꓛꓲ₁₁ ꓘᵘ ꓛꓲ₁₁ ꓘˀ ˁJ ꓲⁿ ̈Γ,
caused Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv stand up above,

Λˁ [ⁿᵒ Δᶾ CTᵘ Ŀ̔ CTᵘ Ɉᶾ.
the man Dlang-ndu burnt lower side.

Cₙ ⅃° Tᵓ Cₒ Λᵓ CTₙ Y" Ɔⁿ Sⁿᶜ Ɪ'"
connector Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu drew water clear for

CƖ˶ Ɉᵘ CƖ˶ Ɉˀ [ⁿᵒ.
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv carry.

CƖ˶ Ɉᵘ CƖ˶ Ɉˀ [ₙ Ɔ₋ Ŀ̑,
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv thus did pour,

165 Ŀ̑ Y" Ɔⁿ Sⁿᶜ Ɪ" Ɉ⁻ L⁻ ⅃ⁿ Tⁿ Y⁻ CƎ-
pour water clear upon earth below make house

Cⁿᵒ.
remain.

Λˁ [ⁿᵒ Δᶾ CTᵘ [ₙ Ɔ₋ Ŀ̔,
the man Dlang-ndu thus did burn,

Ŀ̔ L" [ⁿ L" Ǝ'° 'C̑,
burnt undergrowth scorched undergrowth burnt black,

L" [ⁿ [ₙ Tᶾ [ₙ.
undergrowth scorched thus finish completed.

Λˁ [ⁿᵒ Δᶾ CTᵘ I'ᵘ CƖ˶ Ɉᵘ CƖ˶ Ɉˀ Ǝₒ
the man Dlang-ndu called Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv cause

Tˁ Lₒ.
out come.

170 CƖ˶ Ɉᵘ CƖ˶ Ɉˀ Cⁿᵒ [ᵣ Vᵤ.
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv remained quiet.

Ǝ" C̄ CƖ˶ Ɉᵘ CƖ˶ Ɉˀ Ɔₙ T₋ Lˁ
this time Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv plural dead gone

Tⁿᶜ Tᶾ.
truly finish.

CƖ˶ Ɉᵘ CƖ˶ Ɉˀ Tˁ Ɉ⁻ Δˁ Lₒ.
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv out suddenly came.

Λ꞉ Ⅽⁿᵒ Δ³ ⅭTᵘ I'ₚ ⅭꞮ₁₁ Ɪᵘ ⅭꞮ₁₁ Ɪₚ L₀
the man Dlang-ndu took Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv come

†₀ ⅭꞮ₋.
reach house.

˩ₙ Ⅽₙ ⅭꞮ₁₁ Ɪᵘ ⅭꞮ₁₁ Ɪₚ L̄ Ɔ₁₁ Tₙ꜀ T₃.
tomorrow Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv will go true finish.

175 Λ꞉ Ⅽⁿᵒ Δ³ ⅭTᵘ I'ₚ ⅭꞮ₁₁ Ɪᵘ ⅭꞮ₁₁ Ɪₚ Ɔ₁₁
the man Dlang-ndu took Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv went

Y⁻ Γᵇ.
play.

Λ꞉ Ⅽⁿᵒ Δ³ ⅭTᵘ Ꞁ₀ ⅭꞮ₁₁ Ɪᵘ ⅭꞮ₁₁ Ɪₚ Sᵘ
the man Dlang-ndu caused Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv first

Ɔ" Y⁻,
go make,

ⅭꞮ₁₁ Ɪᵘ ⅭꞮ₁₁ Ɪₚ Ꞁ₀ Λ꞉ Ⅽⁿᵒ Δ³ ⅭTᵘ Sᵘ
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv caused the man Dlang-ndu first

Ɔ₁₁ Y⁻.
go make.

Λ꞉ Ⅽⁿᵒ Δ³ ⅭTᵘ Ɔ₁₁ Y⁻,
the man Dlang-ndu went made,

J⁻ ⅭꞮ₁₁ Ⅽⁿᵒ Tⁿ V₁₁ Ɔₙ Ⅽ~ Y" Ⅽ~ T₃ Ⅽ₀ ˩ⁿ Tⁿ
Ruling Race plural water buffalo grazing yonder

Ẏⁿ.
there.

180 Ⅽₙ ˩ᵒ Tᵓ Ⅽ₃ Λᵓ Ⅽᵒ Ꞁ₀ ⅭꞮ₁₁ Ɪᵘ
connector Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu caused Ndrao-ghu

ⅭꞮ₁₁ Ɪₚ Ⅽⁿ,
Ndrao-ghv raise,

Ⅽⁿ Tⁿ Ꞁ'ₙ L₋ Ɪ" Ⅽ~ Ɪ⁻ T₃.
raise hand point toward buffalo.

Λˤ [ⁿᵒ Δᵟ CTᵘ CꞮₒ CꞮᵢᵢ Ɪᵘ CꞮᵢᵢ Ɪˀ Lₒ
the man Dlang-ndu with Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv came

Δ⁻ C]⁻.
go to house.

Λˤ [ⁿᵒ Δᵟ CTᵘ [°]ₒ CꞮᵢᵢ Ɪᵘ CꞮᵢᵢ Ɪˀ Ɪᵤ
the man Dlang-ndu caused Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv then

Ɔᵢᵢ ⅃̊ CΔᵤ.
go hide.

⅃° Tᵓ Cᵓ Λᵓ [ʼₙₛ CꞮᵢᵢ Ɪᵘ CꞮᵢᵢ Ɪˀ Y⁻,
Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu took Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv make,

Y⁻ Y⁻ Tᵘ T⁻ Δ̂ [ⁿᶜ Vᵟ ŧᵓ.
make two classifier spoons placed basket.

Λˤ [ⁿᵒ Δᵟ CTᵘ CꞮₒ Lₒ Iʼᵘ.
the man Dlang-ndu with come call.

CꞮᵢᵢ Ɪᵘ CꞮᵢᵢ Ɪˀ Cⁿᵒ [ᵣ Vᵤ.
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv remained quiet.

Λˤ [ⁿᵒ Δᵟ CTᵘ Sⁿᶜ Jʳ Ʒ",
the man Dlang-ndu heart not good,

CꞮᵢᵢ Ɪᵘ CꞮᵢᵢ Ɪˀ Ɔₙ T₋ Lˤ Tₙc Tᵟ.
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv plural dead gone true finish

CꞮᵢᵢ Ɪᵘ CꞮᵢᵢ Ɪˀ Tˤ Δˤ Lₒ Vᵟ ŧᵓ.
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv out suddenly came basket.

CꞮᵢᵢ Ɪᵘ CꞮᵢᵢ Ɪˀ [°]ₒ Λˤ [ⁿᵒ Δᵟ CTᵘ CꞮₒ
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv causes the man Dlang-ndu with

Ɔᵢᵢ ⅃̊ CΔᵤ.
go hide.

Λˤ [ⁿᵒ Δᵟ CTᵘ Y⁻ J⁻ CꞮᵢᵢ [ⁿᵒ Tⁿ Vᵢᵢ Cₙ Yⁿ
the man Dlang-ndu made Ruling Race connector one

Lᵘ]ⁿ J⁻,
classifier capsicum,

ꓭᶝ Cₙ Jᒥ Δ̄’ Vᵤ J̄ CꞮ‖ ꓭⁿᵒ Tⁿ V‖ ꓭⁿᵒ
hang connector at once at Ruling Race bunch

ꓷⁿ J̄.
capsicum.

Cₙ ᒧ° Tᵓ Cₒ Λᵓ ꓭ° ꓷ° CꞮ‖ Ɪᵘ
connector Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu caused Ndrao-ghu

CꞮ‖ Ɪˀ ꓭⁿ,
Ndrao-ghv raise,

195 ꓭⁿ Tⁿ ꓷ’ⁿ L₋ I’ᵘ,
raise hand point call,

I’ᵘ ꓭₙ Λˤ ꓭⁿᵒ Δᶝ CTᵘ Ɪ",
call thus the man Dlang-ndu gone to,

Ɪ" J̄ CꞮ‖ ꓭⁿᵒ Tⁿ V‖ ꓭⁿᵒ ꓷⁿ J̄.
gone to Ruling Race bunch capsicum.

Λˤ ꓭⁿᵒ Δᶝ CTᵘ CꞮ° Tˤ L°,
the man Dlang-ndu with out came,

CꞮ° CꞮ‖ Ɪᵘ CꞮ‖ Ɪˀ Ɪ̊ L° ♰°,
with Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv return come reach,

200 ♰° Λˤ ꓭⁿᵒ Δᶝ CTᵘ Cꓷ-.
reach the man Dlang-ndu house.

Λˤ ꓭⁿᵒ Δᶝ CTᵘ ꓭ° ꓷ° CꞮ‖ Ɪᵘ CꞮ‖ Ɪˀ Ɔ‖
the man Dlang-ndu caused Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv go

ᒧ̊ CΔᵤ.
hide.

Cₙ ᒧ° Tᵓ Cₒ Λₒ ꓭ’ₙˤ CꞮ‖ Ɪᵘ CꞮ‖ Ɪˀ
connector Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu took Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv

Y̅,
made,

Y̅ Cₙ ᒧ° Tᵓ Cₒ Λᵓ Yⁿ Tⁿ CT̄ Ɪ"
make connector Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu one hand hemp at

CꞮᵤ ꓷˤ.
inside hip basket.

Λς Ꮯⁿᵒ Δᶾ ᑕTᵘ ᑕꞮₒ Lₒ Iʼᵘ.
the man Dlang-ndu with come call.

ᑕꞮ₁₁ Ɪᵘ ᑕꞮ₁₁ Ɪₔ ᑕⁿᵒ Ꮯᵣ Vᵤ.
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv remained quiet.

Λς Ꮯⁿᵒ Δᶾ ᑕTᵘ Ꮯⁿ T-,
the man Dlang-ndu spoke,

ᑕꞮ₁₁ Ɪᵘ ᑕꞮ₁₁ Ɪₔ Ↄₙ T₋ Lς Tₙ꜀ Tᶾ.
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv plural dead gone true finish

ᑕꞮ₁₁ Ɪᵘ ᑕꞮ₁₁ Ɪₔ Tς Δʼⁿᶜ Ɪ⁻ Δς Lₒ ᑕꞮᵤ ꓶς.
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv jump out come inside basket.

ꓲⁿ Ꮯⁿ ᑕꞮ₁₁ Ɪᵘ ᑕꞮ₁₁ Ɪₔ L̄ Ↄ₁₁ Tₙ꜀ Tᶾ.
tomorrow Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv will go true finish

ᑕₙ ꓲᵒ Tᵓ ᑕᵓ Λᵓ ꓶ₁ V⁻ ᑕΔⁿ ᑕ†ʼₙ꜀ Lₙ꜀ Ɪʼ"
connector Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu ladled rice white for,

Ɪʼ" ᑕꞮ₁₁ Ɪᵘ ᑕꞮ₁₁ Ɪₔ Ɪᵣ Y⁻ Jᵘ.
for Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv carry make lunch.

ᑕₙ ꓲᵒ Tᵓ ᑕᵓ Λᵓ Ꮯ° ꓶₒ ᑕꞮ₁₁ Ɪᵘ ᑕꞮ₁₁
connector Bo-dyu-nyu-yyu caused Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-

Ɪₔ Ↄₙ ᑕᏟₙ₁₁₁,
ghv plural arrive,

ᑕᏟₙ₁₁₁ ᑕΔⁿᶜ Tⁿ Tᵇ ᑕᵇ Ɪ⁻ Tⁿ Δ°,
arrive world people country bamboo,

Ↄₙ Δ⁻ Lⁿ Λ~ Δⁿ Y" ᑕᏟʼ⁼,
you go to Li-yiu river water clear,

Ↄₙ Ↄ₁₁ Iʼₔ Lⁿ Λ~ Tⁿ ᑕꓶ" Lⁿᶜ.
you go marry Li-yiu young women monkey.

Ↄₙ Ɪʼ⁻ ᑕᏟₙ₁₁₁ Lⁿ ʼↃ" Ꮯ̂ T- Δ",
you forbid arrive Li-hmao rough roads,

ᑕᏟₙ₁₁₁ ᑕΔⁿᶜ Tⁿ Tᵇ ᑕᵇ Ꮯ̂ T- Δ".
arrive world people rough roads.

Y¯ ᑕ’ₙ Ɔ-   Ɔ"   I’ˀ   ᐃ¯   ᒪⁿ ’Ɔ"   ᐃⁿ
if it should be go marry go to Li-hmao river

Y"   Cᐃ̊,
water muddy,

Ɔ¯ ᒪᵇ   Ɔ"   I’ˀ   T"   Ǝᵤ ᐱₙ C†ᶜ   Tⁿ Cᑐ"
you two go marry get Nggu-yi-nzeu young women

ᑕ̊.
tiger.

220 Ɔ¯ ᒪᵇ   Ɔ"   ᑕₙ   C" Tⁿ Cᵹ   Y¯ ᑐ’₋ ᑕ̄’   Ɔ¯ ᒪᵇ   Ɪ’¯
you two go thus snake   rustle   you two do not

†’°.
touch.

C" Tⁿ Cᵹ Y¯ ᑐ’₋ ᑐ̄’   CƮᵤ   Ɪ" ᑕ̑.
snake   rustled inside higher side of the road.

CƮ" Ɪˀ   ᒣₙ,   Y¯ ᒪᵇ   Cⁿᶜ   ᑕⁿ T-,
Ndrao-ghv said, we two mother spoke,

Y¯ ᒪᵇ   Ɪ’¯   †’°   C" Tⁿ Cᵹ   Tⁿ.
we two forbid touch   snake at all.

CƮ" Ɪᵘ   Jᴦ ᑕ’¯ ᑕᵘ.
Ndrao-ghu not agreeable.

225 CƮ" Ɪᵘ   CT"   ⅃ⁿ Cᵹ   ᐃᵘ   T₋   ᒪⁿ Ɔ".
Ndrao-ghu   beat snake black dead going.

Cₒ   CT"   Cₒ   Cⁿᶜ   Tᵹ   Tₙᶜ   Tᵹ.
He beat his mother finish truly finish.

CƮ" Ɪᵘ   CƮ" Ɪˀ   ᒪₒ   †ₒ   Tⁿ   Cᑕₙ   ᑕ̑,
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv came reach the stage road,

CƮ" Ɪᵘ   CƮ" Ɪˀ   ᑕ’ₙᶜ   Ɪ¯ Jᵘ   Jᴦ Γ̆   C",
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv took lunch divide eat,

CƮ" Ɪᵘ   CƮ" Ɪˀ   ᑕ’ₙᶜ   V¯ Cᐃⁿ C†’ₙᶜ ᒪₙᶜ   Jᴦ Γ̆
Ndrao-ghu Ndrao-ghv took   rice   white divide

C".
eat.

230̣ ᑕꞮᵢᵢ Jˀ ⊏’ₙᶳ Vˉ ᑕΔⁿ Ɪ’″ ᑕꞮᵢᵢ Jᵘ ᑕ″,
Ndrao-ghv took rice for Ndrao-ghu eat,

ᑕꞮᵢᵢ Jᵘ ⊏ₙ Vˉ ᑕΔⁿ ᑕ†’ₙ꜀ Lₙ꜀ Δ’ₙ Vˀ Sˉ.
Ndrao-ghu thus rice white changed into sand.

ᑕꞮᵢᵢ Jˀ ⊏ⁿ T-, Yˉ Lᕑ ᑕⁿᶜ ⊏° ⊐ₒ Yˉ Lᕑ
Ndrao-ghv spoke, we two mother caused us two

ᑕ⊏ₙᵢᵢ,
arrive,

ᑕ⊏ₙᵢᵢ ᑕΔⁿᶜ Tⁿ Tᕑ ᑕᕑ Jˉ Tⁿ Δ°,
arrive world people country bamboo,

J’ˉ ⊐ₒ Yˉ Lᕑ ᑕ⊏ₙᵢᵢ Lⁿ ’Ↄ″ ⊏̑ T- Δ″.
forbid cause us two arrive Li-hmao rough roads.

235̣ ᑕꞮᵢᵢ Jˀ ᑕ⊏ₙᵢᵢ ᑕΔⁿᶜ Tⁿ Tᕑ ᑕᕑ Jˉ Tⁿ Δ°̣
Ndrao-ghv arrived world people country bamboo,

ᑕꞮᵢᵢ Jˀ Ↄᵢᵢ I’ˀ T″ Lⁿ Ʌ῀ Tⁿ ᑕ⊐″
Ndrao-ghv went marry get Li-yiu young woman

Lⁿᶜ.
monkey.

□□□.□□.........□□......□□□......□□..□□......□□.□□.□□ .
Ndrao-ghu went arrived Li-hmao rough road,

Ↄᵢᵢ I’ˀ Δˉ Lⁿ ’Ↄ″ Δⁿ Y″ ᑕΔ̊,
went marry go to Li-hmao river water muddy,

I’ˀ T″ Gᵤ Ʌₙ ᑕ†ᶳ Tⁿ ᑕ⊐″ ⊏̊.
marry get Nggu-yi-nzeu young woman tiger.

240̣ ᑕ⊐″ ⊏̊ ’ᑕ̊̄ Y̔ ᑕΔᵢᵢ,
girl tiger wore apron patterned,

Y̔ ᑕΔᵢᵢ ᑕΔᵢᵢ Yˉ Lᵘ.
apron patterned patterned spots.

Gᵤ Ʌₙ ᑕ†ᶳ Tⁿ ᑕ⊐″ Ↄₙ ᑕᒧᵢᵢ
Nggu-yi-nzeu young woman plural schemed,

ᑕᒧᵢᵢ Ʒ″ Jʳ ᑕꞮᵘ ᑕᒧᵢᵢ.
schemed well carefully schemed.

ʼↃ" Ɪ⁻ ϹᏞʳ ϹꞮˈ Ꮮₙ Lⁿ Ꞁ" Ϲₒ ⅃ⁿ Ɪ",
Chuan Miao deer graze yonder mountain,

⅃ⁿ Sʳ Ↄ₍₎ T° Lₒ Ϲ".
we return go wait come eat.

Ꞁₒ ϹⲒ₍₎ Ɪᵘ Ϲⁿᵒ Tⁿ ϹTᵘ Y",
caused Ndrao-ghu remain the edge water,

Ꮆᵤ Λₙ Ϲƚₛ Tⁿ ϹꞮ" Ꮮ̊ Δ⁻ ⅃ⁿ
Nggu-yi-nzeu young woman tiger go to yonder

Ɪ".
mountain.

Ϲ" Ɪ⁻ Ꮮˤ ϹⲒₒ Iʼₚ ϹTⁿ.
partridge with came first.

Ꮮₙ ϹⲒ₍₎ Ɪᵘ L̄ Ↄ⁻ ⅃̊,
thus Ndrao-ghu about to shoot,

⅃̊ Ϲ" Ɪ⁻ Ꮮˤ Tᵹ.
shoot partridge finish.

Ϲ" Ɪ⁻ Ꮮˤ ϹⲒₒ Ↄ₋ Ꮮᵘ.
partridge with not agree.

Ꮮₙ Ɪʼ⁻ ⅃̊ Ϲ" Ɪ⁻ Ꮮˤ Tⁿ,
thus forbid shoot partridge at all,

Ↄ- Ϲₙ Yⁿ Tᵤ Ꞁᵤ Ʒ" L̄ Ť
there is connector one classifier which better

Ꞁ̆ Lₒ ϹⲒᵘ Ɪᵇ.
I come after.

Ϲ" Ɪ⁻ ϹᏞ̊ʼ Lₒ ϹⲒᵘ Ɪᵇ.
pheasant came after.

ϹⲒ₍₎ Ɪᵘ L̄ ⅃̊ Ϲ" Ɪ⁻ ϹᏞ̊ʼ Tᵹ.
Ndrao-ghu will shoot pheasant finish.

Ϲ" Ɪ⁻ ϹᏞ̊ʼ Jʳ Ꮮᵘ Ꞁₒ ϹⲒ₍₎ Ɪᵘ ⅃̊.
pheasant not agree cause Ndrao-ghu shoot.

Ɔ- Cₙ Yⁿ Tᵤ]ᵤ Ʒ" L̄ Ť
there is connector one classifier which better

]̆ Lₒ CꞮᵘ Ɪᵇ.
I come after.

ϯ' [ⁿᵒ Ɔⁿ Jᵢ Lₒ CꞮᵘ Ɪᵇ.
stag came after.

CꞮ" Ɪᵘ L̄ ᒧ̊ ϯ' [ⁿᵒ Ɔₙ Jᵢ Tᵹ.
Ndrao-ghu will shoot stag finish.

260 ϯ' [ⁿᵒ Ɔⁿ Jᵢ Ɔ_ [ᵘ]ᵤ CꞮ" Ɪᵘ ᒧ̊.
stag not agree that Ndrao-ghu shoot.

[ₙ Ɪᵤ ᒧⁿ Lᵇ Jʳ [ⁿᵒ Ɔᵟ Ɪ" ᒧⁿ
thus turned round looked intently to yonder

Ɪ".
mountain.

CꞮ" Ɪᵘ Ɪᵤ ᒧⁿ Lᵇ Jʳ [ⁿᵒ Ɔᵟ Ɪ" ᒧⁿ
Ndrao-ghu turned around looked intently to yonder

Ɪ".
mountain.

[̊ ϯ Ɪ⁻ CΔ" Y⁻ Cᒧᵒ CꞮₒ Lₒ ᒧⁿ
tigers striped made group with come yonder

Ɪ".
mountain.

ϯ' [ⁿᵒ Ɔⁿ Jᵢ [ⁿ CꞮ" Ɪᵘ [ⁿ T-,
stag spoke Ndrao-ghu spoke so,

265 Δᵹ]ₙ ᒪ⁻ J⁼ ᒪ⁻ V⁻ CTᵹ]ₙ [ⁿᶜ.
remove your belt sleeve band tie you completed.

CꞮ" Ɪᵘ Δᵹ ᒪ⁻ J⁼ ᒪ⁻ V⁻ CTᵹ CꞮ" Ɪᵘ
Ndrao-ghu removed belt sleeve band tied Ndrao-ghu

[ⁿᶜ.
completed.

ꓶₒ CꞮ꒐ Ɪᵘ ∆'ⁿᶜ ꓶ'ᵇ Cᵇ Ↄ꒐ Ʒₙc ϯ' Ɽⁿᵒ Ↄⁿ Jᵢ
cause Ndrao-ghu jump quickly go cling stag

ꓶᵘ.
horns.

ϯ' Ɽⁿᵒ Ↄⁿ Jᵢ Jᴦ Vᵤ CꞮ꒐ Ɪᵘ,
stag tossed Ndrao-ghu,

Jᴦ Vᵤ Sᵟ Cₙ Yⁿ Ꞅᵟ CT" Ɽₙₒ
tossed away connector one classifier tree so

ꓲⁿ J⁻.
above.

C̊ ϯ' Ɪ⁻ C∆꒐ Ɪᵟ Lₒ ϯₒ,
tigers striped ran come reach,

C̊ ϯ' Ɪ⁻ C∆꒐ Ɽₙ Ↄ₋ CꞮ̿',
tigers striped thus did seek,

CꞮ̿' CꞮ꒐ Ɪᵘ Ɽₙ Y⁻ CꞮ̿'.
seek Ndrao-ghu thus make seek.

Ɽⁿ ᒉ° Ɽₙ Ɽⁿ ϯ'⁻,
wind big thus wind blow,

ϯ'⁻ CꞮ꒐ Ɪᵘ Cₙ Ɪ⁻ CT" Cⁿᵒ,
blow Ndrao-ghu connector shadow situated,

Cⁿᵒ Cₙ Yⁿ Ꞅᵟ CT" Ɽₙₒ ꓲⁿ J⁻,
situated connector one classifier tree so above,

C̊ ϯ' Ɪ⁻ C∆꒐ C₋ Ɪ",
tigers striped looked at,

Ɪ" Cₙ Yⁿ Ꞅᵟ CT" Ɽₙₒ ꓲⁿ J⁻,
at connector one classifier tree so above,

CꞮ꒐ Ɪᵘ Ɽₙ Ↄ₋ Cⁿᵒ,
Ndrao-ghu thus did remain,

Cⁿᵒ Cₙ Yⁿ Ꞅᵟ CT" Ɽₙₒ ꓲⁿ J⁻.
remain connector one classifier tree so above.

L̊ ⵜ' Ɪ⁻ ᑕΔ'' ⵜˤ Lₒ I'ᵘ,
tigers striped able come call,

I'ᵘ ᑕⲒ'' Ɪᵘ Ⲓ'' ┛ⁿ J⁻,
call Ndrao-ghu at above,

ᑕⲒ'' Ɪᵘ Lₒ Jᒥ T'' Tᵹ.
Ndrao-ghu come not get finish.

ᑕⲒ'' Ɪᵘ Lⁿ T-,
Ndrao-ghu spoke,

Ɪ̆ Lₒ Jᒥ T'' Tᵹ.
I come not get finish.

ⵜₒ ᑕT'' L₋ ᑕT'' T̄,
reach tree then tree holds,

ⵜₒ Vˀ L₋ Vˀ T̄,
reach rock then rock holds,

Ɪ̆ Lₒ Jᵣ T'' Tᵹ.
I come not get finish.

L̊ ⵜ' Ɪ⁻ ᑕΔ'' Δ'ⁿᶜ ┛ⁿ Δ̊' Ɔ'',
tigers striped leapt went,

ᑕⲒ'' Ɪᵘ Ⲓ'° ᑕTᵹ ᑕⵜ'ₙ꜀ Lₙ꜀ Lₙ Ɔ₋ L'ᵹ,
Ndrao-ghu drew sword shining thus did slash,

L'ᵹ L̊ ⵜ' Ɪ⁻ ᑕΔ'' T₋ Lⁿ Ɔ''.
slash tigers striped dead going.

ᑕⲒ'' Ɪᵘ Lₙ Ɔ₋ ᑕⁿᵒ,
Ndrao-ghu thus did remain,

ᑕⁿᵒ ᑕₙ Yⁿ Γᵹ ᑕT'' Lₙₒ ┛ⁿ J⁻,
remain connector one classifier tree so above,

Ɔᵹ L'' ᑕⲒ'' Ɪᵘ Lₙ Y⁻ L''.
did hunger Ndrao-ghu thus make hunger.

ᑕⲒ'' Ɪᵘ Ɪ'₋ ┛ⁿ Lᵘ Ɪᵹ L'ₙᵢ Ⲓ̆',
Ndrao-ghu right to the bottom pouch,

T'' ┛ⁿ Lᵘ Jᒥ ᑕL⁼ ᑕΔⁿ Lⁿ Ɔᵤ Lⁿᵒ Jᵤ.
get single grain of rice simply use lick.

Ɔ̆ Δᵟ Ɔ̆ [˥ ϹⅠ̊ T⁻ ϹⅠ₅,
bluebottles buzz noisily,

Ɔ⁻ Ϲₙ Yⁿ Ϲ[ᵣ Γᵕ,
took connector one little divide,

Γᵕ Ɔ̆ Δᵟ Ɔ̆ [˥ Jᵤ.
divide bluebottles lick.

[ₙ Ɔ̆ Δᵟ Ɔ̆ [˥ ⅃ᵤ T° Ɪᵟ Tʕ
thus bluebottles enter bottom section exit

T° Tⁿ,
top section,

⅃ᵤ T° Tⁿ Tʕ T° Ɪᵟ.
enter top section exit bottom section.

Ϲ₃ T" Ϲ₃ Yⁿ Tᵤ]̆]ᵟ [ⁿᵒ Ɔ"
they get their one classifier grubs bring go

Ɪ'ˀ ϹⅠ" Ɪᵘ,
show Ndrao-ghu,

ϹⅠ" Ɪᵘ ϹⅠₒ ɮ" Lₒ.
Ndrao-ghu with come down.

ϹⅠ" Ɪᵘ [ₙ Ɔ₋ ϯ°,
Ndrao-ghu thus did follow,

ϯ° ϹⅠ" Ɪₚ Ɪ⁻ Ɪˀ Ɔ",
follow Ndrao-ghv after go,

ϯ° ϹⅠ" Ɪₚ Ϲₙ Ɪ⁻ Ɪˀ.
follow Ndrao-ghv connector after.

