

梅葛史诗精简版英文翻译

English translation of the Meige Epic

第一章 盘古开天地

Chapter one: Pangu Separated the Sky and the Earth

在远古时候 Long ago,
有一个天蛋 there was an egg in the heaven,
孕育着盘古 that nurtured Pangu.
过了几千年 After thousands of years,
盘古成形了 Pangu took shape.
盘古动动头 Pangu moved his head,
蛋壳裂开了 and cracked the egg.
盘古伸伸脚 Pangu stretched his legs,
蛋壳打开了 and came out from the egg.
上半成了天 The upper half of the eggshell turned into the sky,
下半成了地 The lower half of the eggshell turned into the earth.

天开出来了 The sky opened up and

地辟出来了 The earth spread out.

盘古站起来 Pangu stood up,

头儿顶着天 with his head touching the sky,

脚跟蹬着地 with his feet stomping the ground.

头顶了千年 His head propped up the sky for a thousand years.

脚蹬了万月 His feet stomped the ground for ten thousand months.

身体都僵了 But his body became stiff and

骨头都糟了 His bones became weak and brittle.

盘古的呼吸 As Pangu breathed,

气升到天上 the exhaled air rose to the sky

变成了云彩 and turned into clouds.

盘古打哈欠 As Pangu yawned,

气升到空中 the exhaled air rose to the sky

变成了雾气 and turned into mist.

盘古的喘气 As Pangu panted,

气升到半空 the exhaled air rose to the sky

气变成了风 and turned into the wind.

盘古咳嗽声 Pangu's cough

变成了雷声 turned into the sound of thunder.

盘古眨眨眼 The blinking of Pangu's eyes

变成了闪电 turned into lightning.

盘古的眼睛 Pangu's left eye

左眼做太阳 turned into the sun,

右眼做月亮 while the right turned into the moon,

天就会亮了 brightening the sky and

地就能明了 illuminating the earth.

盘古的身躯 And so it was with Pangu's body.

头变成地头 His head turned into the earth's end,

身变成地身 His body turned into the earth's body,

有了山和箐 With mountains and valleys.

盘古的肋骨 Pangu's ribs

成地的筋骨 turned into the earth's framework,

成山的脊梁 into the ridges of the mountains.

盘古的关节 Pangu's joints,

变成了石头 turned into stones.

肉变成了土 His flesh turned into soil.

硬毛变成树 His coarse hair turned into trees.

软毛变成草 His soft hair turned into grass.

虱子变成兽 His lice turned into beasts.

虱卵变虫蛙 His lice eggs turned into insects and frogs.

大肠变江河 His large intestine turned into rivers.

小肠变河溪 His small intestine turned into streams and brooks.

头皮变飞禽 His scalp turned into flying birds.

盘古开天地 Although Pangu separated the sky and the earth,

天没有开好 The sky was not yet fully opened and

地没有辟成 The earth was not yet properly formed.

天地做混了 Both were in chaos.

第二章 格滋天神造天地

Chapter Two: The god Gezi created the heaven and the earth

远古的时候 In ancient times,

盘古开天地 Pangu separated the sky and the earth.

天没有开好 But the sky was not yet fully opened,

地没有辟成 And the earth was not yet properly formed.

天地做混了 Both were in chaos.

天要重新造 The sky needed to be remade,

地要重新建 The earth needed to be rebuilt.

格滋来造天 So, the Gezi came to create the sky,

格滋来造地 And the Gezi came to create the earth.

天模要看伞 The model for the sky was like an umbrella.

地样要看盆 The model for the earth was like a basin.

蜘蛛架天模 Spiders set up the model for the sky.

巴根草地模 Bagen grass set up the model for the earth.

雾气造天种 Mist to create the seed of the sky.

黑石造地种 Black rock to create the seed of the earth.

白雪造天料 White snow to create the material of the sky.

黄土造地料 Yellow soil to create the material of the earth.

沆涵升上天 The airflow rising to the sky

是造天的水 became the water that creates the sky.

沆涵落下地 The airflow falling to the earth

是造地的水 became the water that creates the earth.

天神撒银果 The god scattered silver fruits,

撒三把银果 Three handfuls of silver fruits.

九颗成九子 Nine of those silver fruits become nine sons.

是造天的儿 They were the sons who created the sky.

天神撒金果 The god scattered golden fruits,

撒三把金果 Three handfuls of golden fruits.

七颗成七女 Seven of those golden fruits turned into seven daughters,

是造地的女 They were the daughters who created the earth,

造天儿九个 Nine sons to create the sky,

造地女七个 Seven daughters to create the earth,

九儿没九名 The nine sons were not all named,

九儿有五名 But five of the nine sons were named.