Ϲ]" Lⁿᶜ Ϲ]" Ɪᵣ Y".
monkey maiden maiden carried water.

ϹⅠ" Ɪᵘ Y⁻ Jʳ Ʒ",
Ndrao-ghu did not well,

Ɔ₋ Cᵤ, C]" Lⁿᶜ [ᵓ L̄ Ɪᵣ Y" Y¯
did ask, monkey maiden you will carry water do

Ī Jʳ.
what.

C]" Lⁿᶜ [ⁿ T-,]̆ L̄ Ɪᵣ Y" †ˁ
monkey maiden spoke, I will carry water able

Lₒ Y¯,
come make,

310 Y¯ Ȳ Ɪ’₋ Cₙ Lᵘ Lₙ.
make brother-in-law connector scabies.

CƗ" Iᵘ [ⁿ T-, Cⁿᶜ Lⁿᶜ [ᵓ ˥ⁿ Iˀ]̆
Ndrao-ghu spoke, mother monkey you not show me

[ₙ,
thus,

]̆ L̄ ⅃̊ Cⁿᶜ Lⁿᶜ Tᵹ.
I will shoot mother monkey finish.

Cⁿᶜ Lⁿᶜ [ⁿ T-, [ᵓ ⅃̊]̆ [ₙ,
mother monkey spoke, you shoot me thus,

]̆ ⅃̉ ⅃"]̆ Yᵓ.
I flee drop into my gourd.

315 CƗ" Iᵘ L̄ Ɔ₋ ⅃̊,
Ndrao-ghu about to shoot,

⅃̊ C]" Lⁿᶜ Tᵹ.
shoot monkey maiden finish.

Ɔ₋ ⅃̊ C]" Lⁿᶜ T₋ Lⁿ Ɔ".
did shoot monkey maiden dead going.

CƗ" Iᵘ Ɔ₋ Ɔ" †ₒ CƗ" Iˀ I¯ CΔ° C]-.
Ndrao-ghu did go reach Ndrao-ghv inside house.

CƗ" Iˀ Tᵘ Tⁿ Ꮾ₋ L₋ Ɔ₋ C̑,
Ndrao-ghv little ones were crying,

320 Cₙ C̑ [ₙ Y¯ C̑
connector cry thus make cry.

CꞮ‖ Jᵘ Cₙ Cᵤ, CꞮ‖ Jˀ Lᵤ,
Ndrao-gu connector asked, Ndrao-ghu exclamation,

Ɔₙ Cⁿᶜ Y¯ J̄ Jʳ Lˁ.
your mother do what gone.

CꞮ‖ Jˀ [ⁿ T-, ⅃ⁿ Cⁿᶜ CJ˒ Ɪʳ Y".
Ndrao-ghv spoke, our mother go carry water.

CꞮ‖ Jᵘ [ⁿ T-,]̆ ⅃̊ C]" Lⁿᶜ T₋ Lⁿ Ɔ‖.
Ndrao-ghu spoke, I shot monkey maiden dead going.

325 CꞮ‖ Jˀ [ⁿ T-, [’¯ C[’' Λₙ Lⁿᶜ]ⁿ [’ʳ
Ndrao-ghv spoke, be afraid family monkey Gi-chi

[Tⁿ [ⁿ".
brothers many.

]ₒ CꞮ‖ Jˀ Ɔ‖ J" Tˁ,
caused Ndrao-ghv go gather firewood,

J" J¯ Tˁ Ɪ’" C]" Lⁿᶜ Ɪʳ,
gather firewood for monkey maiden carry,

]ₒ C]" Lⁿᶜ Ɪʳ Ɔ‖ Ɪ" ⅃ⁿ Ɔ̆ C]ˁ Ɔ̆ Δ̇
cause monkey maiden carry go to yonder hornets

[ⁿᶜ.
completed.

CꞮ‖ Jᵘ [°]ₒ CꞮ‖ Jˀ CꞮₒ Ɔ‖ I’ᵘ,
Ndrao-ghu caused Ndrao-ghv with go call,

330 Ɔ‖ ˥ₙ J’ˀ Λₙ Lⁿᶜ,
go tell family monkeys,

Ɔ̆ C]ˁ Ɔ̆ Δ̇ C+ʳ Cₙ Ɔ₋ T₋ Lˁ Tᵹ
hornets stung connector did die gone done

Tᵹ.
finish.

Λₙ Lⁿᶜ CꞮₒ T- CT‖,
family monkeys with come kill,

T- CT‖ Ɔ̆ C]ˁ Ɔ̆ Δ̇ Tᵹ.
come kill hornets finish.

ᐱᐢ ᒪᐢᑦ ᑎ- ᑕᑎ" ᑐ̆ ᑕᒧᑫ ᑐ̆ ᐃ̇ ᑕᐢ,
family monkeys came kill hornets thus,

335 ᑐ̆ ᑕᒧᑫ ᑐ̆ ᐃ̇ ᑕᐩᒥ ᐱᐢ ᒪᐢᑦ ᒧᐢ ᑕ’ᒥ ᑎ_ ᑎᕐ
hornets stung family monkeys Gi-chi dead done

ᑎᕐ,
finish,

ᐃᐢ ᒧᐢ ᒪᑊ ᑎ⁻ ᐯ" ᑲ_,
except one only young cousin,

ᒧᐢ ᑐ_ ᑎ_ ᒍᒥ ᑎᐢ ᒧᐢ ᑐ_.
one did die not return one did.

M455

The youth who married a sky maiden.

Collected by Wang Ming-ji.

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document B (no. 14, page 39).

The following pairs of lines are punctuated in the Miao text as though they were single long lines. 24 and 25, 28 and 29, 34 and 35, 61 and 62, 70 and 71, 178 and 179, 180 and 181, 184 and 185, 242 and 243.

Lines 45 and 46. These two lines have been supplied in the transcription, having been omitted in the Miao text.

Line 216. A note in Chinese gives the meaning of ⊏̂ T⁻ Δ" as “rough roads”

Lines 232 to 234. These lines are misplaced in the Miao text to a position following line 228. As a result line 228 appears twice, before and after the misplaced lines.

Line 238. The Miao text adds Ꮹᵤ Λₙ C†ς before Lⁿ ’Ɔ".

Line 337. The meaning of this line is unclear, so that the translation is tentative.

M456

The sky maiden.

Told by Yang Ya-go.

Introduction.

In 1911 Sanuel Pollard wrote this version of the sky maiden story in his diary. Although originally a song, it was told to him in prose and he took it down at the dictation of an informant who is not named, but was most probably Yang Ya-go.

At this early date the Miao script was still in the process of development, but in the present transcription the final form of 1934 has been used. Occasionally in the writing odd words have been accidentally omitted. These have been supplied to make the text readable, and are listed in the Notes. At other places the story has obviously run on faster than it could be taken down. No attempt has been made to fill such breaks in continuity, but they are indicated by three dots in the course of the translation. At two or three points, particularly where the narrative was merely a repetition of what had just been said, Pollard did not write it out again but indicated an omission by half a line of dots. The same has been done in this transcription and translation. The last sentence is clearly the beginning of a further episode. The fact that the rest of the page is left blank suggests that Pollard intended taking down more at some later date, but never managed to do so.

Millet seed had to be sown by hand, and the quantity in this story was immense. There were ten “dyu” in one “lu”. These Miao words correspond to the Chinese “dou” and “dan” respectively, but the actual capacity of these measures varied a great deal from area to area. That used at the market in Shi-men-kan was considerably larger than that used at Zhaotung only 20 miles away. When large quantities of grain had to be measured a wooden container was used. This was the largest amount that could be conveniently handled at a time. At Shi-men-kan this was a box approximately two feet square at the top with sides sloping to a one and a half feet square bottom. It was about eight inches deep and contained half a “dyu”. The amount of millet to be sown and collected again in this story was such a container filled twenty-two times.

M456

The sky maiden.

Told by Yang Ya-go.

Once there was a Miao man who went and scooped out a pool for water, and every day he drove his cattle there to drink. One day his water pool was all muddy and he said, “What has been stirring my water pool and making it all muddy?” There was a child who told him that something flew from the sky and stirred it, so one day he hid and watched. … He looked for the pretty one, and took away her wings. Then he came out and surprised them. They all flew off except the pretty one who could not find her wings. The Miao man said, “What are you looking for?” The pretty one said, “I am not looking for anything”. The Miao man said, “If you are willing to become my wife, I will tell you”. So the pretty one went home with the Miao man and became his wife.

In time they had two small sons. Every day the mother went out farming while the father remained at home, but one day, the mother remained at home while the father went out farming. The two sons were crying, and at the same time raising their hands toward the shelf. Their mother gave them all kinds of things, but they wanted none of them. Then she went and opened the covered basket and saw her wings. She took her wings, pulled them on to her body and flew away. She said to her two sons, “The day will come when you will grow big, then you may come and follow me”. The mother flew over where the father was, and her shadow passed by. The father said, “May the spear take those two sons, for they have eaten their mother”.

The two sons lived on until they had grown up. They then wanted to go in search of their mother. They went to spend the night with a very wealthy Yi family. When they had gone to bed the Yi family were discussing, “We have two fine guests staying with us here today, what should we kill to entertain them?” Now the Yi family had raised three geese. … The geese said, “Kill the mother goose, then pity the little goose. Kill the father goose, then pity the mother goose”. … The two sons said, “We will not eat you but we want you to show us the way”. The geese told them, “When you arrive yonder at the pass, if you see a troop of horses coming, with the leading one rippling with fat, do not ride it. Coming after there will be one which is plastered all over with manure, you two ride the one that comes after. Having reached the pass the bigger brother, not heeding the instructions, saw the very good horse and deliberately rode it, but that good horse bit his forehead and crushed it. … The younger brother killed the
gi-zhw birds. The heads of the little ones were crushed, but the mother bird picked lily leaves and placed them on the little birds’ heads and they came back to life. The younger brother then copied the mother bird. He went and picked lily leaves and placed them on his elder brother’s forehead, and his elder brother came back to life. The two of them went once again to the pass and waited, and once again the troop of horses came. They jumped up and rode the horse which was all plastered with manure. … The two called “Mother, Mother”. Their mother said, “I do not remember having any sons like these”. But their aunt said, “Since you went and married on earth, I am afraid you have!” Their mother looked at them again and knew that they were indeed her sons, and took them home.

When they arrived at their grandfather’s house, their grandfather said, “If you are indeed my grandsons I shall hide and you may seek. If you find me then you are truly my grandsons”. Their grandfather went and changed into a pig thrusting with its snout. They said to their mother, “If grandfather hides for us to seek, what shall we do?” Their mother said, “Don’t worry! If you see a pig thrusting with its snout, you call out, ‘Grandfather is there. Grandfather is there!’” … Their grandfather said, “You are truly my grandsons, but I will hide once more”. He then changed into a buffalo. The two said to their mother, - Their mother said, “Don’t worry! If you see a buffalo lying down chewing the cud, you say, ‘Grandfather is there! Grandfather is there!’” So they went and found him.

Their grandfather then made the two go and hide. They went and told their mother, “Grandfather wants us two to go and hide, what shall we do?” Their mother said, “Don’t worry!” She took and changed them, one into a spoon and the other into a block. Their grandfather searched thoroughly but could not find them. He searched until he was hungry and took the spoon to dip up food to eat. The spoon said, “Ha, ha!” like this, “I am here, Grandfather”. Their grandfather said, “Thanks to some crafty bounder!” Their grandfather then wanted to take the block to sit on. The block laughed, “Ha, ha! I am here, Grandfather!” Their grandfather said, “Thanks to some crafty bounder!”

Their grandfather wanted to take them clearing the undergrowth. They said, “Grandfather wants to take us clearing the undergrowth. What shall we do, Mother?” Their mother said, “Don’t worry! When each of you has made several axe strokes then go and sleep quietly”. The two slept and woke up, and all the undergrowth was completely cleared. Their grandfather then wanted to take them to burn off the undergrowth. They said to their mother, “Grandfather wants to take us to burn off the undergrowth. What shall we do?” Their mother said, “Don’t worry! When grandfather takes you there, in the middle of the brushwood is a water hole. You two go down inside”. Their grandfather burned off the undergrowth completely, and then called them, and the two grandsons came out.

Their grandfather wanted to take them to sow millet. He wanted one “lu” one “dyu” of millet sown, so the two said to their mother, - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - . “Don’t worry!” Their mother said, “You need sow only three handfuls each, then have a quiet sleep”. When they got up to look the sowing was completely finished. Having got back to the house their grandfather wanted them to collect up again the whole one “lu” one “dyu” of millet seed. The two said to their mother, - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -.“Don’t worry!” Their mother said, “When you have gone out collect a few grains from the four corners of the land and put them into the container. Then,” she said, “you two whistle”. As they whistled the wild pigeons arrived and collected up all the millet until it filled the container completely. They carried it home and arrived even before people had had their morning meal. Their grandfather took the bushel to measure it, and there was a little missing in one corner. Their grandfather said, “It is not enough”. They went to their mother and asked her, “What ought we to do, there is a little missing?” Their mother said, “Take the crossbow, go and shoot the pigeon in the tree outside the door”. Having shot the pigeon they cut open its crop and took the seed and it filled the bushel. Their grandfather said, “You are indeed my grandsons, you are indeed my grandsons”.

The two said, “Grandfather, we want to take our mother and go …”

M456

L̄ CJ" CTᵘ.
the sky maiden.

Y¯ T'" Lⁿ Ɔ- Yⁿ Lᵇ Y¯ Λɕ 'Ɔ" Ɔ॥
of old there was one classifier man Miao went

I'ᵤ Yⁿ Lᵘ ˩ᵹ Y" Ɫⁿᶜ.
scraped out one classifier pool water completed.

ł'¯ 'Cᵘ L̂ T¯ Ɫ⁼ Ɔ॥ ˥॥ Y".
every day drove the cattle went drink water.

Ɔ- Yⁿ 'Cᵘ Cↄ ˩ᵹ Y" CΔ̊. Cↄ
there was one day his pool water muddy. he

5 ˥ₙ, Ī Jʳ Iᵤ J̆ Lᵇ ˩ᵹ Y" Jᵤ
said, what stirred up my the pool water is

CΔ̊ Tᵹ. Ɔ- T¯ G¯ Λ॥ ˥ₙ I'ᵖ Cↄ,
muddy finish. there was the child told him,

Ɔ- Yⁿ Tⁿ Ī Jʳ Λᵹ T- I" CTᵘ Iᵤ.
there is one the what flies come sky stir.

Ɔ- Yⁿ 'Cᵘ Cↄ Ɔ॥ CΔᵤ C₋. Cↄ C₋
there was one day he went hide look. he look

Lᵇ Jᵤ Ʒ" CJ", Ɔ¯ Y¯ Tⁿ Ɫ'ₙɕ Ɫⁿᶜ.
the one was pretty, took wings pick up completed.

10 Cↄ Tɕ L₀ Ɫₙɕ Cↄ ł". Ĭ' ˩ᵇ J̊ Λᵹ Lɕ
he out came surprised them. all rose flew gone

J₀ Lᵇ Jᵤ Ʒ" CJ". CĪ' ˥ⁿ ˩₀ Y¯ Tⁿ.
except the one was pretty. seek not see wings.

łʳ Λɕ 'Ɔ" ˥ₙ, Ɫↄ CĪ' Ī Jʳ. Lᵇ Jᵤ
the man Miao said, you seek what. the one was

Ʒ" CJ" ˥ₙ, J̆ ˥ⁿ CĪ' Ī Jʳ. łʳ Λɕ 'Ɔ"
pretty said, I not seek anything. the man Miao

˥ₙ, Ɫↄ Ɫ¯ Ɫᵘ Y¯ J̆ Cᵹ, J̆ ˥ₙ I'ᵇ Ɫↄ.
said, you if willing make my wife, I tell you.

Lᶟ]ᵤ Ʒ" C]ᵢᵢ Ɪᵤ CꞮₒ Cᴐ Ɔᵢᵢ Δ¯
the one was pretty then with him went go to

C]- Y¯ Cᴐ Cⁿᶟ.
house make his wife.

Y¯ Lⁿᶜ Ɔ- Y¯ L̄ Tᵘ. †'¯ 'Cᵘ
presently had two classifier sons. every day

Lᶟ Cⁿᶜ Ɔᵢᵢ Y¯ Ɉ" †ʳ Vᵤ Cⁿᵒ
the mother went make crops. the father remained

C]-. Ɔ- Yⁿ 'Cᵘ Lᶟ Cⁿᶜ Ɪᵤ
house. there was one day the mother then

Cⁿᵒ C]-, †ʳ Vᵤ Ɔᵢᵢ Y¯ Ɉ". Y¯
remained house, the father went make crops. two

L̄ Tᵘ C̊ Ꞁᶟ Tⁿ †ʳ L̊ Ɪ"
classifier sons cried lifted hands the while to

L¯ †ᶟ. Cᴐ Cⁿᶜ Ɔ¯ †'¯ Ʒᶟ Ɪ'"
the shelf. their mother gave every kind to

Tᵘ Cᴐ Tᵘ ˥ⁿ Λ̄. Cᴐ Cⁿᶜ Ɔᵢᵢ
sons, they all not want. their mother went

Ɉ'ᶟ L¯ Vᶟ †ᴐ C₋ ˩ₒ Cᴐ Y¯ Tⁿ.
opened the covered basket looked saw her wings.

Cᴐ Ꞁ'ₙₛ Cᴐ Y¯ Tⁿ T̊ Ɪ" Cᴐ Y¯ Ꞁⁿ
she took her wings pulled on on to her body

Λᶟ Lₛ Tᶟ. Cᴐ CꞮₒ Cᴐ Y¯ L̄
flew gone finish. she with her two classifier

Tᵘ ˥ₙ, Ɔ- 'Cᵘ Ɔ¯ Lᶟ ɓ° Ꞁₙ, Ɔ¯ Lᶟ
sons said, there is day you two big thus, you two

†ₒ]̆ Y¯ Ɉᶟ T-. Lᶟ Cⁿᶜ Λᶟ CꞀₙᵢᵢ
follow me after come. the mother flew arrive

˥ⁿ Γ̄ †ʳ Vᵤ. Y¯ C†" Ꞁ'ⁿ" Lₛ. †ʳ Vᵤ
above the father. shadow passed gone. the father

˥ₙ, 'Ɔ̆ Ɔ¯ Y¯ L̄ Tᵘ. Cᴐ Y¯
said, spear take two classifier sons. they two

Lᒃ Cᐦ Cᑐ Cⁿᶜ Tδ.
classifier eaten their mother finish.

Y⁻ L̄ Tᵘ Cⁿᵒ Cⁿᵒ ⅃ᵤ ᖶ° Tδ.
two classifier sons live live that big finish.

Λ̄ Ɔᐦ CI̿' Cᑐ Cⁿᶜ Tδ. Cᑐ Y⁻
want go seek their mother finish. they two

Lᒃ Ɔᐦ ┘ᑐ Yⁿ Λₙ Y⁻ Ɔδ ⅃ᵤ Ɔ-
classifier went sleep one family Yi who rich

T⁻ Tₙ꜀. Cᑐ Y⁻ Lᒃ Ɔᐦ ┘ᑐ Lᕐ
very. they two classifier went sleep gone

Tδ. Λₙ Y⁻ Ɔδ ⅂ⁿ Tᕈ, 'Ɔ° C̄ Ɔ- Y⁻
finish. family Yi discussed, today there are two

Lᒃ Ʒᐦ I'⁻ T- ┘ᑐ Δ⁻ ┘ⁿ
classifier good guests come sleep go to us

Ĉ. Λ̄ T⁻ Ī Jʳ †₋. Λₙ Y⁻ Ɔδ
here. want kill what entertain. family Yi

Ⅽⁿᶜ †ʳ Tᵤ Ɠᵘ Tδ Tᒡ Ɠᵘ
reared three classifier geese finish. the geese

⅂ₙ, T⁻ Ɠᵘ Cⁿᶜ ᖶᵘ Ɠᵘ Ɠ₋, T⁻
said, kill goose mother pity goose little, kill

Ɠᵘ Vᒡ ᖶᵘ Ɠᵘ Cⁿᶜ. Y⁻ L̄
goose father pity goose mother. two classifier

Tᵘ ⅂ₙ, ┘ⁿ ⅂ⁿ Cᐦ Ɔₙ CI', ┘ⁿ Λ̄ Ɔₙ
sons said, we not eat your flesh, we want you

I'ᕈ ┘ⁿ Ⅽ̂. Tᒡ Ɠᵘ ⅂ₙ I'ᕈ Cᑐ Y⁻
show us road. the geese told them two

Lᒃ, Ɔₙ CⅭₙᐦ ┘ₙ Lᵘ Δᕐ. Ⅽ⁻
classifier, you arrive yonder the pass. if

Ɔ- Yⁿ C┘° Cᒃ L∘, T̂ ⅃ᵤ
there is one troop horses come, the one which

I'ᕈ CTⁿ Δ∘ Ⅽₙ Ⅽⁿ Ⅽ'ᒃ, Ɔₙ I'⁻ Ⅽⁿᒃ.
leads fat thus rippling, you do not ride.

Ɔ- T¯ Ꞁᵤ L° T¯ Ꞓ̂’ ⅃ⁿ
there is the one which plastered the dung all

Lⁿᶜ Lₒ Y¯ Ɪᵇ, Ɔ¯ Lᵇ Ꞓⁿᵇ T¯ Ꞁᵤ
over come after, you two ride the one which

Lₒ Y¯ Ɪᵇ. CꞒₙ₍₎ Lᵘ Δᵹ, ƚʳ ɷ° ꓶⁿ
comes after. arrive the pass, the one big not

50 Cₗₗ Lᵘ. ⅃ₒ Tᵤ Ꞁᵤ Y̆ Ʒ" Cₔ
listen words. saw the one which very good he

Lᵘ Ɔᵘ Ꞓⁿᵇ. Tᵤ Ꞁᵤ Ʒ" Tₒ Cₔ
deliberately rode. the one which good bit his

Lᵘ Γ" ’Ĉ Tₒ Lᵹ. ƚ̄ Ꞓ̂ CTₗₗ
the forehead crush gone. the younger brother kill

T¯ C" Ꞁⁿ Ꞓₔ T¯ Ꮾ₋ T¯ Lⁿ Γ" Tₒ
the bird gi-zhw the little ones the heads crush

Lᵹ T¯ Cⁿᶜ C" Δⁿ T¯ CΔ" CꞒˁ
gone. the mother bird picked the leaves lily

55 T" Ꞓ’ₙᵹ T¯ Ꮾ₋ Ꮾ₋ Lⁿ Γ". T¯ Ꮾ₋
get place the little ones heads. the little

C" Ɪᵤ Ꞓⁿᶜ Lₒ. ƚʳ Ꞓ̂ Ɪᵤ
birds again live come. the younger brother then

Λₗₗ T¯ Cⁿᶜ C" Ɔₗₗ Δⁿ CΔ" CꞒˁ
copied the mother bird went pick leaves lily

T" Ꞓ’ₙᵹ Cₔ Y¯ Ɔ" Lᵘ Γ" ’Ĉ, Cₔ
get place his elder brother the forehead, his

Y¯ Ɔ" Ɪᵤ Ꞓⁿᶜ Lₒ. Cₔ Y¯ Lᵇ
elder brother then live come. they two classifier

60 Ɪᵤ Ɔₗₗ Δ¯ Lᵘ Δᵹ Yⁿ Ꞁ" Tₒ.
then went go to the pass one occasion waited.

C⅃° Cᵇ Ɪᵤ Lₒ Yⁿ Ꞁ". Cₔ Y¯
troop horses then came one occasion. they two

Lᵇ Δ’ⁿᶜ Ɔₗₗ Ꞓⁿᵇ T¯ Ꞁᵤ
classifier jumped went rode the one which

L° Tˉ L̂' ⅃ⁿ Lⁿᶜ. Cↄ Yˉ Lᑋ
plastered the dung all over. they two classifier

I'ᵘ, Cⁿᶜ Cⁿᶜ. Cↄ Cⁿᶜ ˥ₙ ⅃̆ ˥ⁿ
called, mother, mother. their mother said, I not

CLⁿᵒ Ɔ- Yⁿ Tⁿ Tᵘ Lⁿ Ĉ. Cↄ
remember have one the son like this. their

Cⁿᶜ Yˉ ᑲ° ˥ₙ, Lↄ Ɔₙ Yˉ Cᑋ Δˉ CΔⁿᶜ Tⁿ, CL"
aunt said, you went marry go to world, fear

Lↄ Ɔ- Lₙₒ. Cↄ Cⁿᶜ Iᵤ C₋ Cↄ
you have so it is. their mother then look her

Yˉ Lᑋ Tᵘ Iᵤ ⅃"]ᵤ Cↄ Tᵘ
two classifier sons then knew were her sons

Tₙc, Iᵤ I'ₚ Cↄ Yˉ Lᑋ Ɔₙ
truly, then brought them two classifier went

Δˉ C]-.
go to house.

Ɔₙ CLₙₙ Cↄ Yˉ Λ꜀ C]-. Cↄ
went arrive their grandfather house. their

Yˉ Λ꜀ ˥ₙ, Ɔˉ Lᑋ]ᵤ]̆ L̂ Tₙc
grandfather said, you two are my grandsons truly

Lⁿ Lₙ,]̆ ⅃ᑋ CΔᵤ I'" Ɔˉ Lᑋ CI̿'. Ɔˉ Lᑋ Lˉ CI̿'
then, I hide for you two seek. you two if seek

T"]̆ Lₙ, Ɔˉ Lᑋ]ᵤ]̆ L̂ Tₙc.
get me thus, you two are my grandsons truly.

Cↄ Yˉ Λ꜀ Iᵤ Ɔₙ Δ'ₙ Yⁿ Tᵤ
their grandfather then go change one classifier

C⅃ˉ CLᵓ Lⁿ. Cↄ Yˉ Lᑋ CIₒ Cↄ
pig thrusting. they two classifier with their

Cⁿᶜ ˥ₙ, Yˉ Λ꜀ Lˉ ⅃ᑋ CΔᵤ I'" Yˉ
mother said, grandfather if hide for two

Lᑋ CI̿' L̄ Yˉ Lⁿ Lᖾ. Cↄ Cⁿᶜ ˥ₙ,
classifier seek will do how. their mother said,

ᒣⁿ ᑕᒥ'', ᑐ⁻ ᒪᐢ ᒥ⁻ ᑐ" ᒧ∘ Yⁿ Tᵤ ᑕᒧ⁻
not fear, you two if go see one classifier pig

ᑕᒥᐣ ᒪⁿ ᒥₙ ᑐ⁻ ᒪᐢ I'ᵘ, Y⁻ ᐱᐟ ᑕᐢ
thrusting thus you two call, grandfather situated

ᐯᵤ, Y⁻ ᐱᐟ ᑕᐢ ᐯᵤ. ᑕᐣ
there, grandfather situated there. their

Y⁻ ᐱᐟ ᒣₙ, ᑐ⁻ ᒪᐢ ᒋᵤ ᒋ ᒥ Tₙₑ.
grandfather said, you two are my grandsons truly.

ᒋ Iᵤ ᒧ ᑕᐃᵤ Yⁿ ᒋ". ᑕᐣ Iᵤ ᐃ'ₙ Y⁻
I again hide one occasion. he then change make

Tᵘ ᑕ~ Y⁻ Tᐣ. ᑕᐣ Y⁻ ᒪᐢ ᑕI∘ ᑕᐣ
the buffalo. they two classifier with their

ᑕⁿᶜ ᒣₙ, - - - - - - - - -. ᑕᐣ ᑕⁿᶜ ᒣₙ, ᒣⁿ
mother said, - - - - - - -. their mother said, not

ᑕᒥ'', ᑐ⁻ ᒪᐢ ᒥ⁻ ᒧ∘ Yⁿ Tᵤ ᑕ~ Y⁻ Tᐣ ᒧᐣ
fear, you two if see one classifier buffalo lie

Ʒ∘ Ʒ", ᑐ⁻ ᒪᐢ ᒣₙ, Y⁻ ᐱᐟ ᑕᐢ ᐯᵤ,
chew cud, you two say, grandfather situated there,

Y⁻ ᐱᐟ ᑕᐢ ᐯᵤ. ᑕᐣ †" ᑐ" ᑕI' T".
grandfather situated there. they go seek get.

ᑕᐣ Y⁻ ᐱᐟ Iᵤ ᒋ∘ ᑕᐣ Y⁻ ᒪᐢ
their grandfather then cause them two classifier

ᑐ" ᒧ ᑕᐃᵤ. ᑕᐣ Y⁻ ᒪᐢ Iᵤ ᑐ" ᒣₙ I'ᐣ
go hide they two classifier then went told

ᑕᐣ ᑕⁿᶜ. Y⁻ ᐱᐟ ᐱ Y⁻ ᒪᐢ
their mother. grandfather wants two classifier

ᒧ ᑕᐃᵤ ᒪⁿ ᒧⁿ ᒪ Y⁻ ᒪⁿ ᒥ. ᑕᐣ ᑕⁿᶜ ᒣₙ,
hide like we will do how. their mother said,

ᒣⁿ ᑕᒥ''. ᑕᐣ ᑕⁿᶜ ᒥ'ₙ ᑕᐣ Y⁻ ᒪᐢ
not fear. their mother took them two classifier

ᐃ'ₙ, Yⁿ ᒪᐢ ᐃ'ₙ T⁻ ᐃ, Yⁿ
change, one classifier change the spoon, one

Lᵇ Δ'ₙ T⁻ Tₒ. Cₔ Y⁻ Λᵹ
classifier change the block. their grandfather

CꞮ̿' Γ̄ Tᵹ, CꞮ̿' ˥ⁿ ˩ₒ. CꞮ̿'
sought thoroughly finish, sought not see. sought

˥ᵤ Ꞁ'' Tᵹ, Ꞁᵤ Ꞁ'ₙᵹ T⁻ Δ̂ ˥ᵢ
was hungry finish, then took the spoon dip

V⁻ Cⁿ. T⁻ Δ̂ ˥ₙ, ˥⁻ ˥⁻, Lⁿ Λ⁻, ˥̆
food eat. the spoon said, ha ha, like this, I

Cⁿᵒ Ĉ, Y⁻ Λᵹ. Cₔ Y⁻ Λᵹ
situated here, grandfather. their grandfather

˥ₙ, CꞀ₋ ˥ⁿ Cⁿ''' Γₚ. Cₔ Y⁻ Λᵹ
said, thanks to master crafty. their grandfather

Λ̄ Ꞁᵤ Ꞁ'ₙᵹ T⁻ Tₒ Ʒ'', T⁻ Tₒ
wanted then take the block sit, the block

Δₒ, ˥⁻ ˥⁻, ˥̆ Cⁿᵒ Ĉ Y⁻ Λᵹ.
laughed, ha ha, I situated here, grandfather.

Cₔ Y⁻ Λᵹ Ꞁᵤ ˥ₙ, CꞀ₋ ˥ⁿ Cⁿ'''
their grandfather again said, thanks to master

Γₚ.
crafty.

Cₔ Y⁻ Λᵹ Λ̄ I'ₚ Cₔ Y⁻ Lᵇ
their grandfather want take them two classifier

Ɔ'' L⁻ L''. Cₔ Y⁻ Lᵇ ˥ₙ,
go clear undergrowth. they two classifier said,

Y⁻ Λᵹ L̄ I'ₚ Y⁻ Lᵇ Ɔ'' L⁻
grandfather will take two classifier go clear

L'' Lⁿ Y⁻ Lᵇ L̄ Y⁻ Lⁿ Ꞁᵹ,
undergrowth like two classifier will do how,

Cⁿᶜ. Cₔ Cⁿᶜ ˥ₙ ˥ⁿ CꞀ'', Ɔ⁻ Lᵇ
mother. their mother said, not fear. you two

Yⁿ Lᵇ CT̊ ˩ⁿ Ꞁⁿ''' Y⁻ T'' Tᵹ
one classifier cut several axe strokes finish

ꞁₙ Ↄ¯ Lᵇ Ↄ₁₁ ⅃ᵓ T¯ ꞁᵣ Vᵤ. Cᵓ Y¯
thus you two go sleep quietly. they two

Lᵇ ⅃ᵓ ꞁᵣ L₀, L" L¯ I̊' ⅃ᵇ
classifier slept woke came, undergrowth cut all

Tᵹ ꞁₙ. Cᵓ Y¯ Λᶊ Λ̄ I'ˀ
finish completely. their grandfather want take

Cᵓ Y¯ Lᵇ Ↄ₁₁ ɷ L", Cᵓ Y¯
them two classifier go burn undergrowth, they two

Lᵇ CꞮ₀ Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ ꞁₙ, Y¯ Λᶊ
classifier with their mother said, grandfather

Λ̄ I'ˀ ⅃ⁿ Ↄ₁₁ ɷ L", ⅃ⁿ L̄ Y¯
want take us go burn undergrowth, we will do

Lⁿ ꞁⁿᵹ. Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ ꞁₙ, ꞁⁿ CꞁꞋ", Y¯ Λᶊ
how. their mother said, not fear, grandfather

ꞁ¯ ꞁᵤ I'ˀ Ↄ¯ Lᵇ T-, Y¯ ŧᵓ ⅃ⁿ CꞮᵹ
if that take you two come, brushwood middle

Ↄ- Yⁿ I̊' Y". Ↄ¯ Lᵇ ⅃ᵤ ⅃₁₁
there is one hole water. you two enter go down

CꞮᵘ Lᶊ. Cᵓ Y¯ Λᶊ ɷ L"
inside gone. their grandfather burn undergrowth

Tᵹ Cꞁₙ. Cᵓ Y¯ Λᶊ I'ᵘ L₀,
finish completely. their grandfather call come,

Y¯ Lᵇ ꞁ̄ Tᶊ L₀.
two classifier grandsons out came.

Y¯ Λᶊ Λ̄ I'ˀ Cᵓ Y¯ Lᵇ Ↄ₁₁
grandfather want take them two classifier go

⅃ˀ ŧ'. Λ̄ ⅃ˀ Yⁿ Lᵤ Yⁿ Tᵓ ŧ'.
sow millet. want sow one lu one dyu millet.

Cᵓ Y¯ Lᵇ Ꮖᵤ CꞮ₀ Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ - - - - -
they two classifier then with their mother - - -

- - - - - - ꞁⁿ CꞁꞋ". Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ ꞁₙ, ꞁ¯ Λ̄
- - - not fear. their mother said, only want

]ᵤ Ↄ⁻ Lˀ ⅃ˀ †ʳ Tₙ Sᵹ, Ↄ⁻ Lˀ
that you two sow three handfuls away, you two

Ɪᵤ ⅃ᵓ T⁻ [ʳ Vᵤ, J̓ Lₒ C₋, ⅃ˀ Tᵹ
then sleep quietly, rise come look, sown finish

[ₙ. Lₒ Δ⁻ C]- Cᵓ Y⁻ Λᶊ
completely. come go to house their grandfather

130 Λ̄]ₒ Cᵓ Y⁻ Lˀ Ↄ" [’ₙᶊ Yⁿ
want cause them two classifier go collect one

Lᵤ Yⁿ Tᵓ [̆ †̆’ İ’ ⅃ᵓ Tᵹ. Cᵓ Y⁻
lu one dyu seed millet all finish. They two

Lˀ Ɪᵤ CⲒₒ Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ - - - - - - - - - - -
classifier then with their mother - - - - - - -

ℸⁿ C[’". Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ ℸₙ, Ↄ⁻ Lˀ Lᶊ Δ"
not fear. their mother said, you two gone four

Sᵹ]ᵘ Tⁿ [’ₙᶊ ⅃ⁿ [ⁿ" Δⁿ CTₙ
sides corners land collect several grains pack

135 Ɪ" Δᵹ Cˀ [ⁿᶜ. Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ ℸₙ, Ↄ⁻
into container completed. their mother said, you

Lˀ S⁻]". T’"]ᵤ Cᵓ Y⁻ Lˀ
two whistle. when that they two classifier

S⁻]" Ↄ- CⲒ⁻ †₋ L₋ C[ₙ".
whistled there were pigeons wild did arrive.

C" T- [’ₙᶊ †̆’ İ’ ⅃ᵓ]ᵤ ⅃̆
birds come collect millet all which fill

Δᵹ Cˀ Tᵹ [ₙ. [̂ Lₒ C[ₙ",
container finish completely. carry come arrive,

140 Tˀ Cˀ ℸⁿ Cⁿᶜ C" [’ᵢ Ṡ. Cᵓ
people not yet eaten breakfast yet. their

Y⁻ Λᶊ [’ₙᶊ T̂ Lₒ Lᵘ. [’⁻
grandfather took bushel come measure. missing

Yⁿ Tᵘ]ᵘ T̂. Cᵓ Y⁻ Λᶊ
one classifier corner bushel. their grandfather

ꓶₙ, ꓶⁿ ŧ॥. Cɔ Y¯ Lˀ Iᵤ Cᵤ
said, not enough. they two classifier then ask

Cɔ Cⁿᶜ, ⊏ʼ⁻ Yⁿ C⊏ᵣ Ꮾ₋, ꓶⁿ ⅃" L̄
their mother, missing a little, not know will

Y¯ Lⁿ ⊏ⁿᶾ. Cɔ Cⁿᶜ ꓶₙ, ⊏ʼₙₛ Tᵘ ʼĆ
do how. their mother said, take the crossbow

Ɔ॥ ⅃̊ Tᵘ CI¯]ᵤ Cⁿᵒ Γᶾ CT"
go shoot the pigeon which situated the tree

CIᵤ Y¯ Δ॥. ⅃̊ T", ⊏ⁿᵒ Lₒ ⅃ʼᵤ
outside door. shot get, brought come cut open

Cɔ Y¯ ŧₙc. ⊏ⁿᵒ Ɔ॥ Lᵘ, ⅃̆ Lᵘ T̂.
its gizzard. took went measure, fill the bushel.

Cɔ Y¯ Λᶊ ꓶₙ,]̆ ⊏̂ Tₙc,]̆
their grandfather said, my grandsons truly, my

⊏̂ Tₙc. Cɔ Y¯ Lˀ ꓶₙ,
grandsons truly. they two classifier said,

Y¯ Λᶊ, Y¯ Lˀ Λ̄ Iʼᵖ Y¯
grandfather, two classifier want take two

Lˀ Cⁿᶜ Ɔ॥ Tᶾ.
classifier mother go finish.

M456
The sky maiden.

Told by Yang Ya-go.

Notes.

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

Line 9. The word Ɔ⁻ is omitted in the Miao text.

Line 10. The word ϯ″ is omitted in the Miao text.

Line 13. The word ˥ₙ is omitted in the Miao text.

Line 86.   Y⁻ Tᴐ in the word for “buffalo” is missing in the Miao text

Line 92. The word Lⁿ, in the expression Lⁿ ⊏ⁿᶾ, meaning “how”, is missing in the Miao text.

Line 135. The word C⁵, in the expression Δᶾ C⁵, meaning “a container”, is missing in the Miao text.

Lines 144 –145. The two words L̄ Y⁻, meaning “will do”, are contracted into a single word L⁻ in the Miao text.

M457

Concerning the orphan and the deer.

Told by by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

Some of the song-stories of metamorphic changes are quite long and elaborate. This one is in the simplest, basic form. A young man catches an animal, which changes into a girl whom he marries.

The final paragraph reflects the Miao social custom of inviting the wife’s mother to visit when the first baby had been born, and of giving her a gift of food on her departure. The whistle used to call mother-in-law was a piece of bamboo, cut in such a way that one end was open and the other closed. When it was held vertically against the lower lip in the manner of Pan-pipes, blowing across the open end produced a soft whistling sound, the pitch and quality of the sound depending on the length and width of the tube, and the force and direction of the blowing. The young women suggested “a clump” of green grass as food for mother-in-law during her stay. The husband actually gathered “a load”, that is as much as a man could carry on his back, and provided an equal quantity again as a parting gift.

M457

Concerning the orphan and the deer.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

They tell a story that once upon a time an orphan went and tilled a patch of millet in the middle of a forest. In this forest there were many deer living, so that his patch of millet was all eaten up by the deer. The Miao lad was very angry. He went and set snares around the edges of the patch. One day when he went to look, he had caught a doe. He was about to kill the doe when she said, “Miao lad, do not kill me and I will go with you”. When the Miao lad realised that the doe could speak, he took her, led her home, and tethered her behind the door.

Every day when the orphan had gone out farming, the deer changed into a fine Miao girl and prepared his food in readiness for him, but he did not know. He said to his neighbours, “Thank you! Every day you prepare my food in readiness for me”. The neighbours said, “No family among us has been preparing food for you. You must be joking!” So one day the Miao lad pretended that he was going out to work. He ate his food, pulled the door shut, but when he got outside he went and hid in the wood and watched to see who came to prepare food for him. While he was hiding there no one at all came to his house, only he saw that little deer, which he had snared, change into a Miao girl preparing the food for him. Having seen this the Miao lad suddenly rushed out. The doe could not change back because she had been surprised by the Miao lad. So the Miao lad married her.

After a long time the couple had a son. The orphan’s wife urged him to go and fetch his mother-in-law to see their son. He said to his wife, “With the forest so large I have no way of fetching her”. His wife said, “You make a whistle of bamboo and go and blow it at the top of the cliff, then my mother will come”. So the Miao lad made a whistle of bamboo, went and blew it on the top of the cliff, and a doe came. When the Miao lad had brought the doe home he said to his wife, “What shall we prepare for mother-in-law to eat?” His wife said, "Go and find and dig a clump of green grass for mother-in-law to eat, that will be all right”. The Miao lad went and found a load of green grass for mother-in-law to eat. After some days mother-in-law was going to leave, so he went and found another load of green grass, which he carried and escorted mother-in-law back to the place from which he fetched her.

M457

CIᵢᵢ Cŧ₋ CIₒ Lⁿ]ʺ Cᵘ.
orphan with deer business.

Cↄ ᒣₙ ᒧⁿ Tᵢᵢ]ᵤ Y⁻ T’ʺ Lⁿ CIᵢᵢ Cŧ₋ Ɔᵢᵢ [ⁿᵒ
they say story that of old orphan went plant

Yⁿ [ⁿᵒ ŧ̆’ Iʺ Yⁿ Lᵘ ᒧⁿ CIᵟ
one patch millet in one classifier middle

Y⁻ Ʒ̈. Lᵘ Y⁻ Ʒ̈ Ŷ Iᵤ Cⁿᵒ Lⁿ]ʺ T⁻ Tₙ꜀,
forest. the forest that then live deer very,

Y⁻ Lⁿ Cↄ [° ŧ̆’ Tᵘ Ɔ⁻ I’ʺ Lⁿ]ʺ
make like his patch millet all give for deer

Cᵢᵢ Sᵟ. Tᵘ ’Ɔʺ Y° Sⁿᶜ T⁻ Tₙ꜀. Cↄ Ɔᵢᵢ [ⁿ
eat away. Miao lad angry very. he went set snare

ᑲ⁻ I’ʺ Y⁻ CTᵘ [ⁿᵒ. Ɔ- Yⁿ ’Cᵘ Cↄ Ɔᵢᵢ
rope at edge patch. there was one day he went

C₋. Iʺ Tʺ Yⁿ Tᵤ Y⁻ Cⁿᶜ Lⁿ]ʺ. Cↄ Λ̄
look. had got one classifier doe. he want

CTʺ Tᵘ Y⁻ Cⁿᶜ Lⁿ]ʺ. Cⁿᶜ Lⁿ]ʺ ᒣₙ Tᵘ ’Ɔʺ I’⁻
kill the doe. doe said Miao lad do not

CTᵢᵢ]̆ Tⁿ,]̆ CIₒ [ↄ Ɔᵢᵢ. Tᵘ ’Ɔʺ ᒧₒ
kill me at all, I with you go. Miao lad saw

Lⁿ]ʺ ŧˤ ᒣₙ Lᵘ, Tᵘ ’Ɔʺ [’ₙˤ Cⁿᶜ Lⁿ]ʺ [ⁿᵟ
deer able say words, Miao lad took doe led

Lₒ Iʺ C]-, I’ʺ Iʺ Cↄ Lᵘ I⁻ Δʺ
come to house, tied at his the back of door

[ⁿᶜ.
completed.

CIᵢᵢ Cŧ₋ ŧ’⁻ ’Cᵘ Ɔᵢᵢ Y⁻ Iʺ Lˤ. Lⁿ]ʺ Δ’ₙ
orphan every day went farming gone. deer change

Y⁻ Yⁿ Lᵇ Ʒʺ C]ᵢᵢ ’Ɔʺ. Lₒ CIₒ
make one classifier good Miao girl. come with

Cↄ Yˉ Iƽ C" T° Cↄ. Y̑ Vⁿᶜ Cↄ ᒣⁿ ᒧ".
him make food eat await him. but he not know.

Cↄ CIₒ Cↄ Ʒʳ Ʒ° ᒣₙ, [’⁻ L₋ Ↄₙ, Ↄₙ
he with his neighbours said, thank you, you

+’⁻ ’Cᵘ T- CIₒ]̆ Yˉ Iƽ T°]̆.
every day come with me make food await me.

Ʒʳ Ʒ° ᒣₙ, ᒧⁿ ᒣⁿ Ↄ- Ī Λₙ
neighbours said, we not have any family

Tↄ CIₒ [ↄ Yˉ Iƽ, [ↄ Lᵘ Ↄᵘ ᒣₙ
whatever with you make food, you simply say

Tᶚ ᒣ°. Yˉ Lⁿ Tᵘ ’Ↄ" Ↄ-
finish exclamation. make like Miao lad there was

Yⁿ ’Cᵘ, Cↄ Yˉ]ᵤ Λ̄ Tς Ʒ̈ Ↄ"
one day, he made that want go out outside go

Yˉ Cᵘ Tᶚ. Cↄ C" Vˉ Sᶚ, CIᵤ Yˉ Δ"
do work finish. he ate food away, pulled door

Iₒ Lς Tᶚ. Y̑ Vⁿᶜ T’"]ᵤ Cↄ Tς
closed gone finish. but when that he went out

Ʒ̈ Lς Y̑, Cↄ Ↄ" CΔᵤ Cⁿᵒ Ʒ̈
outside gone there, he went hid situated woods

C₋ Ↄᶚ, Ↄ- Tƽ Cƽ Yˉ Jʳ T- CIₒ
look observe, there were people what come with

Cↄ Yˉ Iƽ. T’"]ᵤ Cↄ CΔᵤ CIₒ Y̑
him make food. when that he hide with there,

ᒣⁿ Ↄ- Tƽ Cƽ Ȳ Jʳ T- Δˉ Cↄ
there were not people at all come go to his

C]-, [₋ ᒧₒ Tⁿ Ꮾ₋ Lⁿ]"]ᵤ Cↄ [ⁿ⁻
house, only saw the little deer which he snare

T" Y̑, Δ’ₙ Yˉ Yⁿ Lƽ Ʒ" C]"
get that, change make one classifier good girl

’Ↄ" Lₒ CIₒ Cↄ Yˉ Iƽ Tˉ. Cↄ ᒧₒ
Miao come with him make food only. he saw

Tᵹ, Tᵁ ʼƆ" Tɕ Δɕ Lₒ, Cⁿᶜ Lⁿ Ɉ"
finish, Miao lad came out suddenly come, doe

Δʼₙ Ꞁⁿ T", Y̊ Ɉᵤ T" Ɔ⁻ Ɪʼ" Tᵁ ʼƆ"
change not get, because get give for Miao lad

Ɫₙₛ Tᵹ Tᵹ. Y⁻ Lⁿ Tᵁ ʼƆ" C̄ C̊
surprise done finish. make like Miao lad now

CƮₒ Cↄ Y⁻ Cᵇ Tᵹ.
with her marry finish.

35 ʼCᵁ Cₙᵢᵢ Lⁿ Tᵹ, Cↄ Y⁻ Lᵇ Ɔ- T"
time long finish, they two classifier had get

Yⁿ Lᵇ Tᵁ Tᵹ. CƮᵢᵢ Cƚ₋ Cↄ Cᵹ Ɫ°
one classifier son finish. orphan his wife allow

Ɉₒ Cↄ Ɔᵢᵢ Iʼᵽ Y⁻ Tᵢ T- C₋ Tᵁ.
cause him go bring mother-in-law come look son.

Cↄ CƮₒ Cↄ Cᵹ Ꞁₙ, Y⁻ Ʒ̈ ɭ° Lⁿ C̊, Ɉ̆
he with his wife said, forest big like this, I

Ꞁⁿ T" Ɫ̊ Ɔᵢᵢ Iʼᵽ. Cↄ Cᵹ Ꞁₙ, Ɫↄ Y⁻
not get way go bring. his wife said, you make

40 Yⁿ Lᵁ Ɪᵹ Ꞁⁿ Δ°, Ɔᵢᵢ Cⁿᵒ Lⁿ
one classifier whistle bamboo, go situated the

Γ̈ ƚ⁻ ƚ̊ʼ, Ɫₙ Ɉ̆ Cⁿᶜ T- Tᵹ. Y⁻
cliff top blow, thus my mother come finish. make

Lⁿ Tᵁ ʼƆ" Y⁻ T" Yⁿ Lᵁ Ɪᵹ
like Miao lad made get one classifier whistle

Ꞁⁿ Δ°, Ɔᵢᵢ Cⁿᵒ Lⁿ Γ̈ ƚ⁻ ƚ̊ʼ, Tᵁ
bamboo, went situated the cliff top blew, the

Y⁻ Cⁿᶜ Lⁿ Ɉ" T- Tᵹ. Tᵁ ʼƆ" Iʼᵽ Tᵁ
doe came finish. Miao lad brought the

45 Y⁻ Cⁿᶜ Lⁿ Ɉ" T-. Cↄ CƮₒ Cↄ Cᵹ Ꞁₙ, Ɉⁿ Λ̄
doe come. he with his wife said, we want

Y⁻ Ɉ̄ Jʳ Ɪʼ" Y⁻ Tᵢ C". Cↄ Cᵹ Ꞁₙ,
make what for mother-in-law eat. his wife said,

Ꞓᵓ Ɔ꞉ CꞮ̿’ ꞁ° T" Yⁿ ϯ꞉ CꞮ⁵ Cϯ¯
you go seek dig get one clump grass green

Lₒ Ɪ’" Y¯ Tᵢ C" Ʒ" Tᵹ. Tᵁ ’Ɔ"
come for mother-in-law eat good finish. Miao lad

Ɔ꞉ CꞮ̿’ T" Yⁿ CꞮᵟ CꞮ⁵ Cϯ¯ Lₒ Ɪ’"
went seek get one load grass green come for

Cᵓ Y¯ Tᵢ C". Ꞓ’ⁿ" ⅃ⁿ Ꞓⁿ" ’Cᵁ Cᵓ
his mother-in-law eat. pass several days his

Y¯ Tᵢ Λ̄ Ɔ꞉ Tᵹ. Cᵓ Ɪᵤ Ɔ꞉
mother-in-law want go finish. he again went

CꞮ̿’ T" Yⁿ CꞮᵟ CꞮ⁵ Cϯ¯ Ɪᵣ I’ˀ Cᵓ
seek get one load grass green carry bring his

Y¯ Tᵢ Ɔ꞉ Sᵟ Ɪ̊’ ꞁᵤ Cᵓ Ɔ꞉
mother-in-law go escort place which he went

I’ˀ Lₒ.
bring come.

M457

Concerning the orphan and the deer.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This song-story is recorded in Document H (no. 43, page 28).

M458

The Miao lad and the bat.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

The first two paragraphs of this song story follow the usual pattern. In the third paragraph no explanation is given why the young man's mother was so determined to burn the bat skin. She could still have found it revolting, but on the other hand it may have been in order to insure that the young woman could never put it on and fly away again. No reason is given either for the fact that the destruction of the skin resulted in the girl's death. When questioned on this point, Yang Xiu-gong answered that he did not know because the story does not say.

M458

The Miao lad and the bat.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

They tell a story that once upon a time there was a Miao family. The father had died, and there remained only the mother and a grown-up son. Every day the son went out minding the cattle. One day he saw a bat hanging in a tree. He went and took it and brought it home. Every day at meal times the lad took food for it to eat in the dog's feeding bowl. On one occasion the lad said, "I am going to give this bat of mine a food bowl from which to eat". His mother said, "That bat is most revolting, you must not give it a food bowl". But from then on the lad gave the bat food to eat in a food bowl.

Every day he took the bat with him minding the cattle. On one occasion the people who were with him minding cattle said to him, "Lad, what a pretty girl you have brought with you minding the cattle!" The lad said, "You are joking! There is only a bat minding cattle with me". Those folk said, "If you do not believe us, you hide away quietly and see". So the time came when the lad hid and watched. He saw the bat there change into a very pretty girl. In the evening he reached home, had his evening meal and went to bed. The lad made as though he was heavily asleep. The bat took off its bat skin and lay down with the lad. The lad waited until the bat was asleep, then he took the bat skin and hid it. When the next day came the girl could not find her bat skin, and so could not change back into a bat. She was ashamed to come out. The lad's mother went to fetch her, and presently she came out and became the lad's wife.

Not long afterwards the lad and his wife went out farming, while the lad's mother remained at home. The lad's mother went and found his wife's bat skin which she used to wear. The lad's mother took it to burn on the fire. The lad's wife knew that someone was burning her skin, and she ran home. It was not yet fully burnt so she came and took the skin, and smoothed and smoothed it, and eventually smoothed it out completely so that now it was as good as before. Another day the lad and his wife went out farming. This day they were a long way from home. The lad's mother again took the wife's bat skin to burn it. This time when the wife ran home the skin was burnt right up, and so the lad's wife died.

M458

Tᵘ ’Ɔ" ƇꞮₒ]ⁿ ⅃̄.
Miao lad with bat.

Cᴐ ˥ₙ ⅃ⁿ Tₗₗ]ᵤ Yˉ T’" Lⁿ Ɔ- Yⁿ Λₙ
they say story that of old there was one family

’Ɔ". Vᵤ T₋ L꜊ Tɞ, Ɔ- Cⁿᶜ
Miao. father dead gone finish, there was mother

CꞮₒ Yⁿ L- Tᵘ Cⁿᵒ Tˉ Tɞ. ŧˉ Tᵘ
with one big son living only finish. the son

ŧ’ˉ ’Cᵘ Ɔₗₗ Λₙ Ꞔ₌. Ɔ- Yⁿ
every day went pasturing cattle. there was one

’Cᵘ ŧˉ Tᵘ Ɔₗₗ ⅃ₒ Yⁿ Tᵘ]ⁿ ⅃̄ Ꞔ̄
day the son went saw one classifier bat hang

Ɪ" Yⁿ Γᵟ CT" Ꞔⁿᶜ. Cᴐ Ɔₗₗ Ꞔ’ₙ
in one classifier tree completed. he went take

Ꞔⁿᵒ Lₒ. Ꞔⁿᵒ Ɔₗₗ Δˉ C]-. ŧ’ˉ ’Cᵘ
bring come. bring go go to house. every day

ŧₒ Yˉ T̄]ᵤ Cₗₗ Vˉ, Tᵘ ’Ɔ" Ꞔⁿᵒ Vˉ
reach time that eat food, Miao lad bring food

Ɪ" Lᵘ Tₗ]ᵤ ⅃ᵘ Δ̂ Ɔₗₗ Ɪ’" Cₗₗ.
in the bowl which feed dog go for eat.