七女没七名 The seven daughters were not all named,

七女有四名 But four of the seven daughters were named.

九个儿子中 Among the nine sons:

一个叫啊赌 One is called Adu.

一个叫遮玩 One is called Zhawan.

一个叫贪闹 One is called Tannaο.

一个叫玩连 One is called Wanlian.

一个叫多闹 One is called Duonaο.

七个姑娘中 Among the seven daughters:

一个叫茨则 One is called Cize.

一个叫戩则 One is called Jianze.

一个叫扎则 One is called Zhaze.

一个叫付则 One is called Fuze.

白云有三朵 Three clouds in the sky

造天儿做衣 were used by the sons to make shirts for the sky.

水中长青苔 Moss in the water,

青苔有三片 Three pieces of moss,
造地女当裤 were used by the daughters to make trousers for the
earth.

白雪有三堆 Three piles of white snow
造天儿的食 Were the food for the sons who created the sky.
黄土有三堆 Three piles of yellow soil

造地女的食 Were the food for the daughters who created the
earth.

造天的儿子 The sons who created the sky,
胆子有斗大 were audacious and irreverent.

没用心造天 And created the sky carelessly,
边玩边造天 Playing while they did so.

造地的四女 The four daughters who created the earth,

她们胆儿小 They were obedient,

用心来造地 Diligently creating the earth,

勤快来造地 Working hard to create the earth.

造天造成了 Thus the sky was finally created,

造地造好了 And the earth was well made.

不知天宽窄 Not knowing the width of the sky,
不知地大小 Not knowing the size of the earth,
飞蛾来量天 Moths came to measure the sky,
蜻蜓来量地 And dragonflies came to measure the earth.
量天有七拵 The sky was found to measure seven spans,
量地有九拵 The Earth was found to measure nine spans.
造天造小了 Thus sky had been made too small,
造地造大了 And the earth had been made too big,
天盖地不合 The sky and earth did not fit together.
阿夫会拉天 Afu knew how to pull the sky,
阿夫会缩地 Afu knew how to shrink the earth.
抓住了天边 He caught the edge of the sky,
拉成凸凹型 And pulled it into a convex shape.
阿夫来缩地 He came to shrink the earth.
放三对麻蛇 And placed three pairs of hemp snakes,
把地边箍拢 He gathered the edges of the earth together.
地面分高低 The level of the earth was divided into high and
low,

地边还不齐 But the edges of the earth were still uneven.

放三对蚂蚁 So Afu laced together three pairs of ants,

让它咬地边 And let them bite the edges of the earth.

地边咬整齐 The edges of the earth were bitten neatly.

放三对野猪 Afu placed three pairs of wild boars,

让它来拱地 And let them dig up the earth.

放三对大象 Afu placed three pairs of elephants,

让它来刨地 And let them root around the earth.

七十七昼夜 For seventy-seven days and nights,

拱出了山来 They pushed out mountains,

刨出了深箐 Dug out deep valleys,

拱出了平坝 Pushed out flat plains,

刨出了陡坡 Dug out steep slopes.

把天拉好了 So the sky was pulled tightly,

把地缩齐了 And the earth was shrunk evenly,

天地相合了 And sky and earth were joined together.

不知天稳否 But it was not known if the sky was stable,

不知地牢否 Nor if the earth was firm.

还要来试天 The sky still needed to be tested,

还要来试地 And the earth still needed to be tested.

雷公试天儿 Lei Gong (The Thunder God) came to test the sky.

地母试地女 And Di Mu (The Earth Goddess) came to test the earth,

打雷来试天 So the sky was tested with thunder,

地震来试地 And the earth was tested with earthquakes.

天开大裂子 Yet the sky cracked open widely,

地通深深洞 And the earth had deep holes.

试天天不稳 So it was that the testing of the sky for instability,

试地地不牢 And the testing of the earth for its firmness,

还要来补天 Revealed that there was a still a need to patch up the sky,

还要来补地 And still a need to patch up the earth.

天公有五子 The Sky God had five sons.

五子会补天 Those five sons would patch the sky.

地母有四女 The Earth Goddess had four daughters,

四女会补地 Those four daughters would patch the earth.

松毛来做针 Using pine needles as needles,

蜘蛛网做线 Using spider webs as thread,

彩云做补丁 And using clouds as patches,

把天补起来 The Sky God's sons patched up the sky.

老虎草做针 Using tiger grass as needles,

酸绞藤做线 Using sour jujube vine as thread,

地瓜叶做补丁 And using sweet potato leaves as patches,

把地补起来 The Earth Goddess's daughters patched up the earth.