Ɔ- Yⁿ]" Tᵘ ’Ɔ" ˥ₙ,]̆ Tˉ
there was one occasion Miao lad said, my the

]ⁿ ⅃̄ Ĉ,]̆ Λ̄ Ɔˉ Ɪ"]’° Vˀ Ɪ’" Cₗₗ
bat this, I want take in food bowl for eat

Tɞ. Cᴐ Cⁿᶜ ˥ₙ, Tᵘ]ⁿ ⅃̄ Vᵤ ˥ⁿ Ɪ˃
finish. his mother said, the bat there revolt

T˃ C˃ Tˉ Tₙc, ˥ⁿ Λ̄]ᵤ Ɔˉ Ɪ"]’° Vˀ
people very, not want that give in food bowl

Ɪ’" Cₗₗ. Tᵘ ’Ɔ" C̄ Ĉ Cᴐ Ɔˉ Vˉ Ɪ"]’° Vˀ
for eat. Miao lad now he took food in food bowl

Ɪ’"]ⁿ]̄ C".
for bat eat.

Tᵘ ’Ɔ" ✝’⁻ ’Cᵘ I’ˀ]ⁿ]̄ Ɔ" Λ~ [⁼
Miao lad every day took bat went pasture cattle

Ɪᴗ]ₒ]ⁿ]̄ CⲒₒ Cɔ Ɔ" CTⁿ [⁼.
also cause bat with him go round up cattle.

Ɔ- Yⁿ]" Tᵇ Cᵇ]ᵤ CⲒₒ Cɔ
there was one occasion people who with him

Λ~ [⁼ CⲒₒ Cɔ]ₙ, Tᵘ ’Ɔ", [ɔ ⅃ₒ
pasture cattle with him said, Miao lad, you see

Y⁻ I’ˀ Yⁿ Lᵇ Ʒ" C]" ’Ɔ" CⲒₒ
make bring one classifier good Miao girl with

[ɔ Λ~ [⁼ Lᴗ. Tᵘ ’Ɔ"]ₙ,
you pasture cattle exclamation. Miao lad said,

Ɔₙ Lᵘ Ɔᵘ]ₙ Tᴕ. CⲒₒ]̆ Λ~ [⁼
you simply say finish. with me pasture cattle

[₋ Ɔ- Yⁿ Tᵘ]ⁿ]̄ T⁻. ✝"
only there is one classifier bat alone. those

Ẏ]ₙ, [ɔ [⁻]ⁿ C[ᵇ, [ɔ CΔᴗ
there said, you if not believe, you hide

T⁻ [ᵣ Vᴗ Ɔ" C₋ Ɔᴕ. Ɔ- Yⁿ]"
quietly go look observe. there was one occasion

Tᵘ ’Ɔ" CΔᴗ Ɔ" C₋. ⅃ₒ]ᵤ]ⁿ]̄ Δ’ₙ Y⁻
Miao lad hid go look. saw that bat change make

Yⁿ Lᵇ C]" ’Ɔ"]ᵤ Ʒ" C]" T⁻ Tₙc Cⁿᵒ
one classifier Miao girl who pretty very situate

Ẏ. ’Ɔ° CTᵘ Lₒ ✝ₒ C]- Tᴕ, C"
there. evening come reach house finish, ate

’Ɔ° Sᴕ Ɔ" ⅃ᵓ Tᴕ. Tᵘ ’Ɔ" Y⁻
supper away went sleep finish. Miao lad made

]ᵤ T" ⅃ᵓ Tˉ Tₙc Lς.]ⁿ]̄ Δς Cᵓ
that get sleep very gone. bat took off her

⅃ⁿ Tˁ]ⁿ]̄ Sᵟ CƮₒ Tᵘ 'Ɔ" ⅃ᵓ. Tᵘ 'Ɔ" T°
skin bat away with Miao lad slept. Miao lad wait

]ᵤ]ⁿ]̄ T" ⅃ᵓ Lς, Ľ'ₙς Cᵓ ⅃ⁿ Tˁ]ⁿ]̄ Vᵤ
that bat get sleep gone, took her skin bat hid

Sᵟ. ϯₒ 'Cᵘ Yˉ Ɪᵇ Lₒ, C]" 'Ɔ" CƮ̿' ˥ⁿ
away. reach day after come, Miao girl sought not

T" Cᵓ ⅃ⁿ Tˁ]ⁿ]̄. Yˉ Lⁿ Cᵓ ˥ⁿ ϯς
get her skin bat. make like she not able

Δ'ₙ Yˉ]ⁿ]̄ Tᵟ. Cᵓ Ɪᵤ ˥ⁿ Ʒ" Sʳ Tς
change make bat finish. she then ashamed out

Lₒ. Tᵘ 'Ɔ" Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ Ɔᵢᵢ I'ᵽ Cᵓ
come. Miao lad his mother went brought her

Lₒ. Cᵓ Tˉ Lₙc CƮₒ Lₒ. Cᵓ Lₒ Yˉ
come. she presently with come. she came make

Tᵘ 'Ɔ" Cⁿᵟ Tᵟ.
Miao lad wife finish.

Y̑ Vⁿᶜ Cⁿᵒ ˥ⁿ Lⁿ Tˉ, Tᵘ 'Ɔ" CƮₒ Cᵓ
but remain not long only, Miao lad with his

Cⁿᵟ Ɔᵢᵢ Yˉ Ɪ" Lς. Tᵘ 'Ɔ" Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ
wife went do farming gone. Miao lad his mother

Cⁿᵒ C]-. Tᵘ 'Ɔ" Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ Ɔᵢᵢ CƮ̿'
remained house. Miao lad his mother went seek

T" Cᵓ Cⁿᵟ ⅃ⁿ Tˁ]ⁿ]̄]ᵤ Tᵤ CTⁿ Y̑.
get his wife skin bat which before that.

Tᵘ 'Ɔ" Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ Ľ'ₙς Lₒ ϯ̍' Ɪ" Ľᵟ Tς
Miao lad his mother took come burn on the fire

Sᵟ. Tᵘ 'Ɔ" Cⁿᵟ ⅃"]ᵤ Cᵓ ⅃ⁿ Tˁ Ɔˉ
away. Miao lad wife knew that her skin give

Ɪ'" Tᵇ Cᵇ ϯ̍' Sᵟ Tᵟ. Cᵓ Ɪᵟ Lₒ
for people burn away finish. she ran come

Δ⁻ C]-, ┌ǂ’ ˥ⁿ Tᵹ S̑, Cɔ Lₒ ⊏’ₙₛ
go to house, burn not finish yet, she came take

┘ⁿ Tˤ Y̑ ˥ⁿ Ʒₛ ˥ⁿ Ʒₛ. Y⁻ Ɪᵇ Lₒ Cɔ
skin that smoothed smoothed. afterwards come she

˥ⁿ Ʒɔ Ʒ" Tᵹ Tᵹ. C̄ C̑ Cɔ L₋ Ʒ" Lⁿ
smooth well done finish. now it was good like

]ᵤ Y⁻ T’" ⊏ₙₒ. Ɪᵤ Ɔ- Yⁿ ’Cᵘ,
that of old so it was. again there was one day,

50 Tᵘ ’Ɔ" CⲒₒ Cɔ Cᵹ Ɔ" Y⁻ Ɪ" Lₛ
Miao lad with his wife went do farming gone

⊏ₙₒ. ’Cᵘ C̑ Ɪ₋ C]-]ᵤ Δⁿ
so it was. day this distance house was far

Tᵹ. Tᵘ ’Ɔ" Cɔ Cⁿᶜ Ɪᵤ ⊏’ₙₛ Cɔ Tᵘ
finish. Miao lad his mother again took his the

Cᵹ ┘ⁿ Tˤ]ⁿ]̄ Lₒ ┌ǂ’ ⊏ₙₒ Sᵹ.
wife skin bat come burnt so it was away.

]" Y̑ Cɔ Cᵹ Ɪᵹ Lₒ C]-, Cɔ ┘ⁿ Tˤ
occasion that his wife ran come house, her skin

55 ┌ǂ’ Tᵹ Tᵹ. Y⁻ Lⁿ Tᵘ ’Ɔ" Cᵹ L₋
burnt done finish. make like Miao lad wife did

T₋ Lₛ Tᵹ.
die gone finish.

M458

The Miao lad and the bat.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 15, page 22).

M459
An orphan goes fishing.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

Although Yang Xiu-gong insisted that the happenings described in the first paragraph had always belonged to this story, the fact that they are identical to the opening of the Ndlie-jia story provokes the speculation that originally this one had a different beginning.

The Miao name for dragon is “rang”. Yeu-rang, which could be translated “dragon man”, appears in many of the stories. He is not a dragon in outward form, though he often possesses magical powers, and he and his family are usually fierce and formidable. This story is no exception. There appears to be no reason for the repeated attempts on the Miao man’s life, unless it were that his in-laws resented the intrusion of an outsider into their family.

M459

An orphan goes fishing.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

People tell a story that once upon a time there was a Miao lad. His parents were dead and he lived by himself. He spent his time fishing, and one day he caught a small flat fish. He brought it back and put it down in his thatched hut while he went to gather firewood. By the time he had gathered the firewood, the little fish in his thatched hut had changed into a girl. He came and lit the fire and searched for his little fish to roast and eat. The girl said, “Orphan, what are you searching for?” The orphan said, “ I am not searching!” The Miao girl said, “I know you are searching for a little fish. I am your little fish, and if you do not believe me, look here under my arms”. The Miao lad looked and saw that the Miao girl had fins under her arms, so he knew that the Miao girl was indeed his little fish, and he stopped searching. While the Miao girl lived with the orphan, he no longer needed to go fishing but had plenty to eat. He no longer needed to work but had plenty to wear.

So it continued for a long time. The Miao girl said to the orphan, “I have been away a long time, I want to return to my parents and relatives”. The orphan said, “I will go with you”. The Miao girl said, “My parents and relatives are very fierce, you had better not go with me”. The Miao lad said, “Whatever they are like I shall go with you”. The Miao girl said, “In that case if you will go with me, wherever I tread you must tread, wherever I sit you must sit, and whatever I eat that only you must eat”. The Miao lad said, “That will be all right”. So the Miao lad went with the Miao girl, and reached the house of the Miao girl’s parents. Her family was the family of Yeu-rang. In the place where her family lived everywhere there were flames, and the food which they ate was all put into an iron pan and roasted. So the Miao lad could neither have eaten nor remained there, were it not that in his father-in-law’s home, his wife helped him to do everything. Thus his in-laws could find no way of harming him, because beforehand his wife explained everything to him.

On one occasion Yeu-rang was going to make poison to kill him. The orphan’s wife knew about it and said to him, “I wanted you not to come with me but you insisted on coming. Now my father will prepare food for you to eat. You take some cloth and block your mouth and nose. Then pretend that you are going to eat it”. The orphan followed the instructions of his wife. His brothers-in-law and father-in-law brought food with the poison for him to eat. He only went and smelt it, he did not eat any, but there were some chicken and pigs which came and ate it and they all dropped down, poisoned to death. This was only the first time. The next time his brothers-in-law and father-in-law mixed the poison with porridge and brought it for him to eat. His wife said to him, “This time also do as you did previously. Block your mouth and nose up. Let your mouth only touch it. Do not eat it”. The orphan did as his wife told him to do. So this time also they did not poison him, but the dogs came and ate it and the dogs all died. This was only the second time. Then came the third time. This time the orphan’s wife said to him, “Orphan, this time I have no way. I did not want you to come with me, but you insisted on coming. However, do not be troubled; you are going to die, but afterwards I will find a way to release you”. This time the orphan’s brothers-in-law and father-in-law put poison in the water for him to drink. As soon as he had only smelt it he died.

His brothers-in-law and father-in-law took him and put him in a coffin, which they brought and threw into a large lake. His coffin floated on the surface of the lake, and his wife came to see him every day bringing medicine for him to eat. In this way a number of days went by, and the orphan came back to life. The orphan’s brothers-in-law and father-in-law saw it and said to the orphan’s wife, “What did you do that you caused brother-in-law to get better?” She said, “When your brother-in-law was on the lake, I went and cut down a tree into the lake. I stood up on top of it and shook it hard, and so he stood up”. Hearing this his brothers-in-law set poison for his father-in-law to eat, and his father-in-law died. Then his brothers-in-law took a coffin and put his father-in-law inside and carrying it down put it in the lake. Then they cut down a tree and put that also into the lake. They all got on top of the tree and shook it with all their strength. But doing so they all tipped over into the water and died. Thus the family property all came to the orphan and his wife.

M459

ᑕꞮ͈ ᑕƫ₋ ᑕ" ᑕᒧˀ.
orphan fishing.

Tᒉ ᑕᒉ ˥ₙ ᒧⁿ T͈ ᒍᵤ Y⁻ T'" Lⁿ Ɔ- Yⁿ
people say story that of old there was one

Lᒉ Tᵘ 'Ɔ". ᑕⁿᶜ Vᴗ T₋ Tᵹ
classifier Miao lad. mother father dead done

Tᵹ, ᑕᵓ Yⁿ Lᒉ Λ₍ₙ ᑕⁿᵒ Λ₍ₙ T⁻.
finish, he one classifier self live self only.

ᑕ" ᑕᒧˀ Ꞁᵓ 'ᑕᵘ ᑕₙ‴. Ɔ- Yⁿ 'ᑕᵘ ᑕᵓ ᑕ"
fishing pass time. there was one day he caught

T" Yⁿ T- ᑕᒧˀ Δ̄. ᑕᵓ Ꞁⁿᵒ Lₒ
get one classifier fish flat. he brought come

Ꞁ° Ɪ" ᑕᵓ Lᵘ ᑕᒍ- Š̆ Ꞁⁿᶜ. ᑕᵓ Ɔ͈ J"
put in his the hut completed. he went gather

Tˁ Lˁ. ᑕᵓ J" T" Tˁ Lₒ
firewood gone. he gather get firewood come

Tᵹ, T- ᑕᒧˀ Δ'ₙ Y⁻ Yⁿ Lᒉ
finish, the fish change make one classifier

Tⁿ ᑕᒍ" ᑕⁿᵒ ᑕᵓ Lᵘ ᑕᒍ- Y⁻ Š̆. ᑕᵓ Lₒ Δ̈
young woman sit his the hut. He come light

Tˁ, Ɪᴗ Λ̄ ᑕⲈ̄' ᑕᵓ T- ᑕᒧˀ Lₒ Ꞁⁿ
fire, then want seek his the fish come roast

ᑕ͈. Lᒉ Tⁿ ᑕᒍ" Y̑ ˥ₙ, ᑕꞮ͈ ᑕƫ₋ Ꞁᵓ ᑕⲈ̄'
eat. the young woman that said, orphan you seek

Y⁻ Jᒥ. ᑕꞮ͈ ᑕƫ₋ ˥ₙ, ᒍ̆ ˥ⁿ ᑕⲈ̄'. ᑕᒍ͈ 'Ɔ" ˥ₙ,
what. orphan said I not seek. Miao girl said,

ᒍ̆ ᒧ" ᒍᵤ Ꞁᵓ ᑕⲈ̄' Yⁿ T- ᑕᒧˀ. Ꞁᵓ
I know that you seek one classifier fish. your

T- ᑕᒧˀ ᒍᵤ ᒍ̆ Ꞁₙₒ. Ꞁᵓ Ꞁ⁻ ˥ⁿ ᑕꞀᒉ,
the fish is I so it is. you if not believe,

[ᵓ C₋]̆ Lⁿ Ɪ⁻ Y⁻ [ₒ Ĉ. CƗ₁₁ Cϯ₋ C₋ ⅃ₒ
you look my arm pits these. orphan looked saw

C]" ’Ɔ" Ɪ⁻ [ₒ Ɔ- Y⁻ Tⁿ C⅃ˀ. CƗ₁₁ Cϯ₋ ⅃"
Miao girl arm pit had fins fish. orphan knew

]ᵤ C]" ’Ɔ"]ᵤ Cᵓ T- C⅃ˀ Tₙ꜀ Tᵹ,
that Miao girl was his the fish truly finish,

Cᵓ T⁻ Lₙ꜀ ˥ⁿ CƗ̿’. C]" ’Ɔ" CƗₒ CƗ₁₁ Cϯ₋
he presently not seek. Miao girl with orphan

Cⁿᵒ. CƗ₁₁ Cϯ₋ ˥ⁿ Ɔᵤ Ɔ₁₁ C" C⅃ˀ, Tᵘ T"
lived. orphan not need go fishing, all get

C", ˥ⁿ Ɔᵤ Y⁻, Tᵘ T" ’C̆.
eat, not need make, all get wear.

Y⁻ Lⁿ Ĉ ’Cᵘ Cₙ₁₁₁ Lⁿ Tᵹ. C]" ’Ɔ" CƗₒ
make like this time long finish. Miao girl with

CƗ₁₁ Cϯ₋ ˥ₙ,]̆ T- Lᶊ Lⁿ T⁻ Tₙ꜀ Tᵹ.]̆
orphan said, I come gone long very finish. I

Λ̄ Sʳ Ɔ₁₁ Δ⁻]̆ Cⁿᶜ Vᵤ Cᵇ Cᵘ
want return go go to my mother father relatives

Ɔₙ. CƗ₁₁ Cϯ₋ ˥ₙ,]̆ Λ̄ CƗₒ [ᵓ Ɔ₁₁. C]"
plural. orphan said, I want with you go. Miao

’Ɔ" ˥ₙ,]̆ Cⁿᶜ Vᵤ Cᵇ Cᵘ Γᵇ
girl said, my mother father relatives fierce

T⁻ Tₙ꜀, [ᵓ ˥ⁿ Λ̄]ᵤ CƗₒ]̆ Ɔ₁₁. Tᵘ ’Ɔ"
very, you not want that with me go. Miao lad

˥ₙ, Y⁻ Lⁿ Cⁿᵹ Tᵘ]̆ Λ̄ CƗₒ [ᵓ Ɔ₁₁
said, make like how all I want with you go

[ₙₒ. C]" ’Ɔ" ˥ₙ, Y⁻ Lⁿ [ᵓ [⁻ Λ̄
so it is. Miao girl said, make like you if want

CƗₒ]̆ Ɔ₁₁, Λ̄]ᵤ]̆ ϯᶊ Ɪ̊’ Tᵓ [ᵓ
with me go, want that I tread place what you

30 ƫᶝ J̊' Tᵓ, J̆ Ʒ꒐ J̊' Tᵓ Ꮖᵓ Ʒ꒐
tread place what, I sit place what you sit

J̊' Tᵓ, J̆ Cᐦ Yˉ Jᒥ Ꮖᵓ Cᐦ Yˉ Jᒥ. Tᵘ 'Ɔ"
place what, I eat what you eat what. Miao lad

˥ₙ, Yˉ Lⁿ Ʒ" Ꮖₙₒ. C̄ Ĉ Tᵘ 'Ɔ"
said, make like good so it is. now Miao lad

CꞮₒ CJᐦ 'Ɔ" Ɔᐦ Tᵹ. Ɔᐦ ƫₒ CJᐦ 'Ɔ"
with Miao girl went finish. went reach Miao girl

Cⁿᶜ Vᴗ CJ- Tᵹ. Cᵓ Λₙ Jᵤ
mother father house finish. their family was

35 Λᶝ Ʒᵹ Λₙ Ꮖₙₒ. Cᵓ Λₙ Ꮖ'ₙᶝ
Yeu-rang family so it was. their family place

Jᵤ Cⁿᵒ, ƫ'ˉ J̊' Jᵤ Yˉ ɮ̆ Tᶝ, Jᵇ
which live, every where was flaming fire, food

Jᵤ Cᐦ ƫ'ˉ Ʒᵹ Tᵘ Ꮖ'ₙᶝ ɹ'ᐦ ɮ" Ꮖⁿ
which eat every kind all took pot iron roast

Cᐦ. Yˉ Lⁿ Tᵘ 'Ɔ" Cᐦ L₋ Cᐦ ˥ⁿ T",
eat. make like Miao lad eat but eat not get,

Cⁿᵒ L₋ Cⁿᵒ ˥ⁿ T". Ŷ Vⁿᶜ Cⁿᵒ Cᵓ Yˉ
live but live not get. but remain his father-

40 Λᶝ Ɔₙ CJ- ƫ'ˉ Ʒᵹ Tᵘ Cᵓ Cⁿᵹ
in-law plural house every kind all his wife

CɹᵹCᵓ Yˉ, Yˉ Lⁿ Cᵓ Yˉ Λᶝ
helped him do, make like his father-in-law

Ɔₙ Tᵘ CꞮ̄' ˥ⁿ T" J'ᐦ J̈' V₋ Λₙ
plural all seek not get method take care of

Cᵓ. Ŷ Jᵤ Tᵤ CTⁿ Cᵓ Cⁿᵹ L₋ ˥ₙ ƫ'ˉ
him. because before his wife had said every

Ʒᵹ J'ᵇ Cᵓ Tᵹ.
kind shown him finish.

Y̊ Vⁿᶜ Ɔ- Yⁿ]", Λꞔ Ʒᵹ Λ̄ Y¯
but there was one occasion, Yeu-rang want make

Y¯ †¯ Tꞔ CI" C†_ Tᵹ. CI" C†_ Cↄ Cᵹ
medicine poison orphan finish. orphan his wife

⅃" Tᵹ, Cↄ Cᵹ CIₒ Cↄ ˥ₙ,]̆]ₒ
know finish, his wife with him said, I caused

[ↄ I'¯ CIₒ]̆ T- Tⁿ, [ↄ Λ̄ CIₒ
you do not with me come at all, you want with

]̆ T-. C̄ C̑]̆ Vᵤ Ɔₙ Λ̄ Y¯ Iᵇ
me come. now my father plural want make food

I'" [ↄ C", Y¯ Lⁿ [ↄ [ʼₙꞔ]ⁿ Δ_ Lₒ
for you eat, make like you take cloth come

C[ꞔ Y¯ C[ⁿ''' Y¯ C⅃ᵓ [ⁿᶜ. [ↄ T¯ Lₙ꜀ Y¯
pack mouth nose completed. you presently make

]ᵤ C". CI" C†_ †° Lⁿ]ᵤ Cↄ Cᵹ
that eat. orphan follow like that his wife

I'¯ Cↄ Ɔ" Y¯. Cↄ Y¯ Cᵘ Y¯ Λꞔ
tell him go do. his brothers-in-law father-in-law

Ɔₙ [ʼₙꞔ V¯]ᵤ CIₒ Y¯ †¯ T- I'"
plural took food which with medicine come for

Cↄ C". Cↄ Ɔ" [˥ Sᵹ T¯, Cↄ ˥ⁿ C".
him eat. he went smelt away only, he not eat.

Ɔ- I' C⅃¯]ᵤ T- C" Sᵹ,
there were chicken pigs which came eat away,

Tᵘ I" [ₙ Δᶦ T_ Lꞔ.]" C̑
all fell thus suddenly dead gone. occasion this

]ᵤ]" T'ᵤ Γ̈.]" Y¯ Iᵇ, Cↄ
was occasion leading. occasion after, his

Y¯ Cᵘ Y¯ Λꞔ Ɔₙ Ɔ¯ Y¯ †¯
brothers-in-law father-in-law plural took medicine

Jₙꞔ I" Δⁿ [ⁿᵒ T- I'" Cↄ C". Cↄ
mixed in porridge bring come for him eat. his

Cᵑ CꞮₒ Cↄ ˥ₙ, ⊐" C̑ L₋ ⊏ↄ Y¯
wife with him said, occasion this also you do

Lⁿ ⊐ᵤ ⊐" Tᵤ CTⁿ. C⊏ς ⊏ↄ Y¯ C⊏ⁿ‴ Y¯ C⅃ᵓ
like that occasion before. pack your mouth nose

⊏ⁿᶜ ⊏ₙₒ, ⊏ↄ Y¯ C⊏ⁿ‴ Ɔ„ CTᵓ Sᶾ
completed so it is, your mouth go touch away

T¯, ⊏ↄ Ɪ’¯ C" Tᶾ. CꞮ„ C†₋ Y¯ Lⁿ
only, you do not eat finish. orphan did like

⊐ᵤ Cↄ Cᵑ ˥ₙ Y¯. Y¯ Lⁿ ⊐" C̑
that his wife said do. make like occasion this

L₋ ˥ⁿ T" Tς Cↄ. Y̑ Vⁿᶜ Δ̑ T⁻ C",
also not get poison him. but dogs came eat,

Δ̑ Tᵘ T₋ Tᶾ. ⊐" C̑ ⊐ᵤ Y¯
dogs all dead finish. occasion this was second

⊐" ⊏ₙₒ. L₋ †ₒ †ᒥ ⊐".
occasion so it was. then reach third occasion.

⊐" C̑ CꞮ„ C†₋ Cↄ Cᵑ CꞮₒ Cↄ ˥ₙ,
occasion this orphan his wife with him said,

CꞮ„ C†₋ ⊐" C̑ ⊏ₙ ⊐̆ ˥ⁿ Ɔ⁻ ⊐’" ⊐̈’
orphan occasion this thus I not have method

Y¯ Jᒥ Tᶾ. ⊐̆ ⊐ₒ ⊏ↄ Ɪ’¯ CꞮₒ ⊐̆ T⁻
any finish. I caused you do not with me come

Tⁿ, Y̑ Vⁿᶜ ⊏ↄ Λ̄ T⁻. ⊏ↄ ˥ⁿ Λ̄ Tˀ,
at all, but you wanted come. you not want worry,

⊏ↄ Λ̄ T₋ Lς. Y¯ Ɪᵇ ⊐̆ T¯ Lₙᶜ CꞮ̿’
you will die gone. after I presently seek

⊐’" ⊐̈’ ⊏° ⊏ↄ. ⊐" C̑ CꞮ„ C†₋ Cↄ
method free you. occasion this orphan his

Y¯ Cᵘ Y¯ Λς Ɔₙ Ɔ¯ Y¯ †₋
brothers-in-law father-in-law plural took medicine

Ɪ" Y" T⁻ Ɪ’" Cↄ ˥„. Cↄ Yⁿ ⊏˥ T¯
in water come for him drink. he one smell only

Cɔ T" T₋ Lς Tᵹ.
he got dead gone finish.

Cɔ Y⁻ Cᵘ Y⁻ Λς Ↄₙ [ʼₙς Cɔ
his brothers-in-law father-in-law plural took him

CTₙ Ɪ" CT", [ⁿᵒ Cɔ Ↄ‖ L⁻ Ɪ"
packed in coffin, brought him went threw into

Yⁿ Lᵘ Y⁻ Lᵹ ⁿςJ. Cɔ CT" CⲒᵹ
one classifier great lake. his coffin floated

Cⁿᵒ ⁿςJ Y⁻ J⁻. Cɔ Cⁿᵹ ϯʼ⁻ ʼCᵘ Ↄ‖
remained lake top. his wife every day went

C₋ Cɔ, Ɪᵤ [ⁿᵒ Y⁻ ϯ⁻ Ↄ‖ Ɪʼ" Cɔ
looked him, also brought medicine went for him

C‖. Y⁻ Lⁿ ⁿC [ʼ‖ Lς ⅃ⁿ [ⁿ‖ ʼCᵘ,
eat. make like this passed gone several days,

CⲒ‖ Cϯ₋ [ⁿᶜ Lₒ Tᵹ. CⲒ‖ Cϯ₋ Cɔ Y⁻
orphan alive came finish. orphan his brothers-

Cᵘ Y⁻ Λς Ↄₙ ⅃ₒ Tᵹ. CⲒₒ
in-law father-in-law plural saw finish. with

CⲒ‖ Cϯ₋ Cⁿᵹ ˥ₙ, [ɔ Y⁻ Lⁿ [ⁿᵹ C̄ [ɔ
orphan wife said, you did like how so that you

Ɪᵤ Ɔₒ Ɔᵤ Y⁻ V" Ʒ" Lₒ. Cɔ
again caused that brother-in-law well come. she

˥ₙ, Ↄₙ Y⁻ V" Cⁿᵒ Vᵤ Lᵘ ⁿςJ
said, your brother-in-law remained in the lake

[ₙ, ᵘƆ Ↄ‖ CT̊ Yⁿ Γᵹ CT" Ɪ" Vᵤ
thus, I went felled one classifier tree into

Lᵘ ⁿςJ [ⁿᶜ. ᵘƆ Ↄ‖ ςJ Y⁻ J⁻, [ⁿᵒ [ⁿᵒ
the lake completed. I went stood top, shook

[ₙ Sₙᶜ, C̄ ςJ Lₒ. Cɔ
thus vigorously, therefore rise come. his

Y⁻ Cᵘ Ↄₙ ʼC̊ Tᵹ, Cɔ
brothers-in-law plural heard finish, his

Yˉ Cᵘ Ɔₙ ⊏’ₙς Yˉ ƚˉ Ɔᵢᵢ Ɪ’ʺ
brothers-in-law plural took medicine went for

Cᵓ Yˉ Λς Cʺ Sᵹ. Cᵓ Yˉ Λς
his father-in-law eat away. his father-in-law

T₋ Lς Tᵹ. Cᵓ Yˉ Cᵘ Ɔₙ
dead gone finish. his brothers-in-law plural

Ɪᵤ ⊏’ₙς CTʺ L∘ CTₙ Cᵓ Yˉ Λς
then took coffin come packed his father-in-law

⊏ⁿᶜ. ⊏ᵓ Ɔᵢᵢ ⊏° Ɪʺ Lᵘ Jⁿς Yⁿ
completed. carried went put into the lake that

⊏ⁿᶜ ⊏ₙ∘. Cᵓ Yˉ Cᵘ Ɔₙ
completed so it was. his brothers-in-law plural

Ɪᵤ Ɔᵢᵢ CT̊ Yⁿ Γᵹ CTʺ L∘ ⊏°
then went felled one classifier tree come put

Ɪʺ Lᵘ Jⁿς. ƚ’ˉ Lᵇ Ɔᵢᵢ Cⁿᵒ Ɪʺ Γᵹ
into the lake. every one went situated on the

CTʺ Yˉ Jˉ, Ɪᵤ Ɪ’ʺ Ʒ° ⊏ⁿᵒ ⊏ⁿᵒ. Yˉ Lⁿ
tree top, then with strength shook. make like

I’ᵘ ⅃ᵇ Tᵘ ᒣⁿ Cƚᵇ ∆ˉ Lᵘ Jⁿς T₋ Sᵹ.
all all tipped over go to the lake died away.

CƖᵢᵢ Cƚ₋ CƖ∘ Cᵓ Cⁿᵹ Tʺ Cᵓ ƚʺ Yˉ ⅃° Tⁿ ⊏’ₙς
orphan with his wife got their native place

Tᵹ.
finish.

M459

An orphan goes fishing.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no.38, page 24).

Line 53 and many subsequent lines. The expression Yˉ Cᵘ means "brother-in-law" in English, but is specifically a man's wife's brother.

Line 88. The expression Yˉ Vʺ also means "brother-in-law" in English, but is in this case a man's sister's husband.

M460

Two Miao lads who caught flat fish.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

This story begins with a variation on the theme of fish which turn into girls, but it is mainly concerned with another theme common in Miao songs, namely that of the rivalry between, in this case, the two friends. The younger is good, industrious and clever, the older, foolish, lazy and crafty.

The malicious treatment of the innocent, if not very bright, Chinese pig-drover, is hardly excusable, but remembering the ill-treatment the Miao constantly received at the hands of unscrupulous Chinese in the markets, it is at least understandable. The man down the pothole, could not have seen the pig man coming, but was alerted by his cries as he drove the animals along. Moreover, he would have known at once that these were pigs, and not cattle or sheep, because a different cry was used for each kind of animal.

M460

Two Miao lads who caught flat fish.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

People tell a story that once upon a time there were two Miao lads who went fishing. As they went they saw a log of firewood by the riverbank in a pool of water. They said, “Let us go and lift up that log of firewood, let it dry and carry it home to burn”. Having said this they set to and lifted the log of firewood from the pool and stood it on end on the bank. The log of firewood said to them, “My two brothers, do not carry me away to burn, but you take these two flat fish which you have caught today. Do not roast and eat them, but put them in your water butt and look after them”. They listened to the words of the log of firewood, and when they returned home the smaller lad did as the log of firewood told them to do. He took his fish home and looked after it in the water butt, but the bigger lad took his fish home and threw it on the fire to roast and eat it, but the fish jumped out of the fire. So the lad said, “My friend is looking after his, I also will take mine and look after it”. Not long afterwards the two fish changed into two Miao girls. One was very pretty, but the other had scars on her face. Now the bigger lad wanted the one who was very good looking, but the smaller lad said to him, “How is it that you want the good looking one? When you brought yours home you threw her into the fire and burnt her and caused the scars. You should take the one with the scars and go along”. The bigger lad could do nothing about it so he took the one with the scars.

Now the smaller lad worked very hard indeed and had food to eat, but the bigger lad had no thought but to go hunting every day, and so he became very poor. Accordingly he grew angry with the smaller one, because he was well off and had a good-looking wife. On one occasion he said to the younger lad, “I saw in the valley yonder a number of porcupines. I will take you to hunt them”. The smaller lad said to him, “Good, I will go with you to hunt them”. The bigger lad said, “You go up over the hill and keep watch, while I come and drive them up from the valley”. The younger lad came up over the hill while the bigger lad came round the bottom of the valley, setting fire to the brushwood so that it burned, climbing upwards. The younger lad seeing the fire climbing up the hill, ran away, and was not burned, so that he reached home first. Later the bigger lad returned. He came and asked, “Has my friend come back?” The younger lad’s wife replied, “Yes, and has had time to have his meal”.

Some days later the bigger lad went and saw that there was a very deep pothole in a valley. He intended to trick the younger lad into falling into the hole. Accordingly he gathered leaves and covered it carefully. When he returned home he went and said to his younger friend, “I have seen in the valley yonder there is a herd of wild pigs. Let me take you to hunt them today”. His younger friend said, “Let’s do so”, and the bigger lad took the smaller to the place where had carefully covered the pot hole with leaves. “The wild pigs are there, you go and drive them out, while I stay here and kill them”. The smaller lad ran over and trod on the mouth of the hole as the bigger lad had arranged, and fell in. He fell down but he was not killed.

One day while he was in the hole a pig drover drove a herd of pigs past the mouth of the hole. He called to the Chinese man and said, “My friend the pig drover, business is very good indeed here, it is easy to make money. You break off some of the creeper there, knot it together, and come and pull me out, then you come here and do business”. When the pig drover heard this he went and did as the lad had told him. H broke off a lot of creeper, tied it together properly, let it down and pulled the lad who was in the hole out. When the lad who had been in the hole got out he let the pig drover down into the hole, then he took the drover’s pigs, drove them away and sold them and carried the money home.

The lad who had previously deceived him came and saw that he had a great deal of silver, so he said to the smaller lad, “How did you get such a lot of silver?” He replied, “That place I went to is very rich. Now I have come back I should like to take you all there, but I want to rest for a few days yet”. The bigger lad, when he heard these words, set his heart on going to search for silver. So he made proper preparations. First he made sure which hole it was that originally he had caused that lad to fall into, then he ran and dropped into the hole. After this every thing was counted as belonging to the younger lad.

M460

Y̅ Lᕑ Tᵁ ’Ↄ" C" CᒧᕀCᒧˀ C" T" Cᒧˀ Δ̄.
two classifier Miao lads fishing catch fish flat.

Tᕑ Cᕑ ᒣₙ ᒧᐢ Tₗₗ ᒍᵤ Y̅ T’" Lᐢ Ↄ- Y̅
people say story that of old there were two

Lᕑ Tᵁ ’Ↄ" Ↄₗₗ C" Cᒧˀ. Cᵓ Lᕐ ᒧₒ
classifier Miao lads went fishing. they gone see

Lᐡ CTᵁ Δᐢ Ↄ- Yᐢ Tᵤ Y̅ ᒪ’ᵓ
the edge river there was one classifier firewood

Tᕐ Iₗₗ Cᐢᵒ ᒧᴣ Y". Cᵓ Y̅
log fall situated pool water. they two

5 Lᕑ ᒣₙ, Y̅ Lᕑ Ↄₗₗ ᒪᴣ Tᐢ
classifier said, two classifier go lift up the

Y̅ ᒪ’ᵓ Tᕐ Vᵤ ᒪᐢᶜ ᒍₒ Ī’ Sᴣ, Y̅
firewood log there completed cause dry away, two

Lᕑ Iᵣ Ↄₗₗ Δ̈ Δ̄ Cᒍ-. Cᵓ Y̅
classifier carry go light go to house. they two

Lᕑ ᒣₙ Tᴣ, Cᵓ Y̅ Lᕑ J
classifier said finish, they two classifier rose

Ↄₗₗ ᒪᴣ Tᐡ Y̅ ᒪ’ᵓ Tᕐ Δ̄ Vᵤ ᒧᴣ Y",
go lift the firewood log go to from pool water,

10 ᒍₒ J Lₒ Y̅ CTᵁ Y". Tᐡ Y̅ ᒪ’ᵓ Tᕐ
cause stand come edge water. the firewood log

CIₒ Cᵓ Y̅ Lᕑ ᒣₙ, Y̅ Lᕑ
with them two classifier said, two classifier

ᒪ, Ↄₙ Y̅ Lᕑ I’- Iᵣ ᒍ Ↄₗₗ
brothers, you two classifier do not carry me go

Δ̈ Tᴣ. Ↄₙ Y̅ Lᕑ ᒪᐢᵒ Y̅
light finish. you two classifier take two

T- Cᒧˀ Δ̄ ᒍᵤ ’Ↄ° C̄ Ↄ̄ Lᕑ C" T"
classifier fish flat which today you two caught

Ĉ Ɔ‥, Ɔ̄ Lᒾ Ɪ’⁻ Ꞓ’ₙₛ Ꞓⁿ Ɔ‥ Sᶟ
these go, you two do not take roast go away

Tᶚ Tⁿ. Ɔ̄ Lᒾ Ꞓ’ₙₛ Λ₀ Ɪ" Ɔ̄ Lᒾ T̄
finish at all. you two take tend in you two the

T’" Y" Ꞓₙₒ Ꞁ°. Cᵓ Ȳ
water butt so it is exclamation. they two

Lᒾ C‥ Tᑦ Ȳ Ꞓ’ᵓ Tˁ Lᵘ. Cᵓ
classifier listened the firewood log words. they

Ȳ Lᒾ Sʳ Lₒ Δ̄ CꞀ-. †̄
two classifier return come go to house. the

G₋ †° Lⁿ Ꞁᵤ Tᵘ Ȳ Ꞓ’ᵓ Tˁ
little one followed like that the firewood log

Ɪ’⁻ Cᵓ Ȳ, Ꞓⁿᵒ Cᵓ T- CꞀᑉ Lₒ †ₒ
taught him do, bring his the fish come reach

CꞀ- Ꞓ’ₙₛ Cᵓ T- CꞀᑉ Λ₀ Ɪ" Cᵓ Lᑦ
house took his the fish tended in his the

T’" Y" Ꞓⁿᶜ. †ʳ Ꞁᵤ ɓ° Ĉ Ꞓⁿᵒ
water butt completed. the one was big this bring

Cᵓ T- CꞀᑉ Lₒ †ₒ CꞀ- Tᶚ. Cᵓ Ꞓ’ₙₛ
his the fish come reach house finish. he took

Cᵓ T- CꞀᑉ L̄ Ɪ" Ꞓᶚ Tˁ Λ̄ Ꞓⁿ Lₒ
his the fish threw upon fire want roast come

C", Ŷ Vⁿᶜ T- CꞀᑉ Ɪ’" Ꞓᶚ Tˁ Δ’ⁿᶜ Tₛ Lₒ.
eat, but the fish from fire jumped out gone.

Ȳ Lⁿ Tᵘ ’Ɔ" Ꞁₙ, Ꞁ̆ †ʳ L̄ Tᵘ Ꞓ’ₙₛ
make like Miao lad said, my the friend all took

Λ₀ Ꞓⁿᶜ, Ꞁ̆ L₋ Ꞓ’ₙₛ Lₒ Λ₀. Cᵓ Ȳ
tend completed, I also take come tend. they two

Lᒾ, Ȳ Lᒾ Ꞁ’ⁿᶜ Tᵘ Cⁿᵒ Lₒ
classifier, two classifier both all brought come

Λ₀ Ꞓⁿᶜ. Cⁿᵒ Ꞁⁿ Lⁿ T̄ Ȳ
tend completed. remain not long at all, two

T⁻ Cᒧˀ Δ'ₙ Y⁻ Y⁻ Lᵇ C]"
classifier fish change make two classifier Miao

'Ↄ" Lₒ Tᵹ. Yⁿ Lᵇ Ʒ" C]" T⁻ Tₙ꜀,
girls come finish. one classifier pretty very,

Yⁿ Lᵇ Lᵘ Δ'ᵘ CEₙ˃. Y⁻ Lⁿ ϯʳ
one classifier the face scar. make like the one

]ᵤ ჲ°, Cↄ L₋ Ʌ̄ Lᵇ]ᵤ Ʒ" T⁻ Tₙ꜀
was big, he also want classifier was good very

Ẏ̂. ϯʳ Ꮆ₋ CIₒ Cↄ ˥ₙ, Eↄ Y⁻
that. the one little with him said, you make

Eⁿᵹ Eↄ L₋ Ʌ̄ Lᵇ]ᵤ Ʒ" Ŝ.
how you also want classifier who good as well.

Eↄ ᒧⁿ꜀ Eↄ Eⁿᵒ Lₒ ϯₒ C]⁻, Eↄ E'ₙ Cↄ
yours you bring come reach house, you took her

L⁻ I" Eᵹ Tˤ C̄ T"]ᵘ]ᵤ CEₙ˃
threw into fire therefore get burn that scar

Sᵹ Tᵹ. Eↄ Ʌ̄]ᵤ T" Lᵇ]ᵤ
away finish. you want that get classifier who

CEₙ˃ T⁻ Lₙ꜀ Lₙ Eₙ. ϯʳ ჲ° ˥ⁿ Ↄ⁻
scar presently gone thus. the one big not have

Ê, Y⁻ Lⁿ ϯʳ]ᵤ ჲ° T" Lᵇ
way, make like the one who big got classifier

]ᵤ CEₙ˃ Lₙ Tᵹ.
who scarred gone finish.

C̄ Ĉ ϯʳ]ᵤ J" I'" Sⁿ꜀ Y⁻ Cᵘ T⁻ Tₙ꜀.
now the one who small heartily did work very.

Cↄ T" V⁻ C". ϯʳ]ᵤ ჲ° ϯ'⁻ 'Cᵘ
he get food eat. the one who big every day

E₋ ᒧ"]ᵤ Ↄ" Lˤ CI' T⁻, Y⁻ Lⁿ Cↄ
only know that go hunting alone. make like he

J" T⁻ Tₙ꜀. Cↄ Iᵤ Y° Sⁿ꜀ I" ϯʳ Ꮆ₋,
poor very. he then angry toward the one little,

Y̑]ᵤ   Cᵓ   Ɪᵕ   Ↄ-,   Ɪᵕ   Tʺ   Ʒʺ   Cᶾ.
because he also had, also get good wife.

Ↄ-   Yⁿ   ]ʺ   Cᵓ   CⱿₒ   †ʳ   ]ᵤ
there was one occasion he with the one who

Jʺ   ˥ₙ,   ]̆   ┘ₒ   Lᵕ   ˥ᶾ   ┘ₙ   Ↄ-
small said, I saw the valley yonder there is

Yⁿ   C┘°   [ʺ.   ]̆   Iʾᵓ   [ᵓ   Ↄₗₗ   L̉.   †ʳ
one group porcupine. I take you go hunt. the one

Ꮾ₋   CⱿₒ   Cᵓ   ˥ₙ,   Ʒʺ,   Yˉ   Lⁿ   ]̆   CⱿₒ
little with him said, good, make like I with

[ᵓ   Ↄₗₗ   L̓.   †ʳ   ᑲ°   CⱿₒ   Cᵓ   ˥ₙ,   [ᵓ
you go hunt. the one big with him said, you

Ↄₗₗ   ┘ₙ   Lᵕ   Yˉ C[ʳ Ɪʺ   C₋   [ⁿᶜ,   ]̆   T-
go yonder the hill watch completed, I come

Ɪʺ   Ɪᶾ   ˥ᶾ   L̉   Lₒ.   †ʳ   ]ᵤ   Jʺ
into bottom valley drive come. the one who small

T-   ┘ₙ   Lᵕ   Ɪʺ   Yˉ Jˉ,   †ʳ   ]ᵤ   ᑲ°
came yonder the hill above, the one who big

T-   CⱿₒ   L̑   Ɪᶾ   ˥ᶾ   [°   ᑲ̉ †ⁿ
came with the bottom valley set burning scrub

]ₒ   ᑲ̉   C[ⁿ   T-.   †ʳ   ]ᵤ   Jʺ   ┘ₒ
cause burn climb come. the one who small saw

]ᵤ   ᑲ̉ †ⁿ   C[ⁿ   T-   Tᶾ.   Cᵓ   Ɪᶾ
that burning scrub climb come finish. he ran

┘̓   L̉   ˥ⁿ   Tʺ   ᑲ̉   Cᵓ   Sᶾ.   Cᵓ   Ɪᵕ   Sᵕ
fled gone not get burn him away. he then first

Sʳ   Ↄₗₗ   C[ₙₗₗ   C]-.   Yˉ Ɪʾ   †ʳ   ]ᵤ   ᑲ°
return went arrive house. after the one who big

Sʳ   Lₒ   Tᶾ.   Cᵓ   Lₒ   Cᵤ   ˥ₙ,   †ʳ
return come finish. he came ask said, the one

Lˉ   Tₙᶜ   Lₒ   Tᶾ.   †ʳ   ]ᵤ   Jʺ   Cᶾ
friend query come finish. the one who small wife

Tⁿ ᒣₙ, Lₒ ᒧᵤ ᑕ" V̄ Sᵟ Tᵟ.
replied said, come that eat food away finish.

ᑦ'ⁿ" Lᕐ ᒧⁿ ᑦⁿ" 'ᑕᵘ, ✝ʳ ᒧᵤ ᑲ° ᑐ"
pass gone several days, the one who big went

ᒧₒ ᑐ- Yⁿ Lᵘ ᒍ̊' ᒧᵤ T°
saw there was one classifier hole which deep

T̄ Tₙ꜀, ᑕⁿ° Yⁿ Lᵘ ᒣ. ᑕᑐ ᐱ̄
very, situated one classifier valley. he want

ᑦ' ✝ʳ ᒧᵤ J" Ŷ ᒧₒ ᑐ" ᒧ"
deceive the one who small that cause go fall in

ᒍ̊'. Ȳ Lⁿ ᑕᑐ ᑐ" Vᒡ ᑕᐃ" V̉
hole. make like he went cover leaves conceal

ᒧᵤ Ʒ" Sᵟ. ᑕᑐ Sʳ Lₒ ᐃ̄ ᑕᒧ-, ᑕᑐ
was good away. he return come go to house, he

Iᒡ ᑐ" ᑕIₒ ᑕᑐ ✝ʳ L̄ ᒧᵤ J"
then went with his the one friend who small

Ŷ ᒣₙ, ✝ʳ L̄, ᒧ̆ Iᒡ ᒧₒ Lᵘ
that said, the one friend, I again saw the

ᒣ ᒧⁿ Tⁿ ᑐ- Yⁿ ᑕᒧ° ᑕᒧ̄ Ʒ̈. 'ᑐ° ᑕ̄
valley below there is one herd wild pig. today

ᒧ̆ Iᒡ I'ᐤ ᑦᑐ ᑐ" L̉ ᐱ̄. ᑕᑐ ✝ʳ
I again take you go hunt let us. his that one

L̄ ᒧᵤ J" ᒣₙ, , Ȳ Lⁿ ᑦⁿ° ✝ʳ
friend who small said, make like so. the one

ᑲ° I'ᐤ ✝ʳ Ꮆ₋ ᑐ" ✝ₒ ᒍ̊' ᒧᵤ
big took the one little went reach hole which

ᑕᑐ Vᒡ ᑕᐃ" V̉ Lᵘ ᒍ̊' Ʒ" Sᵟ
he cover leaves conceal the hole good away

Ŷ. ᑕᑐ ᒣₙ, ᑕᒧ̄ Ʒ̈ ᑕⁿ° Vᒡ Tᵟ.
that. he said, wild pig situated there finish.

ᑦᑐ ᑐ" T'ᐣ Lₒ, ᒧ̆ ᑕⁿ° Vᒡ ᑕ̂ ᑕT". ✝ʳ
you go poke come, I stay at here kill. the one

]ᵤ J" Ɪᵹ Ↄ", T" Ɛᵘ Lᵘ Yˉ ƆƐ" I̊'
who small ran went, get tread the mouth hole

]ᵤ ƚʳ ɓ° Yˉ Ɛⁿᶜ Ŷ. Cↄ T"
which the one big made completed that. he get

⅃" Lᵹ Tᵹ. Cↄ ⅃" Ↄ", Ŷ Vⁿᶜ Cↄ
fall in gone finish. he fell in went, but he

˥ⁿ T₋ Sᵹ.
not dead away.

Ↄ- Yⁿ 'Cᵘ Cↄ Cⁿᵒ Lᵘ I̊', Ↄ-
there is one day he situated the hole, there is

Yⁿ Tᵘ Lˤ C⅃˘ Lˤ Yⁿ C⅃° C⅃˘ Ɛ'ⁿ" Lᵘ
one pig drover drive one herd pigs pass the

Yˉ Δ" I̊'. Cↄ I'ᵘ ƚʳ Yˉ V" Ŷ
entrance hole. he call the one Chinese that

˥ₙ, ƚʳ Lˉ]ᵤ Lˤ C⅃˘, Vᵤ Ĉ
said, the one friend who drives pigs, at here

Vˉ L₋ Ʒ" Tˉ Tₙc, Cⁿᶜ Tᵘ ƚ̂' Ʒ" CI̿'
business good very, silver money good seek

Tˉ Tₙc. Ɛↄ Tᵘ I̊' Ŷ T" 'Ↄᵹ, Ɛↄ
very. you break off place that get creeper, you

˥ⁿ ƚ₋ T- CIᵤ I̐ Lₒ, ˥ˉ Ɛↄ Ɪᵤ
knot together come pull me come, and you then

T- Cⁿᵒ Vᵤ Ĉ Yˉ Vˉ L₋. ƚʳ]ᵤ
come stay at here do business. the one who

Lˤ C⅃˘ Ŷ 'C̊ Tᵹ. Cↄ ƚ° Lⁿ
drive pigs that heard finish. he follow like

]ᵤ ƚʳ Ŷ ˥ₙ Ↄ" Yˉ. Cↄ Tᵘ
that the one that said went did. he broke off

T"]ᵤ Ɛⁿ" Tˉ Tₙc ˥ⁿ ƚ₋ Ʒ" Sᵹ, Ɛ°
get was much very knot together well away, let

ɓ" Ↄ", Ↄˉ ƚʳ]ᵤ Cⁿᵒ CΔ°
go down went, took the one who situated inside

J̊’ Y̑ CJᵤ Tˁ Lₒ. †ʳ]ᵤ Cⁿᵒ
hole that pull out come. the one who situated

Lᵘ CΔ° J̊’ Tˁ Lₒ Tᵹ, Cᵓ Iᵤ [°
the inside hole out come finish, he then let

†ʳ]ᵤ L̉ CɅ⁻]ₒ ɮ̈ Ↄ‖ Δ⁻
the one who drive pigs cause go down went go to

Lᵘ J̊’ Y̑ Lˁ. Cᵓ Iᵤ [’ₙˁ †ʳ]ᵤ
the hole that gone. he then took the one who

L̉ CɅ⁻ Tᵕ CɅ⁻ L̉ Ↄ‖ Tᵤ Sᵹ. Cᵓ
drive pigs the pigs drive went sell away. he

[ⁿᵒ Cⁿᶜ Ↄ‖ Δ⁻ C]-.
bring silver went go to house.

†ʳ]ᵤ Tᵤ CTⁿ [̄’ Cᵓ Ↄ‖ Y̑ T-
the one who before deceive him go that came

˩ₒ Cᵓ Ↄ- Cⁿᶜ Tᵘ †̑’ T⁻ Tₙ꜀, Cᵓ CIₒ †ʳ
saw he had silver money very, he with the one

Ꮆ₋ ˥ₙ, [ᵓ Y⁻ [ⁿ Ĉ [ᵓ T"
little said, you make how therefore you get

Cⁿᶜ T⁻ Tₙ꜀. Cᵓ ˥ₙ, Tⁿ [’ⁿˁ]ᵤ J̆ Ↄ‖ Y̑,
silver very. he said, place which I went that,

Ↄ- T⁻ Tₙ꜀. J̆ Lₒ J̆ Λ̄ C[ⁿˁ I’ₚ Ↄₙ Ↄ‖,
have very. I come I want like take you go,

Y̑ Vⁿᶜ J̆ Λ̄ Jₒ ˩ⁿ [ⁿ‴ ’Cᵘ Ŝ. †ʳ]ᵤ
but I want rest several days yet. the one who

ɮ° ’C̊ T" Tⁿ Lᵘ Ĉ Tᵹ, Cᵓ Ↄ-
big hear get the words these finish, he had

Y⁻ Sⁿᶜ]ᵤ Λ̄ Ↄ‖ CI̿’ Cⁿᶜ Tᵹ. Y⁻
heart which want go seek silver finish. make

Lⁿ Cᵓ]ⁿ †ⁿᶜ †’⁻ 3ᵹ 3" Sᵹ Tᵹ,
like he prepare every kind well away finish,

Cᵓ Sᵘ C₋ 3" Tᵤ CTⁿ Cᵓ I’ₚ †ʳ Y̑
he first look well before he take the one that

]∘ ┘ᐦ Lᵕ J̊’ Lᵕ Lⁿ ⊏ⁿȣ. Cↄ Ɪȣ Ↄᐦ
cause fall in the hole which one. he ran went

┘ᐦ Lᵕ J̊’ Ŷ Lϛ Tȣ. Y¯ Jᑋ L∘
fall in the hole that gone finish. after come

I̊’ ┘ᑋ Tᵕ S∘ ┼ᒥ Jᐦ Ŷ ┘ⁿ⊂
everything all reckon the one small that his

Tȣ.
finish.

M460

Two Miao lads who caught flat fish.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 45, page 30).

M461

Nggu-no’s mother and father.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

The title of this story is a little misleading since the main theme concerns not Nggu-no’s parents, but the rivalry between Nggu-no and her step sister, Nggu-ntrw, aided and abetted by their respective mothers. Although the story moves in the realm of fantasy, with people changing into animals, birds and the like, the setting is that of a typical Miao village, which requires some explanation.

First there were the constant tasks of gathering firewood, normally, though not always, undertaken by the men folk, and that of carrying water from the stream, which usually fell to the women and girls. Then there were the regular duties performed by the older children of taking the sheep and cattle out daily to graze on the hillsides. Both men and women shared the work of planting, tending and harvesting the crops. Then for the women and girls there was, in addition, the endless task of joining hemp for making clothes. When the hemp had been stripped from the stalks it was tied up into bundles. The strands were pulled out one by one, and joined together with a special twist, not a knot, and as each length was attached it was wound around the left hand to form a ball. These balls were then made into skeins by winding on to a frame consisting of a cross made of two pieces of flat wood, each about two feet long and joined together at right angles. At the end of each arm was a peg, and the whole was pivoted in the centre so that it would revolve horizontally. The skeins of hemp were made into yarn ready for weaving, by steeping in water with wood ashes. Several skeins would be required to thread up the handloom. Before weaving, some also had to be wound on the bobbin in the shuttle. To do this a skein of yarn was replaced on the pegs of the winding frame, and the bobbin was wound by hand. The frame rotated slowly on its pivot as the yarn was pulled off, and often made a characteristic squeaking noise.

The story assumes familiarity with the layout of a Miao house. It was rectangular in shape with a single door in the middle of the long side by which both people and cattle entered. The latter were penned in a compartment at one end of the house, with no access from outside. Thus “the door of the cow house” was in fact in the main living room where the people were assembled. Under the thatched roof was a loft, reached by a rough ladder. The floor of the loft was usually plaited bamboo. This space was used for the storage of grain, and also might be used for sleeping.

From time to time the Miao held festivals at which gathered the young people from surrounding villages. These were not religious occasions but were more like carnivals with singing, pipe playing and dancing, accompanied by the drinking of much wine made from maize or millet.

It was not uncommon, when a girl got married for a younger sister to go with her as a companion, but she usually returned before or as soon as the first baby was born. After the birth of a child, a Miao mother had soon to be back at work in the home and on the farm, but her baby had to go with her, strapped on her back. It gave the mother some respite if some one else would take the baby for a time. The business of pinching the child and making it cry was a ruse by the younger sister to get the older sister to change clothes with her.

M461
Nggu-no’s mother and father.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong

They tell a story that when Nggu-no’s mother and father went out gathering firewood they saw a large clump of tall grass. Ngu-no’s mother said, “What a pity I am not a cow to go and eat that clump of grass!” Nggu-no’s father said, “Very well, suppose I strike you with this peach branch and make you turn into a cow to go and eat it!” Nggu-no’s mother said, “All right”. Nggu-no’s father struck Nggu-no’s mother with the peach branch and Nggu-no’s mother changed into a cow and went and ate it.

Some time after this Nggu-no’s father married another wife. The new wife already had a daughter who was called Nggu-ntrw. Nggu-no was the daughter of the old wife, Nggu-ntrw was the daughter of the new wife. Every day Nggu-no took the cow, which was her mother, out to graze, and every day her mother took off her cape of cow hide, spread it out to sit on, and helped Nggu-no to join hemp. So it was that Nggu-no joined a great deal of hemp. When Nggu-ntrw saw it Nggu-ntrw said to her, “Sister, how is that you have joined so much hemp?” Her sister said, “When I take the cow to graze, I spread out my hemp, one bunch on a clump of high grass, and another bunch on a clump of wormwood. Then the cow collects and eats it. When the cow passes it out I simply go and wind it up. That is why I join so much”. The next day the stepsister said to her elder sister, “Today I will take the cow out to graze and join some hemp”. So Nggu-ntrw took the cow out to graze and did as Nggu-no said. She spread one bunch on a clump of high grass and another bunch on a clump of wormwood. The cow gathered, and ate it all, but when the cow passed it out and Nggu-ntrw went to collect it and wind it up, the hemp was just all rotten. Then the cow dragged Nggu-ntrw along and her legs and thighs were all scratched. In the evening when Nggu-ntrw drove the cow home she said, “This cow, let us take and kill it for an ancestral sacrifice”.

Some time later Nggu-ntrw’s parents took the cow and slaughtered it for sacrifice. When the boiled meat was cooked, and her father was dipping up the meat for his friends to eat, he gave Nggu-no a bowl full to carry around. She went as far as the door of the cow house when she spilt it. Another bowl full was dipped up for her to take around, but it happened just as before. A third bowl full was dipped up to take around but the same thing happened.

About this time people were going to hold a festival. Nggu-ntrw’s mother went and picked leaves which she sewed together and made clothes for Nggu-ntrw to wear. Nggu-ntrw’s mother then took her along. Nggu-no had no clothes to wear so she sat at home weeping aloud. Nggu-no heard a crow calling from the branch of a tree,

“A, a, a, your gowns are in the cupboard in the cow house!
A, a, a, your gowns are in the cupboard in the cow house!”

Nggu-no ran and opened the cupboard in the cow house and looked. There together in the cupboard in the cow house were gowns of silk, folded together and rolled up.

Nggu-no took one gown to wear and another to carry and set off after Nggu-ntrw’s mother and Nggu-ntrw. She arrived at the festival ground. Ndrao-jio-shi-niang had come to choose a bride at this festival. Ndrao-jio-shi-niang played on his pipes,

“Dro, dro, dro, my bride is on the higher side!”

This was because Nggu-no was on the higher side. Nggu-ntrw’s mother heard it and led Nggu-ntrw over to the higher side. Ndrao-jio-shi-niang played on his pipes again,

“Dro, dro, dro, my bride is on the lower side!”

So Nggu-ntrw’s mother led Nggu-ntrw over to the lower side.

In the evening Nggu-ntrw's mother brought Ndrao-jio-shi-niang back home. When the time came to sleep, Nggu-ntrw's mother made Nggu-ntrw sleep next to Ndrao-jio-shi-niang, and Nggu-no to sleep at Nggu-ntrw's back. When Nggu-ntrw was asleep Ndrao-jio-shi-niang lifted Nggu-ntrw into the place where Nggu-no was sleeping and lifted Nggu-no into the place where Nggu-ntrw was sleeping. In the middle of the night Nggu-ntrw's mother took some wax intending to smear it on Nggu-no's eyes so that Nggu-no would not be able to see. As it was Nggu-ntrw's mother smeared it on Nggu-ntrw's eyes. Before it was light Nggu-ntrw's mother prepared a nice meal and called Ndrao-jio-shi-niang and Nggu-ntrw to come and eat, before sending them on their way. Ndrao-jio-shi-niang knew that it was Nggu-no, so he would not let her speak but eat quickly and go. Nggu-no and Ndrao-jio-shi-niang had gone but Nggu-ntrw was still asleep upstairs. Nggu-ntrw's mother was winding yarn when her winding frame squeaked, "ki-li, ki-li" and she said, my daughter and son-in-law must have reached half way by now". Nggu-ntrw replied to her mother from up stairs, "Mother, I am still here". Her mother said, "I am talking about my daughter and son-in-law, who mentioned you?" Nggu-ntrw said, "Mother, truly I am still here". At this her mother went up and saw that she had smeared wax into Nggu-ntrw's eyes. Then her mother went and washed Nggu-ntrw's face, found some food for her to eat, and made her follow after the others. So Nggu-ntrw arrived at her sister and brother-in-law's home.

Her sister and brother-in-law had a baby son, and the sister gave her the baby son to carry on her back. She pinched the bottom of her sister's baby son and he cried. Nggu-ntrw said, "It is because he wants your jacket". Her sister took off her jacket for him. Nggu-ntrw pinched the baby son's bottom again and the child cried again. Nggu-ntrw said, " It is because he wants your skirt". Her sister took off her skirt for him. Nggu-ntrw pinched the baby son's bottom and again the child cried. Nggu-ntrw said, "It is because he wants your leg bands". Her sister took off her leg bands for him. Nggu-ntrw pinched the child again and he cried. Nggu-ntrw said, "Over there, above the pothole, is a clump of flowers, it is because he wants a flower. You go and pick one for him". Her sister went to pick a flower and Nggu-ntrw pushed her into the hole. Nggu-ntrw carried the son back to the house. Ndrao-jio-shi-niang said, "Nggu-ntrw, where is your sister?" Nggu-ntrw scolded Ndrao-jio-shi-niang and said, "Don't you know me then, you old fat legs!" In the evening, at bed time, Ndrao-jio-shi-niang took Ngu-ntrw's hair to spread as a pillow, but it was not enough. Then Ndrao-jio-shi-niang said, "Your sister's hair is very long, but your hair is not long at all".

A long time afterwards when Ndrao-jio-shi-niang went ploughing, a bird at the mouth of the pothole sang,

"Is the child's father at home,
And is the child crying?"

Ndrao-jio-shi-niang said, "Are you spirit or are you human?" Then he spat on his hand and said, "If you are human, fly over and perch on my hand". The small bird flew over and perched on Ndrao-jio-shi-niang's hand. Ndrao-jio-shi-niang brought it home. Nggu-ntrw took it to kill and eat, but it changed into a round stone. Now there was a neighbour who came in to get a light for her fire from the family. Seeing how good that stone was, she said, "Give me this little round stone of yours for me to take home for making oil cakes to eat". Nggu-ntrw said, "If you want it, take it". The neighbour took it along and put it inside a large jar.

When the neighbour shut her door every day and went out to work, this stone came out and changed into a very good looking Miao woman. She came and combed her hair, prepared food in readiness for the neighbour's return, then changed into a stone and went back into the large jar. After this the woman said to her neighbours, "You come every day and prepare food for me in readiness for my return, thank you so much”. The neighbours said, “It isn’t us! There is a stranger woman in your large jar. Every day when you have gone she comes out, washes her face, combs her hair, and prepares food for you”. So she understood. One day she made as though she was going farming. She went outside, shut the door and watched quietly. She saw this stranger woman come out, and she ran and caught her. Thereafter the two of them lived together.

The neighbour went out farming every day, but the stranger woman remained indoors. Her son, whom Nggu-ntrw had taken, came every day to be with her. She washed him until he was clean all over. Her son went and told his father. He said, “Father, there is a stranger woman, living down there, who behaves like a mother to me. Every day I go to be with her and she treats me very well indeed”. His father said to him, “You go and get her to prepare a steamer of food, and pull a hair and wind it round so you can carry it back. We will wind it round our house. If it is long enough to go around three times, then it is your mother”. Her son went and talked to her and got his mother to prepare a steamer of food, and to take a hair and wind around the steamer so he could carry the hair back to his father. His father took the hair and wound it round the house. It did go around three times so his father went and fetched his mother home.

When Nggu-no arrived Nggu-ntrw asked her, “Sister, how is it that your head grows such long hair?” Her sister said, “I went and heated water until it was boiling hard, next I poured it out and filled the tub to the brim. Then I dipped it up and washed . It was when I dipped it up and washed that my hair grew so long”. Nggu-ntrw went to copy, but the water scalded Nggu-ntrw to death.

M461

Ꮆᵤ Ꮯ° Ꮯⁿᶜ Ꮆᵤ Ꮯ° Vᵕ.
Nggu-no mother Nggu-no father.

Ꮯᑐ ˥ₙ ᒧⁿ Tᐦ]ᵤ Ꮆᵤ Ꮯ° Ꮯⁿᶜ Ꮆᵤ Ꮯ°
they say story that Nggu-no mother Nggu-no

Vᵕ Ɔᐦ Jᐦ Tˁ Ꮯₙ. Ɔᐦ ᒧ∘ Yⁿ
father went gather firewood thus. went saw one

ƫᐦ Y⁻ Ꮯⁿᶜ ꓚꞮᑋ Tᐦ. Ꮆᵤ Ꮯ° Ꮯⁿᶜ ˥ₙ,]̆
clump large high grass. Nggu-no mother said, I

Ꮯ’⁻ ˥ⁿ Λ° Yⁿ Tᵤ Ꮯ∾]ᵤ Ɔᐦ Ꮯᐦ
alas am not one classifier cow which go eat

ƫᐦ ꓚꞮᑋ Vᵕ Λ⁻. Ꮆᵤ Ꮯ° Vᵕ
clump grass there exclamation. Nggu-no father

˥ₙ, Y⁻ Lⁿ]̆ Ɪ’ᐦ Tᵕ Y⁻ Ꮯƫ⁻]ⁿ Δ⁻ Ꮯⁿ
said, make like I with the branch peach this

ꓚΔˁ Ꮯᑐ,]∘ Ꮯᑐ Δ’ₙ Yⁿ Tᵤ Ꮯ∾
strike you, cause you change one classifier cow

Ɔᐦ Ꮯᐦ Ɔ⁻. Ꮆᵤ Ꮯ° Ꮯⁿᶜ ˥ₙ Ʒᐦ
go eat exclamation. Nggu-no mother said, good

Ɔ⁻. Ꮆᵤ Ꮯ° Vᵕ Ɔ⁻ Y⁻ Ꮯƫ⁻]ⁿ Δ⁻
exclamation. Nggu-no father took branch peach

ꓚΔˁ Ꮆᵤ Ꮯ° Ꮯⁿᶜ. Ꮆᵤ Ꮯ° Ꮯⁿᶜ Δ’ₙ Y⁻
stuck Nggu-no mother. Nggu-no mother change make

Yⁿ Tᵤ Ꮯ∾ Ɔᐦ Ꮯᐦ Lˁ Tᵹ.
one classifier cow went eat gone finish.

Y⁻ Ɪᑋ L∘ Ꮆᵤ Ꮯ° Vᵕ Ɪᵕ Ɔᐦ ǀ’ˀ Yⁿ
after come Nggu-no father again go marry one

Lᑋ Ꮯⁿᶜ L∘. Lᑋ Ꮯⁿᶜ Y⁻ Ꮯ’⁼ Ꮯ̑
classifier mother come. the mother new this

Ɪᵕ Ɔ- Tᐦ Yⁿ Lᑋ Ꮯƫ’ı. Lᵕ
also had get one classifier daughter. the

ᑕϯʼˌ ᑕ̑ ᑕϯʳ Ꮆᵤ ᑕⲒʼᵓ. Ꮆᵤ ᑕ°]ᵤ ᑕⁿᶜ
daughter this name Nggu-ntrw. Nggu-no was mother

Y⁻ Lᵢᵢ ᑕϯʼˌ Ꮆᵤ ᑕⲒʼᵓ]ᵤ ᑕⁿᶜ Y⁻ ⊏ʼ⁼ ᑕϯʼˌ.
old daughter Nggu-ntrw was mother new daughter.

Ꮆᵤ ᑕ° ϯʼ⁻ ʼᑕᵕ Ↄᵢᵢ Λ∾ ᑕ∾,]ᵤ ᑕᵓ
Nggu-no every day went pasture cow, which her

ᑕⁿᶜ ⊏ₙₒ. ᑕᵓ ᑕⁿᶜ ϯʼ⁻ ʼᑕᵕ Δˤ
mother so it was. her mother every day took off

ᑕᵓ ᑕⁿᶜ ᒧʼᒡ ᒧⁿ Tˤ ᑕ∾ Lₒ ᒧ⁻ Ʒᵢᵢ, ᑕⲒₒ
her mother cape hide cow come spread sit, with

Ꮆᵤ ᑕ° Jˤ ᑕT⁻. Y⁻ Lⁿ Ꮆᵤ ᑕ° ᑕT⁻ Jˤ
Nggu-no join hemp. make like Nggu-no hemp join

Tʺ T⁻ Tₙᶜ. Ꮆᵤ ᑕⲒʼᵓ ᒧₒ Tᶚ. Ꮆᵤ ᑕⲒʼᵓ ᑕⲒₒ
get very. Nggu-ntrw see finish. Nggu-ntrw with

ᑕᵓ ⅂ₙ, L̄ Ʒ̑, ⊏ᵓ Y⁻ ⊏ⁿᶚ ᑕ̄
her said, older sister, you make how therefore

⊏ᵓ L₋ Jˤ Tʺ ᑕT⁻ T⁻ Tₙᶜ. L̄ Ʒ̑
you have joined get hemp very. older sister

⅂ₙ,]̆ Ↄᵢᵢ Λ∾ ᑕ∾ ⊏ₙ,]̆ T̄ʼ]̆ Tᒡ
said, I go pasture cow thus, I strew my the

ᑕT⁻ Yⁿ ᑕ⊏ʼ₋ Ⲓʺ ϯʺ Tᵢᵢ Yⁿ ᑕ⊏ʼ₋
hemp one bunch upon plant high grass one bunch

Ⲓʺ ϯʺ S̆ ᑕ̄, Tᒡ ᑕ∾ Jʺ
upon plant wormwood therefore, the cow gather

ᑕᵢᵢ Sᶚ, Tᒡ ᑕ∾ Ⲓ̄ Tˤ Lₒ ⊏ₙ]̆ Lᵕ Ↄᵕ
eat away, the cow pass out come thus, I simply

Ↄᵢᵢ ⊏ʼₙˤ ⅂ⁿ ᑕ⊏ₙ Tᶚ, ᑕ̄]̆ Yᒡ Jˤ Tʺ
go take wind finish, therefore I very join get

Vⁿᶜ. ʼᑕᵕ Y⁻ Ⲓᵓ Lᵓ ᑕⁿᶜ Ꮟ₋ ᑕⲒₒ Lᵓ
exclamation. day after the step-sister with the

Y⁻ Ʒ̑ ⅂ₙ, Y⁻ Lⁿ ʼↃ° ᑕ̄]̆ Ⲓᒡ Ↄᵢᵢ
older sister said, make like today I then go

Λ~, Ɔ꜠ J꜀ CT̄. Ɠ CI'ᵇ Ɔ꜠ Λ~
pasture, go join hemp. Nggu-ntrw went pasture

C~, C꜄ I꜀ Y̅ Lⁿ]꜄ Ɠ C° ˥ₙ. C꜄
cow, she then did like that Nggu-no said. She

T̄' Yⁿ CĽ'₋ I" ƚ" T", T̄' Yⁿ
strew one bunch upon plant high grass, strew one

CĽ'₋ I" ƚ" Šˇ. Tᵇ C~ J" İ' ˩ᵇ
bunch upon plant wormwood. the cow gather all

C" S̃. Tᵇ C~ Ī T꜀ L₀ Ɠ CI'ᵇ
eat away. the cow passed out come Nggu-ntrw

Ɔ꜠ J" ˥ⁿ CĽₙ, Tᵇ CT̄ Lᵘ Ɔᵘ Ľₙ Y̅
went gather wind, the hemp simply thus made

˩ₙ Ľ'ᵣ L꜀. Tᵇ C~ I꜀ I', Ɠ CI'ᵇ
rotten gone. the cow then dragged Nggu-ntrw

]꜄ Ľₙ]₀ ɓ"]₀ Ľⁿ. 'Ɔ° CTᵘ
that thus scratch legs scratch thighs. evening

Ɠ CI'ᵇ L̊ C~ L₀ Δ̄ C]-. Ɠ CI'ᵇ
Nggu-ntrw drove cow come go to house. Nggu-ntrw

˥ₙ Tᵇ C~ Ĉ Ľ'ₙ L₀ CT" Y̅ Δ̃
said, the cow this take come kill sacrifice

]ⁿ ƚʳ S̃ ˥ᵇ.
incantation away exclamation.

Y̅ Iᵇ L₀ Ɠ CI'ᵇ C꜄ Cⁿ C꜄ V꜀
after come Nggu-ntrw her mother her father

Ɔₙ Ľ'ₙ Tᵇ C~ L₀ CT" Y̅ Δ̃ S̃.
plural took the cow come kill sacrifice away.

T'"]꜄ ˥" CI' J̿ T̃ C꜄ V꜀
when that boil meat cooked finish her father

Λ̄ ˥, CI' Ɔ꜠ Γ꜀ L̄ Ɔₙ C".
will dip up meat go divide friends plural eat.

˥, I'" Ɠ C° Ľ' Ɔ꜠ S̃. Ɠ C°
dip up for Nggu-no lift go away. Nggu-no

C̉' Yⁿ J̊' Ↄ", Ↄ" †₀ Lᵘ Y¯ Δ" CJ-
lift one bowl go, go reach the door house

C〜, C₂ T" CC̄ Sᵟ. I₀ ℸ₁ Yⁿ J̊'
cow, she get spill away. again dip up one bowl

Cⁿᵒ Ↄ", L₋ Y¯ Lⁿ J₀ Y¯ 'C¯ Cⁿᵒ
carry go, also do like that previously so it is.

50 I₀ ℸ₁ †ʳ J" Cⁿᵒ Ↄ" L₋ Y¯
again dip up third occasion carry go also do

Lⁿ Cⁿᵒ
likewise.

C̄ Ĉ Tᵇ Cᵇ Λ̄ Ↄᵟ Cⁿ Tᵟ. G₀ CI'ᵇ
now people want hold festival finish. Nggu-ntrw

Cⁿᶜ Ↄ" Δⁿ Tᵘ Y¯ CΔ" Cⁿᵒ L₀ S̊
mother went pick the leaves bring come sew

C'° I'" G₀ CI'ᵇ 'C̊. G₀ CI'ᵇ C₂ Cⁿᶜ
clothes for Nggu-ntrw wear. Ngu-ntrw her mother

55 I'ₚ C₂ Lₛ Tᵟ. G₀ C° ℸⁿ Ↄ- C'°
take her gone finish. Nggu-no not have clothes

'C̊, G₀ C° Ʒ" CJ- C̊ CI̊. G₀ C° 'C̊
wear, Nggu-no sat house cry aloud. Nggu-no heard

J₀ Tᵘ Lⁿ Y¯ Cⁿᵒ V₀ Y¯ Cⁿ CT" I¯,
that the crow situated on branch tree cawed,

Y¯ Y¯ Y¯ C₂ †" Cⁿᵒ Lᵘ Y¯ T" CJ-
a-a-a your gowns situated the cupboard house

C〜. Y¯ Y¯ Y¯ C₂ †" Cⁿᵒ Lᵘ Y¯ T"
cow. a-a-a your gowns situated the cupboard

60 CJ- C〜. G₀ C° Iᵟ Ↄ" I'ᵇ Lᵘ Y¯ T"
house cow. Nggu-no run go open the cupboard

CJ- C〜 C₋. Lᵘ Y¯ T" CJ- C〜 †" Cᵘ
house cow look. the cupboard house cow gown silk

†" CJ₋ Cⁿᵒ Cₙ ℸⁿ Ĭ C'ₛ.
gown satin situated thus folded together rolled.

Ꮐᵤ C° Ꮯ’ₙₛ ϯ" ’Cᵟ, Ꮯ’ₙₛ ϯ" Ꮖᵣ,
Nggu-no took gown wear, took gown carry,

ϯ° Ꮐᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ Cₚ Cⁿᶜ Ꮐᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ Ͻₙ.
follow Nggu-ntrw her mother Nggu-ntrw went.

65 Ͻₙ ϯₒ Lᵘ Ꮯⁿ Tᵟ. CꞮₙ Ꮯⁿᵒ
went reach the festival ground finish. Ndrao-jio-

Jʳ Cᵟ T- Ṡ Cᵟ Δ¯ Lᵘ
shi-niang come choose wife go to the

Ꮯⁿ C̊. CꞮₙ Ꮯⁿᵒ Jʳ Cᵟ Ꮖᵤ
festival ground this. Ndrao-jio-shi-niang then

ϯ̊’ Jᵇ Ꮯₙ, Ꮖ° Ꮖ° Ꮖ° ℶ̆ Cᵟ Cⁿᵒ
blew pipes thus, dro-dro-dro my wife situated

Sᵟ Y¯ ϯʳ. Y̊ ℶᵤ Ꮐᵤ C° Cⁿᵒ Y¯ ϯʳ
side higher. because Nggu-no situated higher

70 C̄. Ꮐᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ Cₚ Cⁿᶜ ’C̊, Ͻ¯
for that reason. Nggu-ntrw her mother heard, took

Ꮐᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ Ꮯᵟ Sᵟ Sᵟ Y¯ ϯʳ. CꞮₙ Ꮯⁿᵒ Jʳ
Nggu-ntrw led away side higher. Ndrao-jio-shi-

Cᵟ Ꮖᵤ ϯ̊’ Jᵇ Ꮯₙ, Ꮖ° Ꮖ° Ꮖ° ℶ̆ Cᵟ
niang again blew pipes thus, dro-dro-dro my wife

Cⁿᵒ Sᵟ ⅃ⁿ T". Ꮐᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ Cₚ Cⁿᶜ Ꮖᵤ
situated side lower. Nggu-ntrw her mother then

Ꮯᵟ Ꮐᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ Sᵟ Sᵟ ⅃ⁿ T".
led Nggu-ntrw away side lower.

75 ’Ͻ° CTᵘ Ꮐᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ Cⁿᶜ I’ₚ CꞮₙ Ꮯⁿᵒ Jʳ Cᵟ
evening Nggu-ntrw mother took Ndrao-jio-shi-niang

CꞮₒ Ꮐᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ Ꮐᵤ C° CꮯCₙ Cℶ- Tᵟ. T’"
with Nggu-ntrw Nggu-no arrive house finish. when

ℶᵤ L̄ ⅃ᵖ Tᵟ Y̊, Ꮐᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ Cₚ
that about to sleep finish that, Nggu-ntrw her

Cⁿᶜ Ꮯ° ℶₒ Ꮐᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ CꞮₒ CꞮₙ Ꮯⁿᵒ Jʳ
mother allow cause Nggu-ntrw with Ndrao-jio-shi-

Cᶞ ˩ᵓ, Ꮆᵤ Cᵒ ˩ᵓ Ꮆᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ Tⁿ Ɪ॥. Ꮆᵤ
niang sleep, Nggu-no sleep Nggu-ntrw back. Nggu-

CꞮ’ᵇ T" ˩ᵓ Lᵹ, CꞮ॥ Ɫⁿᵒ Jᴦ Cᶞ Ɫ̉’
ntrw get sleep gone, Ndrao-jio-shi-niang lift

Ꮆᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ Ɪ" ˥̆]ᵤ Ꮆᵘ Cᵒ ˩ᵓ, Ɫ̉’
Nggu-ntrw into place which Nggu-no sleep, lift

Ꮆᵤ Cᵒ Lₒ Ɪ" ˥̆]ᵤ Ꮆᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ ˩ᵓ
Nggu-no come into place which Nggu-ntrw sleep

Y̑ Ɫₙₒ. Ꮆᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ †ₒ CꞮᵟ
that so it is. Nggu-ntrw her mother reach middle

’Ɔᵒ Cᵓ Ɫⁿᵒ Ɫ⁼ Λ̄ Ɔ॥ Lᵒ Ꮆᵤ Cᵒ
night she bring wax want go smear Nggu-no

Y⁻ Ɔ⁻]ₒ Ꮆᵤ Cᵒ ˥ⁿ ˩ₒ Ɫ̑. Y⁻ Lⁿ Ꮆᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ
eyes, cause Nggu-no not see. make like Nggu-ntrw

Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ T" Lᵒ Ꮆᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ Y⁻ Ɔ⁻ Ɫⁿᶜ
her mother get smear Nggu-ntrw eyes completed

Ɫₙₒ. ˥ⁿ Sᵟ CTᵘ Ŝ, Ꮆᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ
so it is. not dawn yet, Nggu-ntrw her mother

]ⁿ †ⁿᶜ Ʒ" Ɪᵇ C॥, I’ₚ CꞮ॥ Ɫⁿᵒ Sⁿᶜ Cᶞ
prepare good food eat, bring Ndrao-jio-shi-niang

CꞮₒ Ꮆᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ Lₒ C॥ Sᵟ, ˥⁻ Λ̄]ₒ
with Nggu-ntrw come eat away, and want cause

Cᵓ Y⁻ Lᵇ Ɔ॥ Tᵟ. CꞮ॥ Ɫⁿᵒ Jᴦ
them two classifier go finish. Ndrao-jio-shi-

Cᶞ ˩"]ᵤ Ꮆᵤ Cᵒ, Y⁻ Lⁿ Cᵓ]ₒ
niang knew that Nggu-no, make like he cause

Ꮆᵤ Cᵒ Ɪ’⁻ ˥ₙ Lᵘ,]’ᵇ Cᵇ C॥ Sᵟ
Nggu-no must not say words, quickly eat away

Ɔ॥, Ꮆᵤ Cᵒ CꞮₒ CꞮ॥ Ɫⁿᵒ Jᴦ Cᶞ Lᵹ Tᵟ
go, Nggu-no with Ndrao-jio-shi-niang gone finish,

Ꮆᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ ˩ᵓ ˩ⁿ CT’ᵟ Sᵟ. Ꮆᵤ CꞮ’ᵇ Cᵓ
Nggu-ntrw sleep up loft away. Nggu-ntrw her

95 Cⁿᶜ Tᐦ Γˀ. Cᵓ Tᒡ]ʼⁿ Lⁿ Ɪ⁻

mother wind bobbin. her the winding frame squeak

[ₙ,]ʼⁿ Lⁿ]ʼⁿ Lⁿ, Cᵓ ˥ₙ,]ᵘ C†ʼˌ]̆

thus, ki-li ki-li, she said, my daughter my

Vᐦ Ɔᐦ †ₒ ⅃ⁿ CⲒᵟ [̂ Tᵟ

son-in-law go reach middle way finish

˥°. Ɠᵤ CⲒʼᵇ Cⁿᵒ ⅃ⁿ CTʼᵟ Tⁿ

exclamation. Nggu-ntrw situated up loft replied

Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ ˥ₙ, Cⁿᶜ,]̆ Cⁿᵒ Ĉ Ŝ

her mother said, mother, I situated here still

100 Ɔ⁻. Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ ˥ₙ,]̆ ˥ₙ]̆ C†ʼˌ

exclamation. her mother said, I said my daughter

]̆ Vᐦ, Jᒥ]ᵤ ˥ₙ [ᵓ L₋. Ɠᵤ CⲒʼᵇ

my son-in-law, who was say you also. Nggu-ntrw

Ɪᒡ ˥ₙ, Cⁿᶜ,]̆ Cⁿᵒ Ĉ Tₙ꜀ Ŝ

again said, mother, I situated here truly still

Ɔ⁻. Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ T⁻ Lₙ꜀ Ɔᐦ C₋ [ₙ,

exclamation. her mother presently go look thus,

Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ Ɪʼᐦ [⁼ L° Cᵓ Y⁻ Ɔ⁻ [ₙ. Cᵓ

her mother with wax smeared her eyes thus. her

105 Cⁿᶜ T⁻ Lₙ꜀ Ɔᐦ C†̄ Cᵓ Δʼᵘ Sᵟ, CⲒ̿ʼ

mother presently go wash her face away, seek

Ɪᵇ Ɪʼᐦ Cᵓ Cᐦ, Ɪᒡ]ₒ Cᵓ †° Y⁻ Ɪᵇ

food for her eat, then cause her follow behind

Ɔᐦ. Ɠᵤ CⲒʼᵇ Ɔᐦ †ₒ Cᵓ Y⁻ Ʒ̂

go. Nggu-ntrw went reach her older sister

Y⁻ Ɪʼ₋ C]⁻ Tᵟ.

brother-in-law house finish.

Cᵓ Y⁻ Ʒ̂ Y⁻ Ɪʼ₋ Ɔ⁻ Tᐦ Yⁿ

her older sister brother-in-law have get one

110 L̄ Tᵘ Tᵟ. Cᵓ Y⁻ Ʒ̂ Ɔ⁻ L̄

small son finish. her older sister gave small

Tᵘ Ɪ’" Cↄ Ɪᵣ. Cↄ Sı Cↄ Y¯ Ʒ̑
son for her carry. she pinched her older sister

L̄ Tᵘ Y¯ Ⅽⁿ Ɉᵟ, L̄ Tᵘ C̑. Ɠᵤ CƗ’ᵇ
small son bottom, small son cried. Nggu-ntrw

˥ₙ, L¯ Ʒ̑, Cↄ Λ̄ Ⅽↄ Lᵇ Ⅽ’°
said, older sister, he wants your the jacket

C̄ Lⁿ Y¯. Cↄ Y¯ Ʒ̑ Δᵩ Cↄ Ⅽ’°
that is why. her older sister took off her jacket

Ɪ’". Ɠᵤ CƗ’ᵇ Ɪᵤ Sı L̄ Tᵘ Y¯ Ⅽⁿ Ɉᵟ.
for. Nggu-ntrw again pinched small son bottom.

L̄ Tᵘ Ɪᵤ C̑. Ɠᵤ CƗ’ᵇ Ɪᵤ ˥ₙ, Cↄ
small son again cried. Nggu-ntrw again said, he

L₋ Λ̄ Ⅽↄ CⅭↄ Tⁿᶜ C̄ Lⁿ Y¯. Lᵇ
also wants your the skirt that is why. the

Y¯ Ʒ̑ Ɪᵤ Δᵩ CⅭↄ Tⁿᶜ Ɪ’". Ɠᵤ
older sister then took off the skirt for. Nggu-

CƗ’ᵇ Ɪᵤ Sı L̄ Tᵘ Y¯ Ⅽⁿ Ɉᵟ. L̄ Tᵘ
ntrw again pinched small son bottom. small son

C̑, Ɠᵤ CƗ’ᵇ Ɪᵤ ˥ₙ, Cↄ Λ̄ Ⅽↄ CⅭₙᵩ
cried, Nggu-ntrw again said, he wants your pair

Y¯ CƗ’ₗₗ C̄ Lⁿ Y¯. Lᵇ Y¯ Ʒ̑ Δᵩ
leg bands that is why. the older sister took off

Cↄ Y¯ CƗ’ₗₗ Ɪ’" Lᵩ. Ɠᵤ CƗ’ᵇ Ɪᵤ Sı
her leg bands for gone. Nggu-ntrw again pinched

ƚ¯ Tᵘ. ƚ¯ Tᵘ Ɪᵤ C̑. Ɠᵤ CƗ’ᵇ ˥ₙ,
the son. the son again cried. Nggu-ntrw said,

Ɉ̍’ Ɉⁿ Tⁿ ˥ⁿ Γ̄ Lᵇ Ɉ̊’ Ↄ- Yⁿ Γᵟ
place yonder above the hole there is one bush

Ɉᵟ. Cↄ L₋ Λ̄ Tᵇ Ɉᵟ C̄ Lⁿ Y¯.
flowers. he also wants the flowers that is why.

Ⅽↄ Ↄₗₗ Δⁿ Lₒ Ɪ’". Lᵇ Y¯ Ʒ̑ Ↄₗₗ
you go pick come for. the older sister went

Δⁿ Γᶾ ┘ᶾ. Ꮹᵤ CI’ᒃ T’ˁ Lᑋ Yˉ
pick bush flowers. Nggu-ntrw pushed the older

Ʒ̑ Sᶾ Lᑋ I̊’. Ꮹᵤ CI’ᒃ Iᵣ Tᵘ
sister away the hole. Nggu-ntrw carried son

Lₒ Δˉ C⊐- Lˁ Tᶾ. CIᵢᵢ ⊏ₙₒ J⌜ Cⁿᶾ
come go to house gone finish. Ndrao-jio-shi-niang

˥ₙ, Ꮹᵤ CI’ᒃ ⊏ᵓ Yˉ Ʒ̑ Lᑋ. Ꮹᵤ CI’ᒃ
said, Nggu-ntrw your older sister query. Ngu-ntrw

Lˉ CIᵢᵢ ⊏ₙₒ J⌜ Cⁿᶾ ˥ₙ, ⊏ᵓ ˥ⁿ ┘″ ⊐̆
scolded Ndrao-jio-shi-niang said, you not know me

Tᶾ C̄ L₋ †⌜ Yˉ Lᵢᵢ L° Yˉ ⊏ⁿ.
finish therefore also, the one old fat legs.

’Ↄₒ CTᵘ ⊐ᵤ ┘ᵓ Tᶾ CIᵢᵢ ⊏ₙₒ J⌜ Cⁿᶾ ⊏’ₙˁ
night that sleep finish Ndrao-jio-shi-niang took

Ꮹᵤ CI’ᒃ Tᑋ Δ″ Γ″ Lₒ Yˉ ˥ⁿ C⊏ₙᵢᵢᵢ, Y̑ Vⁿᶜ ˥ⁿ
Nggu-ntrw the hair come make pillow, but not

†ᵢᵢ Yˉ. Yˉ Iᒃ CIᵢᵢ ⊏ₙₒ J⌜ Cⁿᶾ ˥ₙ ⊏ᵓ
enough make. after Ndrao-jio-shi-niang said your

Yˉ Ʒ̑ Tᑋ Δ″ Γ″ CT̑ Tˉ Tₙ꜀, ⊏ᵓ Δ″ Γ″ ˥ⁿ
older sister the hair long very, your hair not

┘ₒ CT̑.
see long.

’Cᵘ Cₙᵢᵢᵢ CT̑ Tᶾ, CIᵢᵢ ⊏ₙₒ J⌜ Cⁿᶾ Ↄᵢᵢ
time long finish, Ndrao-jio-shi-niang went

⊏ₙₒ Tⁿ. Ↄ- Yⁿ T- Cⁿᴵᴵ Cⁿᵒ
ploughing. there was one classifier bird situated

Lᑋ Yˉ C⊏ₙᵢᵢᵢ I̊’ Iˉ ˥ₙ, Ꮹ₋ Vᵤ
the mouth hole called said, little one father

Cⁿᵒ C⊐- ˥ⁿ Cⁿᵒ, Ꮹ₋ Λᵢᵢ Ĉ ˥ⁿ Ĉ.
situated house not situated, child cry not cry.

CIᵢᵢ ⊏ₙₒ J⌜ Cⁿᶾ ˥ₙ, ⊏ᵓ ⊐ᵤ Δᶾ L₋ ⊏ᵓ
Ndrao-jio-shi-niang said, you are spirit or you

ℶᵤ Cᕝ. Ꮖᵕ CT° Y" C⊏" Ꮖ" ꝉ'ₗ Tⁿ
are human. then spat water mouth into the hand

ℶₙ, ⊏ᵓ ⊏¯ ℶᵤ Cᕝ ⊏ᵓ Λᵟ Lₒ ꝉᶳ ℶ̆
said, you if are human you fly come perch my

ꝉ'ₗ Tⁿ Ĉ. T- Cⁿ''' Λᵟ L ₒ ꝉᶳ CᏆ''
the hand here. the bird flew come perch Ndrao-

⊏ⁿᵒ Jᒥ Cᕐ ꝉ'ₗ Tⁿ. CᏆ'' ⊏ⁿᵒ Jᒥ Cᕐ ⊏ⁿᵒ
jio-shi-niang the hand. Ndrao-jio-shi-niang bring

Lₒ Δ¯ Cℶ-. Ꮆᵤ CᏆ'ᕝ ⊏'ₙₛ CT'' Lₒ
come go to house. Nggu-ntrw took kill come

⊏ⁿᶜ C''. Ŷ Vⁿᶜ Ꮖᵕ Δ'ₙ Y¯ Yⁿ
completed eat. but again change make one

Lᵘ Vᕀ Ꮖ̊ Lₒ Lₛ. Ↄ- Yⁿ
classifier stone round gone. there was one

Lᕝ Y¯ ⅃ₒ Ʒ° T- Ↄ¯ Y¯ Ꮣ̂ Tᶳ
classifier village woman came take ember fire

Δ¯ Cᵓ Δₙ, Lₒ Lᵘ Y¯ Vᕀ Ŷ Y̆
go to their family, saw the stone that very

Ʒ". Cᵓ ⅂ₙ, Ↄ¯ Ↄₙ Lᵕ Ꮆ₋ Vᕀ
good. she said, give your the little stone

Ĉ Ꮖ'" ℶ̆ ⊏ⁿᵒ Ↄ'' ⊏ⁿᶜ Y¯ Δ° ⅃¯
this for me bring go completed make oil cakes

C". Ꮆᵤ CᏆ'ᕝ ⅂ₙ, ⊏ᵓ ⊏¯ Λ̄ ⊏ₙ ⊏ᵓ ⊏'ₙₛ
eat. Nggu-ntrw said, you if want thus you take

Ↄ''. Lᕝ Y¯ ⅃ₒ Ʒ° ⊏ⁿᵒ Ↄ'' Ꮖ" Vᵕ Lᵕ
go. the village woman bring go place in the

CΔ° 'Ꮆᵘ ⊏ⁿᶜ.
inside jar completed.

Lᕝ Y¯ ⅃ₒ Ʒ° ꝉ'¯ 'Cᵘ Ꮖₒ Y¯ Δ" ⊏ⁿᶜ,
the village woman every day shut door completed,

Ↄ" Y¯ Cᵘ Lₛ. Lᵕ Y¯ Vᕀ Ĉ Tₛ Lₒ,
went do work gone. the stone this out come,

Δ’ₙ Yˉ Yⁿ Lˀ Yˉ ⅃° ’Ↄ"]ᵤ
change make one classifier woman Miao was

Ʒ" C]" Tˉ Tₙ꜀. Lₒ C[ᵣ Lⁿ Γ", Lₒ Yˉ Vˉ
pretty very. come comb hair, come make food

T° Lˀ Yˉ ⅃° Ʒ°. Cↄ Ɪᵤ Δ’ₙ Yˉ
await the village woman. she then change make

Yⁿ Lᵘ Yˉ Vˀ, ⅃ᵢᵢ Lˉ ’Ɠᵘ Lɕ.
one classifier stone, go down the jar gone.

Yˉ Ɪˀ Lˀ Yˉ ⅃° CⱵₒ Yˉ ⅃° Ʒ° ᒣₙ, Ↄₙ
after the woman with village women said, you

ⱶ’ˉ ’Cᵘ T₋ CⱵₒ]̆ Yˉ Ɪˀ C" T°]̆.
every day come for me make food eat await me.

[’ˉ L₋ Ↄₙ Λˉ. Yˉ ⅃° Ʒ° ᒣₙ, ᒣⁿ Λ°
thank you exclamation. village women said, is not

⅃ⁿ Ↄˉ. Ↄ₋ Yⁿ Lˀ Yˉ ⅃°
us exclamation. there is one classifier woman

Ɪ’ˉ Cⁿ° Vᵤ [ↄ Lˉ ’Ɠᵘ, ⱶ’ˉ ’Cᵘ [ↄ
guest situated in your the jar, every day you

Lɕ, Cↄ Tɕ Lɕ, Cⱶ̄ Δ’ᵘ, C[ᵣ Lⁿ Γ" Sᵌ
gone, she out goes, wash face, comb hair away

ᒣˉ Yˉ Ɪˀ T° [ↄ. Yˉ Lⁿ Cↄ ⅃"
and make food await you. make like she knew

Tᵌ. Ↄ₋ Yⁿ ’Cᵘ Cↄ Yˉ]ᵤ Λ̄ Ↄᵢᵢ
finish. there is one day she make that want go

Yˉ Ɪ" Tᵌ. Cↄ Tɕ Ʒ̈ Ɪₒ Yˉ Δ"
farming finish. she go out outside shut door

Sᵌ. Cↄ Cⁿ° Tˉ [ᵣ Vᵤ C₋. Cↄ ⅃ₒ Lˀ Yˉ ⅃°
away. she quietly look. she saw the woman

Ɪ’ˉ Ĉ Tɕ Lₒ Tᵌ. Cↄ Ɪᵌ Lₒ T̄
guest this out come finish. she ran come hold

[ⁿ꜀. Cↄ Yˉ Lˀ CⱵₒ Cⁿ°.
completed. they two classifier together lived.

180 L̄ ᒧ∘ Ʒ° ǂ’⁻ ’Cᵘ Ɔ" Y⁻ Ɪ" Lˤ,
the village woman every day went farming gone,

Cↄ Cⁿᵒ Cᑐ-. Cↄ ǂ⁻ Tᵘ ᑐᵤ Ꮹᵤ CƗ’ᵓ
she remained house. her the son whom Nggu-ntrw

I’ˀ C̑ ǂ’⁻ ’Cᵘ T- CƗₒ Cↄ Cⁿᵒ. Cↄ
took this every day come with her stay. she

Ɪᵕ CǂĪ Cↄ ǂ⁻ Tᵘ ᑐᵤ ᑕⁿ I̊’ ᒧᵓ Sᶾ
then wash her the son that shine all away.

Cↄ ǂ⁻ Tᵘ Ɔ" ᒣₙ Ɪ’ˀ Cↄ Vᵕ. Cↄ ᒣₙ,
her the son went told his father. he said,

185 Vᵕ, Yⁿ Lᵓ Y⁻ ᒧ∘ Ɪ’⁻ Cⁿᵒ CTᵘ,
father, one classifier woman guest down there,

Y⁻ Sↄ Sↄ ᑐ̆ Cⁿᶜ. ǂ’⁻ ’Cᵘ ᑐ̆ Ɔ" CƗₒ Cↄ
does like my mother. every day I go with her

Cⁿᵒ, Cↄ I’ˀ ᑐ̆ Ʒ" T⁻ Tₙ꜀. Cↄ Vᵕ CƗₒ
stay, she brings me well very. his father with

Cↄ ᒣₙ, ᑕↄ Ɔ" ᑐₒ Cↄ Y⁻ Yⁿ T’"
him said, you go cause her make one steamer

V⁻, Ɪᵕ Tᵘ Yⁿ ǂ° Δ" Γ", ᑐ’ⁿ Vᵓ
food, then break one classifier hair, wind round

190 Ɪ’" ᑕↄ ᑕⁿᵒ Lₒ. Y⁻ Lᵓ ᑐ’ⁿ Vᵓ Ɪ"
for you bring come. we two wind round upon

Y⁻ Lᵓ Lᵕ Cᑐ-. ᑕ⁻ ǂ" ᑐ’ⁿ Vᵓ ǂʳ
us two the house. if enough wind round three

CᑕΩ ᑕₙ ᑕↄ Cⁿᶜ Tᶾ. Cↄ ǂ⁻ Tᵘ Ɔ"
turns thus your mother finish. her the son went

CƗₒ Cↄ ᒣₙ, Ɪᵕ ᑐₒ Cↄ Cⁿᶜ Y⁻ Yⁿ
with her said, then cause his mother make one

T’" V⁻, Ɔ⁻ Yⁿ ǂ° Δ" Γ" Lₒ
steamer food, take one classifier hair come

195 ᑐ’ⁿ Vᵓ Ɪ’" Cↄ ᑕⁿᵒ Ɔ" Ɪ" Cↄ Vᵕ. Cↄ
wind round for him bring go to his father. His

Vᴗ [’ₙₛ ŧᵕ Δ" Γ" Lₒ]’ⁿ Vₛ Lᵕ C]-.
father took the hair come wind round the house.

ŧ״]’ⁿ Vₛ ŧᴦ C[ₙ. Y⁻ Lⁿ Cⁿ
enough wind round three turns. make like this

Cₔ Vᴗ Ͻ״ I’ₚ Cₔ Cⁿᶜ Lₒ.
his father went bring his mother come.

Ꮆᵤ C° Lₒ Tₓ, Ꮆᵤ CI’ᵇ Cᵤ Cₔ ᒣₙ,
Nggu-no come finish, Nggu-ntrw ask her said,

200 L⁻ Ʒ̑, [ₔ Lᵕ Lⁿ Γ" CT̑ Δ" Γ" Y⁻ [ⁿ C̄
older sister, your the head grows hair why

Y⁻ CT̑ T⁻ Tₙc. Cₔ Y⁻ Ʒ̑ ᒣₙ,]̆ L₋
make long very. her older sister said, I did

Ͻ״ T’° Y"]ᵤ C˩" T⁻ Tₙc, ᒣ⁻]̆ ᒷ̑]ᵤ
go heat water that boil very, and I pour that

L₋ ˩ᵘ Lᵕ T’" ˩ᵘ Lⁿᶜ Sᶾ.]̆ Ͻ״ ᒣₗ
did fill the tub filled full away. I went dip

Cŧ̄ C̄]̆ Tᵕ Δ" Γ" Y̑ CT̑ S̑.
wash therefore my the hair that long still.

205 Ꮆᵤ CI’ᵇ Ͻ״ Λ״ Y⁻. Y"]ᵘ Ꮆᵤ CI’ᵇ
Nggu-ntrw went copy do. water scald Nggu-ntrw

T₋ Sᶾ.
dead away.

M461
Nggu-no’s mother and father.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This story is recorded in Document H (no. 18, page 10).

M462
The clever younger brother.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

The main point of this story is that a young man who has only just discovered that he has the ability to change into various animals, succeeds in outwitting Yeu-rang who is a seasoned exponent of the art.

The stable into which Yeu-rang shut his horse was inside the house itself, separated from human living quarters by a partition of wooden planks. The horse sent the two girls to the spring to fetch water, in order to give him time to kick down the planks and get out before the alarm could be raised.

The ant crawled into the cat’s ear to give the impression that it was just an ordinary ant behaving normally. Unsuspecting the cat brushed it away and the ant made good its escape. Ground popcorn was the food that a Miao would carry on a journey. It was mixed up with water and eaten as a paste. While the cat was busy eating the popcorn, he did not notice that he was about to be attacked. The weapon used, the washing dolly, was about the size and shape of an Indian club.

M462

The clever younger brother,

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

They tell a story that once upon a time there was a Miao family. Mother and father had both died, and there remained only two brothers. These two farmed together. On one occasion, he, the younger brother, together with his elder brother, the two of them, went digging, but he was not putting his heart into digging. So the elder brother said, "You must put your heart into your digging. If you do not put your heart into your work, I fear we shall have no food to eat.". The younger brother stood up and changed into a pheasant and flew away behind the hill. The elder brother could do nothing about it, so he sat down and wept. The younger brother flew back and said to his elder brother, "Now I am going to change into a horse for you to lead away and sell, but when you are talking price, you must only ask for seven and a half taels. You must not ask for more. If you do ask for more I shall not be able to change back again". The elder brother followed his instructions. He led him away for sale and sold him to a Chinese. One day this Chinese led the horse to a lake for a drink. The horse, as he drank, went further and further towards the middle of the lake. He went on until he disappeared altogether. There was nothing that the Chinese could do but to go home again.

One day the younger brother said to the elder brother, "Yeu-rang wants to buy a horse. I will turn into a good horse for you to lead and sell to him, but this time you must ask nine and a half taels". The elder brother led the horse for Yeu-rang to look at and Yeu-rang made him ride it for him to see. The elder brother jumped up and sat on its back and it galloped very smoothly. Yeu-rang said, "Good indeed, but how much silver do you want?" He replied, "Only nine and a half taels". So Yeu-rang gave him nine and a half taels.

Yeu-rang led it away and shut it in a stable with a wall made of planks. One day Yeu-rang was not in the house. Now Yeu-rang had two daughters, and they only were at home. The horse said, "You two dip up some water for me to drink". Yeu-rang's two daughters said, "This horse of father's can talk! Let us dip some water for him to drink". While they were away dipping water for their father's horse to drink, the horse kicked out the planks of the stable and was gone. The two daughters called Yeu-rang to run after it and he went in pursuit. The horse changed into a rat and ran down into a rat hole, so Yeu-rang changed into a cat and sat down to watch the mouth of the hole. The rat changed into an ant and climbed up into the cat's ear. The cat brushed it away with its paw, so the ant crawled away. He crawled on until he could no longer see the cat and then changed back into a person. He went to Yeu-rang's two daughters and said, "Cousins, have you any ground popcorn?" They replied, "We have", and gave him some. He made it into a ball and took it to feed the cat. He gave the popcorn to the cat to eat and then, with the washing dolly, killed the cat. Then he took Yeu-rang's two daughters as wives for his brother and himself.

M462

ᑕ̈ ᒣᵤ ᒧ" Tᵟ.
younger brother who clever.

Cᵓ ᒣₙ ᒧⁿ Tᵢᵢ ᒣᵤ Y⁻ T'" Lⁿ Ɔ- Yⁿ
they say story that of old there was one

Λₙ 'Ɔ". Cⁿᶜ Vᵤ Tᵘ T₋ Tᵟ
family Miao. mother father all dead done

Tᵟ, Ɔ- Y⁻ Lᵇ ᑕ̈ Tⁿ
finish, there were two classifier brothers

ᑕⁿᶜ T⁻. Cᵓ Y⁻ Lᵇ ᒣⁿ CIₒ
completed only. they two classifier together

Y⁻ I" Y⁻ Lᵢᵢ Ɔ- Yⁿ I" Cᵓ Y⁻ Ɔ"
farmed. there was one occasion his elder brother

Cᵓ Y⁻ Lᵇ Ɔᵢᵢ CCₙₛ Tⁿ. Cᵓ ᒣⁿ I'"
they two classifier went digging. he not with

Sⁿᶜ CCₙₛ. Cᵓ Y⁻ Ɔ" ᒣₙ, Cᵓ Λ̄
heart dig. his elder brother said, you must

I'" Sⁿᶜ CCₙₛ Ɔ⁻. C⁻ ᒣⁿ I'" Sⁿᶜ
with heart dig exclamation. if not with heart

Y⁻, CC'' Y⁻ Lᵇ ᒣⁿ T" V⁻ C". Cᵓ
do, fear two classifier not get food eat. his

ƚ⁻ ᑕ̈ J Δ'ₙ Y⁻ Tⁿ Y⁻ CC'
the younger brother rose change make pheasant

Λᵟ Δ⁻ Lᵘ Jᵢᵢ I" Lₛ. Cᵓ Y⁻ Ɔ"
flew go to the back hill gone. his elder brother

ᒣⁿ T" ᑕ̈ Y⁻ Cⁿᵟ, Cᵓ Y⁻ Ɔ" Ʒᵢᵢ
not get way do anything, his elder brother sat

Cⁿᶜ C̈. Cᵓ Iᵤ Λᵟ Lₒ, Cᵓ CIₒ Cᵓ
completed wept. he then flew come, he with his

Y⁻ Ɔ" ᒣₙ, C̄ C̈ ᒣ̈ Δ'ₙ Y⁻ Yⁿ
elder brother said, now I change make one

Tᵤ Cᒃ Ɪ’ꞌꞌ ꞒᵓCᵓ Ꞓ ᑍ Ɔꞌꞌ Tᵤ. Ŷ Vⁿᶜ Ꞓᵓ
classifier horse for you lead go sell. but you

CꞮₒ L¯ ꞁₙ CꞮᒃ Ꞓᵓ Λ̄ ꞱᵤꞱ Λ̄
with whoever talk price you must that want

Jᵹ Lₙ ⅃ᒃ ƚⁿᶜ T¯. Ꞓᵓ ꞁⁿ Λ̄
seven taels five tenths only. you not want

Ʇᵤ Λ̄ Ꞓⁿ''', Ꞓᵓ Ꞓ̄ Ʇᵤ Λ̄ Ꞓⁿ''' Tᵹ
that want more, you if that want more finish

Ʇ̆ Δ’ₙ Lₒ ꞁⁿ T''. Cᵓ Y¯ Ɔ'' ƚ°
I change come not get. his elder brother follow

Lⁿ Ʇᵤ Cᵓ ꞁₙ. Ꞓᵹ Cᵓ Ɔꞌꞌ Tᵤ. Tᵤ Ɪ’''
like that he say. lead him go sell. sell to

Yⁿ Lᒃ Y¯ V''. Ɔ- Yⁿ ’Cᵘ ƚʳ
one classifier Chinese. there was one day the

Y¯ V'' Ĉ Ꞓᵹ Cᵓ Ɔꞌꞌ ꞁꞌꞌ Y'' Δ¯ Yⁿ
Chinese this led him go drink water go to one

Lᵘ J̊. Tᵘ Cᒃ Ĉ Y¯ Cⁿᶜ ꞁꞌꞌ
classifier lake. the horse this the more drink

Y¯ Cⁿᶜ Ɔꞌꞌ Δ¯ ⅃ⁿ CꞮᵹ J̊. Ɔꞌꞌ Ʇᵤ Ɔꞌꞌ
the more go go to middle lake. went that went

Δ° CΔᵤ Lᵹ. ƚʳ Y¯ V'' ꞁⁿ T'' Ꞓ̂ Y¯
disappeared gone. the Chinese not get way do

Ꞓᵹ, Ꞓ¯ T'' Ꞓ̂ Sʳ Δ¯ CꞱ- T¯.
anything, only get way return go to house alone.

C̄ Ĉ CꞮꞌꞌ Cƚ₋ Ɪᵤ Sʳ Lₒ Δ¯ Cᵓ CꞱ-.
now orphan again return come go to his house.

Ɔ- Yⁿ ’Cᵘ ƚ¯ Ꞓ̂ Ɪᵤ CꞮₒ
there was one day the younger brother again with

Cᵓ Y¯ Ɔ'' ꞁₙ, Λᵹ Ʒᵹ Λ̄ Ɔ₋ Cᒃ
his elder brother said, Yeu-rang wants buy horse

Lⁿ Ꞓₙ, Ʇ̆ Δ’ₙ Y₋ Yⁿ Tᵤ Ʒ''
like thus, I change make one classifier good

ᑕᐣ Ɪ'" ᒪᑐ ᒪᖕ Tᑊ Ɪ'". ᒧ" Ĉ ᒪᐢ
horse for you lead sell to. occasion this thus

ᒪᑐ Λ̄ ᒪᓐ Lᐢ ᒧᐣ ᐩᐢᶜ Tᵟ
you want nine taels five tenths finish

ᒣ°. ᑕᑐ Yˉ Ↄ" ᒪᖕ ᑕᑐ Ↄᐦ Ɪ'"
exclamation. his elder brother led him went for

Λᑫ Ʒᵟ ᑕ₋. Λᑫ Ʒᵟ ᒧₒ ᑕᑐ Yˉ Ↄ"
Yeu-rang look. Yeu-rang caused his elder brother

ᒪᐢᐣ Ɪ'" ᑕ₋ ᑕᑐ Yˉ Ↄ" Δ'ᐢᶜ Ↄᐦ
ride for look. his elder brother jumped went

Ʒᐦ Ɪ" Yˉ Jˉ. ᑕᑐ Ɪᵟ ᑕΔₒ ᒧⁿ Lₒ. Λᑫ Ʒᵟ ᒣᐢ
sat on above. he ran smoothly. Yeu-rang said,

Ʒ" Tᐢᶜ, Λ̄ ᒧⁿ ᒪⁿ" ᑕᐢᶜ. ᑕᑐ ᒣᐢ, Λ̄
good truly, want how much silver. he said, want

ᒪᓐ Lᐢ ᒧᐣ ᐩᐢᶜ Tˉ. Λᑫ Ʒᵟ Ↄˉ ᒪᓐ
nine taels five tenths only. Yeu-rang gave nine

Lᐢ ᒧᐣ ᐩᐢᶜ Ɪ'" ᑕᑐ. Λᑫ Ʒᵟ ᒪᖕ ᑕᑐ Ↄᐦ
taels five tenths to him. Yeu-rang led him go

ᒪᐣ Ɪ" Yⁿ Lᵘ ᑕᒧ- Yˉ Tᵕ Tᑫ.
shut up in one classifier house planks wood.

Ↄ- Yⁿ 'ᑕᵘ Λᑫ Ʒᵟ ᒣⁿ ᑕⁿᵒ ᑕᒧ-
there was one day Yeu-rang not situated house.

Λᑫ Ʒᵟ Ↄ- Yˉ Lᐣ ᑕᐩ'ᑊ. Yˉ
Yeu-rang had two classifier daughters. two

Lᐣ ᑕᐩ'ᑊ ᑕⁿᵒ ᑕᒧ- Tˉ. Tᐡ
classifier daughters situated house only. the

ᑕᐣ ᒣᐢ, Ↄˉ Lᐣ ᒣᑊ Y" Ɪ'" ᒧ̆ ᒣᐦ.
horse said, you two dip water for me drink.

Λᑫ Ʒᵟ Yˉ Lᐣ ᑕᐩ'ᑊ ᒣᐢ, Vᑊ
Yeu-rang's two classifier daughters said, father

Tᐡ ᑕᐣ Ĉ ᐩᑫ Lᵘ, T- Yˉ Lᐣ ᒣᑊ
the horse this able words, come we two dip

Yᐦ Ɪ’ᐦ ⅂ᐦ. Cᑐ Y⁻ Lᑋ ⅂ᑊ Yᐦ
water for drink. they two classifier dip water

Ɪ’ᐦ Cᑐ Vᒡ Tᒡ Cᑋ ⅂ᐦ Sᕐ, Tᒡ
for their father the horse drink away, the

Cᑋ T₋ Lᒡ C]- Y⁻ Tᐡ Tᕐ Sᕐ Ɪᕐ
horse kicked the house planks wood away ran

Lᕐ Tᕐ. Cᑐ Y⁻ Lᑋ C+’ᑊ I’ᐡ
gone finish. his two classifier daughters called

Cᑐ L∘ L̊. Λᕐ Ʒᕐ Ɔᐦ L̊.. Tᒡ Cᑋ
him come chase, Yeu-rang went chase. the horse

Ĉ Δ’ᐣ Y⁻ Yᐣ Tᐡ Cᕐ ⅃ᐦ
this change make one classifier rat went down

Yᐣ Lᐡ J̊’ Cᕐ Lᕐ. Y⁻ Lᐣ Λᕐ Ʒᕐ
one classifier hole rat gone. make like Yeu-rang

Δ’ᐣ Y⁻ Yᐣ Tᐡ Y⁻ Ꞓ’ᒣ, Ʒᐦ Cᐣ°
change make one classifier cat, sat situated

Lᐡ Y⁻ Δᐦ J̊’ Ʒ̊ Ꞓᐣᑕ. T⁻ Cᕐ Ĉ
the door hole guard completed. the rat this

Ɪᒡ Δ’ᐣ Y⁻ Yᐣ Tᐡ]’ᐣ C+ᐦ, L∘ CꞒᐣ
then change make one classifier ant, come climb

Ɔᐦ Δ⁻ Tᒡ Y⁻ Ꞓ’ᒣ Lᒡ Y⁻ C⅃ˀ. Tᒡ Y⁻ Ꞓ’ᒣ Ɪ’ᐦ +’ᑊ
go go to the cat the ear. the cat with the

Tᐣ C⅃⁻ Sᕐ. T⁻ ⅃ᐣ C+ᐦ C]ᕐ Lᕐ
fore paw brushed away. the ant crawl gone

Tᕐ. C]ᕐ]ᐡ ⅂ᐣ ⅃∘ Tᒡ Y⁻ Ꞓ’ᒣ. Y⁻ Ɪᑋ Cᑐ
finish. crawl that not see the cat. after he

Ɪᒡ Δ’ᐣ Y⁻ Yᐣ Lᑋ Tᑋ Cᑋ Lᕐ. Cᑐ
then change make one classifier person gone. he

Ɔᐦ CꞮ∘ Λᕐ Ʒᕐ Y⁻ Lᑋ C+’ᑊ ⅂ᐣ
go with Yeu-rang two classifier daughters said,

Y⁻ L̄ Ɔ∘, Tᐣᑕ Ɔ⁻ Lᑋ Ɔ- ’Ɔ̈.
two cousins, query you two have ground popcorn.

Cᵓ Y¯ Lᒃ ˥ᑎ, Ɔ- ⊏ᑎₒ, Cᵓ
they two classifier said, have so it is. they

Y¯ Lᒃ Ɔ¯ Ɪ’" Cᵓ. Cᵓ Y¯ T" Yᑎ
two classifier gave to him. he make get one

65 Ṫ’, Cᵓ ⊏ᑎₒ Ɔ" ⅃ᵁ Tᑌ Y¯ ⊏’˥. Cᵓ Ɔ¯ Tᑌ
ball, he bring go feed the cat. he give the

’Ɔ̈ Ɪ’" Tᑌ ⊏’˥ C". Ɪᑌ Ɪ’" Tᑌ
ground popcorn to the cat eat. then with the

T’" Lᵓ CT" Tᑌ Y¯ ⊏’˥ Sᵹ. Cᵓ Ɪᑌ I’ᕀ
washing dolly kill the cat away. he then took

Λᑦ Ʒᵹ Y¯ Lᒃ Cƚ’ᑊ Lₒ Y¯ Cᵓ
Yeu-rang two classifier daughters come make his

Y¯ Ɔ" Cᵓ Y¯ Lᒃ Cᵹ Lᑦ.
elder brother them two classifier wives gone.

M462

The clever younger brother.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This song-story is recorded in Document H (no31, page 19).

M463

The man who went digging and found a fine son-in-law.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Introduction.

This story is a variation on the “Beauty and the Beast” theme. Normally the Miao house consisted of a main living room with the cattle penned into a section at one end. Occasionally, in a larger house, there was a second partition forming another room at the opposite end, usually small, and having no window, very dark. It was to this room that the youngest daughter retired with the snake.

According to Miao custom when the bridegroom came to fetch his bride, he was expected to stay a few days before taking her away. Tradition required that the bride’s parents would do everything to delay the departure of their daughter, while the bridegroom, for his part, without being rude, did his best to get away. In this story the snake proposes that the matter be settled by a singing competition. The revelation that the snake knew about his in-laws’ intention to kill him on the night of his arrival, left his father-in-law too ashamed to raise any further objection to the departure of the couple.

The “walling ram” was a heavy wooden implement used for compacting the earth when building mud walls.

M463

The man who went digging and found a fine son-in-law.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

There is a story that, once upon a time, there was Miao man who went out digging. He dug to the middle of the plot and there was a very large rock that the Miao man could not roll away. The Miao man said, “I have three daughters, and I will give one of them to whoever will come and roll away the rock from the middle of the plot for me”. A snake came out and said, “Old man, if I roll it away for you, will you give me one?” The Miao man said, “If you roll it away I will give you one”. The snake encircled the rock and rolled it away. The Miao man said, “I was only joking”. So the snake went and rolled it back again into its place. Then the Miao man said, “I am telling the truth,
You roll it away, and this time I will certainly give one to you”. So the snake rolled the rock away.

In the evening the Miao man brought the snake and arrived home. The Miao man said, “Big sister, bring a stool for son-in-law to sit on”. The eldest said, “That snake! Who is going to bring a stool for him to sit on?” The Miao man then said, “Second sister, bring a stool for son-in-law to sit on. The second one said, “That snake! Who is going to bring a stool for him to sit on?” The Miao man then said, “Youngest sister, bring a stool for son-in-law to sit on”. The youngest said, “My mother and my father have cared for me so much. Why yes! I will bring one for him to sit on”. The youngest sister brought a stool for the snake to sit on. The snake climbed up and coiled himself on the top. When it was time to sleep, the Miao man said, “Big sister, take son-in-law to sleep”. The eldest said, “That snake! Who is going to take him to sleep?” The Miao man said, “Second sister, take son-in-law to sleep, now!” The second sister said, “That snake! Who is going to take him to sleep?” The Miao man then said, “Youngest sister, take son-in-law to sleep, now!” The youngest said, “My mother and my father have cared for me so much. Why yes! I will take him to sleep”. The youngest sister and the snake went to sleep in the other room of the house.

In the middle of the night his mother and father-in-law were going to kill the snake. When they were ready, mother-in-law lit the torch while father-in-law shouldered the walling ram. They went and saw that the snake had changed into a fine young man who was sleeping with the youngest sister. So the pair went back again. After a number of days the snake wanted to take his bride and leave. The snake said to his father-in-law, “Father-in-law, let us compete in singing”. His father-in-law replied, “Son-in-law you sing first”. The snake sang,

“The woman, she lit a torch,
The man he shouldered a walling ram,
Together they went to kill the snake in the other room of the house”.

His father-in-law was so ashamed that he was unable to say anything. So the snake took his bride away.

As they were going, the couple carried some cabbage seed and scattered it along the road they were travelling, so that later their parents would be able to follow them. They went on and came to a pool of water. The snake said to his wife, “You stay here while I go up yonder, but if the water runs cloudy, do not touch it”. The snake went and washed himself and changed into a man a little way up stream. Now as the water grew cloudy his wife went and touched the cloudy water and snake skin wrapped all round her hand. When her husband returned and saw that his wife was keeping her hand bent, he asked her, “What is the matter with your hand?” She said, “There is nothing the matter”. But her husband wanted to have a look and saw the snake skin wrapped all round it. He had to come and lick it and then it got right again.

After the couple had left, the cabbage grew well. Their mother longed for them, so she followed the road where the cabbages were growing, in order to go to her daughter and son-in-law. She followed to the end of the road where it just disappeared into a hole in the rock. There was nothing their mother could do, so she sat down there and cried. As she was crying she let her head bump against a hole in the rock. The hole in the rock broke open and their mother saw that there was an entrance there. She followed the cabbages until she reached a set of fine houses, timber framed and tiled. So she stayed with her daughter and son-in-law. Having stayed as long as she wanted, mother-in-law returned home and told the other two daughters everything. As a result these two wanted to copy their younger sister. They went and brought snakes back to sleep, but the snakes bit them and they died.

M463

Lıı ’Ɔ"   C[ₙₛ Tⁿ,   CꞮ̿’ T"   Ʒ"   V".
Miao man dig land, seek get good son-in-law.

Ɔ"   ˩ⁿ Tıı   ]ᵤ   Yˉ T’" Lⁿ   Ɔ-   Yⁿ
there is story that of old there was one

Lˤ   Yˉ Lıı ’Ɔ"   Ɔıı   C[ₙₛ Tⁿ.   C[ˀ   †ₒ
classifier old Miao man went dig land. dig reach

˩ⁿ CꞮᵟ   Tⁿ,   Ɔ-   Yⁿ   Lᵘ   Yˉ Vˀ   ]ᵤ
middle land, there was one classifier rock which

Ꮟ°   Tˉ Tₙ꜀   Cⁿᵒ   Y̑.   Lıı ’Ɔ"   ˥ⁿ Δ̊   ˥ⁿ   T".
big very situated there. Miao man roll not get.

Lıı ’Ɔ"   ˥ₙ,   Ɪˉ Tᴐ   T-   CꞮₒ   ]̆   ˥ⁿ Δ̊   Lᵕ
Miao man said, whoever comes with me roll the

Yˉ Vˀ   ]ᵤ   Cⁿᵒ   ]̆   [°   ˩ⁿ CꞮᵟ   Tⁿ   Sᵟ,
rock which situated my patch middle land away,

]̆   Ɔ-   †ᒥ   Lˤ   C†’ı,   ]̆   Ɔˉ   Yⁿ
I have three classifier daughters, I give one

Lˤ   Ɪ’"   Cᴐ.   Tᵕ   ˩ⁿ Cᵟ   Tʕ   T-   ˥ₙ,   Yˉ
classifier to him. the snake out came said, old

Λˤ,   ]̆   CꞮₒ   [ᴐ   ˥ⁿ Δ̊   Sᵟ,   [ᴐ   Ɔˉ   Yⁿ
man, I with you roll away, you give one

Lˤ   Ɪ’"   ]̆.   Lıı ’Ɔ"   ˥ₙ,   [ᴐ   ˥ⁿ Δ̊   Sᵟ
classifier to me. Miao man said, you roll away

]̆   Ɔˉ   Yⁿ   Lˤ   Ɪ’"   [ᴐ.   Tᵕ   ˩ⁿ Cᵟ   Y̑
I give one classifier to you. the snake that

]’ⁿ Vˁ   Lᵘ   Yˉ Vˀ   [ⁿᶜ.   Lᵘ   Yˉ Vˀ   ˥ⁿ Δ̊
encircled the rock completed the rock rolled

Lʕ   Tᵟ.   L" ’Ɔ"   ˥ₙ,   ]̆   [̉’   Tˉ.   Tᵕ
gone finish. Miao man said, I deceive only. the

˩ⁿ Cᵟ   Ɪᵕ   Ɔıı   ˥ⁿ Δ̊   Ɪ"   Ɪ̊’ [’ₙₛ   Tᵟ.   Lıı ’Ɔ"
snake then went roll to place finish. Miao man

Iᵕ ᒣₙ, Ĵ ᒣₙ Tₙ꜀, Ꮯₔ ᒣⁿ Δ° Sᵟ
then said, I speak truly, you roll away

Ⴢ" Ŷ Ĵ Ɔ⁻ Yⁿ Lᵇ I'" Ꮯₔ
occasion that I give one classifier to you

Tₙ꜀ Tᵟ. Tᵕ Ⴣⁿ Cᵟ Iᵕ ᒣⁿ Å Sᵟ.
truly finish. the snake again rolled away.

'Ɔ° CTᵕ Lₙ 'Ɔ" I'ₔ Tᵕ Ⴣⁿ Cᵟ L₀, L₀
evening Miao man bring the snake come, come

t₀ CႢ⁻ Tᵟ. Lₙ 'Ɔ" ᒣₙ, L̄ Ʒ̂ Y⁻ Ꮾ°,
reach house finish. Miao man said, sister eldest,

Ꮯ̉' Ⴢₙ I" I'" t⁻ V" tₙ. Lᵕ Y⁻ Ꮾ⁻
lift stool for the son-in-law sit. the oldest

ᒣₙ, Tᵕ Ⴣⁿ Cᵟ Vᵕ, Ī Tₔ Ꮯ̉' Ⴢₙ I" I'" Ʒₙ.
said, the snake there, who lift stool for sit.

Lₙ 'Ɔ" Iᵕ ᒣₙ, L̄ Ʒ̂ Ⴣⁿ CIᵟ, Ꮯ̉' Ⴢₙ I"
Miao man then said, sister middle, lift stool

I'" t⁻ V" Ʒₙ. Lᵇ Ⴣⁿ CIᵟ ᒣₙ, Tᵕ
for the son-in-law sit. the middle said, the

Ⴣⁿ Cᵟ Vᵕ, Ī Tₔ Ꮯ̉' Ⴢₙ I" I'" Ʒₙ. Lₙ 'Ɔ"
snake there, who lift stool for sit. Miao man

Iᵕ ᒣₙ, L̄ Ʒ̂ Ctₛ, Ꮯ̉' Ⴢₙ I" I'" t⁻
then said, sister youngest, lift stool for the

V" Ʒₙ. L̄ Ctₛ ᒣₙ, Ĵ Cⁿ꜀ Ĵ
son-in-law sit. the youngest said, my mother my

Vᵕ J" Ĵ Ꮯₙ Γ̄ tₙ Ꮯₙ,
father look after me thus more than enough thus,

Yᵕ Ĵ Ꮯ̉' I'" Ʒₙ. Lᵇ Ʒ̂ Ctₛ
exclamation I lift for sit. the sister youngest

Ꮯ̉' Tᵕ Ⴢₙ I" I'" Tᵕ Ⴣⁿ Cᵟ Ʒₙ Tᵕ Ⴣⁿ Cᵟ
lift the stool for the snake sit. the snake

CᏟⁿ Ɔₙ Y⁻ Yⁿ Ⴢ" Cⁿ° Y⁻ J⁻. t₀
climb go make one circle situated top. Reach

Y⁻ T̊]ᵤ ⅃ᵓ Tᵹ, Lₗₗ 'Ɔ" ˥ₙ, L̄ Ʒ̂
time that sleep finish, Miao man said, sister

Y⁻ ɓ°, I'ₚ +⁻ V" Ɔₗₗ ⅃ᵓ. Lᵇ Y⁻ ɓ₋
eldest, take the son-in-law go sleep. the oldest

˥ₙ, Tᵇ ⅃ⁿ Cᵹ Vᵤ, Ī Tᵓ I'ₚ Ɔₗₗ ⅃ᵓ. Lₗₗ
said, the snake there, who take go sleep. Miao

'Ɔ" Iᵤ ˥ₙ L̄ Ʒ̂ ⅃ⁿ CIᵹ I'ₚ +⁻ V"
man then said, sister middle, take the son-in-law

Ɔₗₗ ⅃ᵓ ˥̆. L̄ +̂ ⅃ⁿ CIᵹ ˥ₙ Tᵇ
go sleep exclamation. sister middle said, the

⅃ⁿ Cᵹ Vᵤ, Ī Tᵓ I'ₚ Ɔₗₗ ⅃ᵓ Č Lⁿ. Lₗₗ 'Ɔ"
snake there, who take go sleep why. Miao man

Iᵤ ˥ₙ, L̄ Ʒ̂ C+ᵩ, I'ₚ +⁻ V"
then said, sister youngest, take the son-in-law

Ɔₗₗ ⅃ᵓ ˥̆. L⁻ C+ᵩ ˥ₙ]̆
go sleep exclamation. the youngest said, my

Cⁿᶜ]̆ Vᵤ J"]̆ Eₙ
mother my father look after me thus

Γ̄ +ₗₗ Eₙ, Yᵤ]̆ I'ₚ Ɔₗₗ
more than enough thus, exclamation I take go

⅃ᵓ Eⁿᶜ. L̄ Ʒ̂ C+ᵩ CIₒ T⁻ ⅃ⁿ Cᵹ
sleep completed. sister youngest with the snake

⅃ᵓ I" Lᵇ Ē' C]-.
slept in the next room.

Tᵹ 'Ɔ° L̄ Tₗ CIₒ +ʳ Λᵩ L̄
half night mother-in-law with father-in-law will

Ɔₗₗ CTₗₗ T⁻ ⅃ⁿ Cᵹ. T'"]ᵤ Ɔₗₗ Ŷ, L̄
go kill the snake. when that go then, mother-

Tₗ Tᵠ I" +ʳ Λᵩ Ē Tᵇ
in-law lit torch father-in-law shouldered the

Δ" Ɔₗₗ Tᵹ. Ɔₗₗ C₋ Eₙ T⁻ ⅃ⁿ Cᵹ
walling ram go finish. go look thus the snake

Δ’ₙ Yˉ Yⁿ L⁵ Yˉ Ꮟ₋ ⅂ᵤ Ʒ"
changed make one classifier young man who good

Tˉ Tₙ꜀ CꞮₒ L̄ Ʒ̂ Cƚᶎ ⅃ᵓ Ꞁₙₒ. Cᵓ
very with sister youngest sleep so it was. they

Yˉ L⁵ Sʳ Lₒ Lᶎ. Cⁿᵒ ⅃ⁿ Ꞁⁿ'''
two classifier return come gone. remain several

’Cᵘ Tᵹ, ⅃ⁿ Cᵹ Λ̄ I’ₚ Cᵹ Ↄ" Tᵹ.
days finish, snake want take wife go finish.

⅃ⁿ Cᵹ CꞮₒ Cᵓ Yˉ Λᶎ ˥ₙ Yˉ Λˁ,
snake with his father-in-law said, father-in-law,

T- ⅃ⁿ I’ᵘ C⅂" ˥ⁿ Ɪ’ˀ Λˉ.
come we sing song show each other exclamation.

Cᵓ Yˉ Λᶎ ˥ₙ, ƚˉ V" Ꞁᵓ Sᵘ
his father-in-law said, son-in-law you first

I’ᵘ. ⅃ⁿ Cᵹ I’ᵘ ˥ₙ,
sing. snake sang said,

Cᵓ ⅃ᵒ Lⁿ Tˁ Ɪ",
the woman she lit torch,

Cᵓ Λᶎ Lⁿ Ꞁ̂ Δ",
the man he shouldered walling ram,

Ↄ" CT" ⅃ⁿ Cᵹ Ɪ" Ꞁ’ C⅂-.
went kill snake in next room.

Cᵓ Yˉ Λᶎ T’ᵓ ƚᵹ ˥ⁿ T" Ꞁ̂ ˥ₙ. Yˉ
his father-in-law ashamed not get way say. make

Lⁿ Cᵓ I’ₚ Cᵓ Cᵹ Tᵹ.
like he took his wife finish.

T’" ⅂ᵤ Ↄ" Ŷ Cᵓ Yˉ L⁵ Ꞁⁿᵒ
when that go then they two classifier carried

Ꞁ̂ Ʒ" I’- CꞮₒ Ꞁ̂ Ↄ", ⅂ₒ Yˉ Ɪ⁵
seed cabbage scatter with road go, cause after

Cᵓ Cⁿ꜀ Cᵓ Vᵤ T" Ꞁ̂ ƚᵒ Yˉ Ɪ⁵
their mother their father get way follow after

Ↄ". Cᵓ Y⁻ Lᒡ Ↄ" ƚ∘ Y⁻ ᒧᶾ Y".
go. they two classifier go reach water pool.

ᒧⁿ Cᶾ CⲒ∘ Cᵓ Cᶾ ꓶₙ, Ⲉᵓ Cⁿ° Ĉ, Ɔ̆ Ↄ"
snake with his wife said, you stay here, I go

Δ⁻ ᒧⁿ, Ŷ Vⁿᶜ Y" Ⲉ⁻ CΔ̊ Ⲉₙ Ⲉᵓ
go to yonder, but water if cloudy thus you

Ⲓ'⁻ S₋ S₋ Tⁿ ꓶ°. T⁻ ᒧⁿ Cᶾ Ↄ"
do not touch at all exclamation. the snake go

Cƚ̄ Y⁻ Ⲉⁿ Δ'ₙ Tᒡ Ↄᒡ Ⲓ" Y⁻ ƚʳ. C̄ Ĉ
wash body changed person on higher side. now

Y" CΔ̊ L∘. Y⁻ Lⁿ Cᵓ Cⁿ" Ↄ"
water cloudy come. make like his wife went

S₋ S₋ Y" Ɔᵤ CΔ̊. ᒧⁿ Tˤ ᒧⁿ Cᶾ L∘ L°
touch water which cloudy. skin snake come wrap

Cᵓ Tⁿ Ⲉⁿᶜ. Cᵓ V" Sʳ L∘, ᒧ∘
her hand completed. her husband return come, saw

Ɔᵤ Cᵓ Cᶾ Ⲉ'ₙˤ Cᵓ Cᶾ Tⁿ Ⲓ̉
that his wife keep his wife hand bent

Ⲉⁿᶜ. Cᵓ Cᵤ ꓶₙ, Ⲉᵓ Tⁿ Y⁻ Ⲉᶾ C̄.
completed. he ask said, your hand what matter.

Cᵓ ꓶₙ, ꓶⁿ Y⁻ Ⲉᶾ. Cᵓ V" Ⲓᵤ Λ̄
she said, not any matter. her husband then want

L∘ C₋, ᒧ∘ Ɔᵤ ᒧⁿ Tˤ ᒧⁿ Cᶾ L° Ⲉⁿᶜ.
come look, saw that skin snake wrap completed.

Cᵓ Λ̄ L∘ Λᵤ Sᶾ, T⁻ Lₙ꜀ Ʒ" Lˤ.
he had to come lick away, presently well gone.

Cᵓ Y⁻ Lᒡ Lˤ Y⁻ Ⲓᒡ, Ʒ" T₋
they two classifier gone after, cabbage come

T⁻ Tₙ꜀ Tᶾ. Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ Y̆ CⲈ'ˤ Cᵓ
very finish. their mother very much love them

Y⁻ Lᒡ Tᶾ. Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ ƚ∘ ƚᵘ
two classifier finish. their mother follow the

Ⅽ̑ ⅃ᵤ Ʒ" T- Y̑ Ɔᵢᵢ. Ɔᵢᵢ Ɪ"
road which cabbage come that went. want to

Ct'ᵢ V". Ɔᵢᵢ t° Ⅽ̑ Tᵹ Tᵹ
daughter son-in-law. go follow road done finish,

Ɔᵢᵢ Ⅎᵢᵢ Yⁿ Lᵘ Ɪ̊' Vˀ Lᵹ T̄.
go drop in one classifier hole rock gone only.

Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ Ꞁⁿ T" Ⅽ̑ Y¯ Ⅽⁿᵹ, Ⅽ¯ T"
their mother not get way do anything, only get

Ⅽ̑ Ʒᵢᵢ Y̑ C̑ T̄. T'" ⅃ᵤ C̑ Y̑
way sit there weep alone. when that weep there

Cᵓ T" Ⅽⁿᵒ Lᵇ Lⁿ Γ" Ɔᵢᵢ Ⅽ" Ɪ" Lᵇ
she get bring the head go hit against the

Ɪ̊' Vˀ. Lᵇ Ɪ̊' Vˀ T" T° Lᵹ.
hole rock. the hole rock get break open gone.

Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ C₋ Ⅎₒ Ɔ- Yⁿ Lᵘ
their mother look see there is one classifier

Y¯ Δ", Cᵓ Cⁿᶜ Ɪᵤ t° Tⁿ Ʒ" C̑
door, their mother then follow the cabbage this

Ɔᵢᵢ. Ɔᵢᵢ tₒ Yⁿ ⅃ᵢᵢ C⅃- Ɪᵘ C⅃-
go. go reach one set house wooden framed house

V̄. C̄ C̑ Ɔᵢᵢ CⲒₒ Cᵓ Ct'ᵢ V"
tiled. now went with her daughter son-in-law

Cⁿᵒ Tᵹ, Cⁿᵒ Γ̄ Tᵹ, L̄ Tᵢ
stay finish. stay sufficient finish, mother-in-law

Ɪᵤ Sʳ Lₒ Δ¯ C⅃-, Ɪᵤ Ɔ¯ t'¯
then return come go to house, then take every

Ʒᵹ Ꞁₙ Ɪ'ˀ Cᵓ Y¯ Lᵇ Ct'ᵢ. Y¯
kind tell her two classifier daughters. make

Lⁿ Y¯ Lᵇ C̑ CⅭ'ᵹ Λᵢᵢ L̄ Ʒ̑
like two classifier this wish copy sister

Ctᵹ C̑. Y¯ Lᵇ Ɔᵢᵢ Ⅽ'ₙᵹ Ⅎⁿ Cᵹ
youngest this. two classifier go take snakes

Lₒ Iʼˀ Lᵓ. ⅃ⁿ Cᶾ C[ₙʕ Y⁻ L⁵
come take sleep. snakes bit two classifier

[ⁿᶜ T₋ Lʕ Tʒ.
completed dead gone finish.

M463

The man who went digging and found a fine son-in-law.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

Notes.

This song story is recorded in Document H (no. 29, page 17).