天公叫方估 The Sky God was named Fang Gu,

地母叫露阳 And the Earth Goddess was named Lu Yang.

补好天在摇 But the sky continued to shake even after being mended,

补好地在摆 And the earth continued to shift despite being repaired.

没有撑天柱 No pillars could reach high enough to prop up the sky,

没有稳地桩 And no stakes were strong enough to stabilise the earth.

虎是兽之王 Yet the tiger reigns as king of beasts.

用虎来撑天 So tigers were used to prop up the sky.

世间鱼最大 The largest fish in the world

用鱼来撑地 Were used to support the earth.

公鱼撑地角 The male fish supported the corners of the earth,

母鱼稳大地 The female fish stabilised the heart of the earth.

公鱼不眨眼 The male fish did not blink,

大地不会动 And so the earth would not move.

母鱼不翻身 The female fish did not turn over,

大地不会摇 And so the earth would not shake.

把地撑起来 Fish stabilised the earth,

大地稳实了 And the earth has found its steadiness,

天还在摇摆 Yet the heavens continue to sway.

雪山山头上 Atop the snowy mountain's peak,

老虎居住地 There is a haven where the tigers rest.

引诱虎之地 A realm to tempt their feral breath,

哄虎出没地 A place where one might lure them to embrace.

杀虎来撑天 And so slay the tiger propping up the sky, slaying
the tiger to prop up the sky,

脊梁撑天心 So that its spine might be used to prop up the heart
of the sky.

脚杆撑四边 And its limbs might be used to prop up the four
edges of the sky.

天神有五子 The Sky God had five sons.

造天五弟兄 They were the creators of the sky.

胆子有斗大 Their courage knew no measure.

他们去引虎 They went to tempt the tiger,

他们来哄虎 They went to coax the tiger.

他们会撵山 They carved a path through the mountain.

引虎的儿们 And set out to draw the tiger near.

手握大铁伞 They held a large iron umbrella in their hands,

见虎伞打开 This umbrella would open widely if they saw the
tiger,

躲在伞背后 So that they could hide behind its sturdy shield,

伞把装弯钩 And use its handle as a curved hook.

十二架山梁 So the sons navigated through twelve mountain
ridges,

到处引一引 And went to tempt the tiger at every corner.

到山梁箐底 Till at the bottom of the mountain ridge,

老虎张大嘴 The tiger opened its mouth wide,

老虎抖着身 Shook its body,

虎被引出来 And was lured out.

张开血盆口 With jaws opened in a crimson snarl,

斑斓身扑来 The tiger pounced forth.

造天五弟兄 The five brothers,

忙把伞撑开 Hastily opened the umbrella,

挡住了老虎 Blocking the tiger's fierce advance,

钩住了老虎 And capturing the tiger with the hooked lance.

老虎被哄住 The tiger was trapped,

棕毛掺山草 And the sons mixed the tiger's brown fur with
mountain grass.

索子搓出来 The sons crafted ropes.

不能多一拃 Not a span too many,

不能少一拃 Nor too few to spare.

搓成十二拃 The sons spun twelve spans.

把老虎拴住 And they tied up the tiger,

把虎牵回来 And led the tiger back.

阿拉坝子里 To the land of Ala,

是杀虎的地 A place to slay the tiger.

山竹的尖嘴 The mountain bamboo with its sharp mouth,

羊肝石尖角 The sheep liver stones with their sharp corners.

是杀虎的刀 Served as blades for slaying the tiger.

杀虎喂喂叫 And so it was that as cries of 'Wei Wei' filled the
air,

把虎杀死了 The tiger fell.

天还撑不稳 Yet the sky was still in disrepair,

还要分虎身 So the tiger needed to be divided.

虎四根大骨 Its four great bones,

请你莫要分 That do not fracture or divide,

它做撑天柱 Served as the pillar to hold up the sky.

虎肩莫要分 And the tiger's undivided shoulders

让它指方向 Served to point the directions:

东南西北方 East, south, west and north.

把天撑起来 If these bones were used to hold up the sky,

天就稳实了 Then the sky would be stable.

虎头做天头 And so the tiger's head turned into the head of the sky.

虎尾做天尾 The tiger's tail turned into the tail of the sky.

虎鼻做天鼻 The tiger's nose turned into the nose of the sky.

虎耳做天耳 The tiger's ears turned into the ears of the sky.

左眼做太阳 The left eye turned into the sun.

右眼做月亮 The right eye turned into the moon.

虎须做阳光 The tiger's whiskers turned into the sunlight.

虎牙做星星 The tiger's teeth turned into the stars.

板油做白云 The tiger's fat turned into the white clouds.

肠油做彩云 The tiger's intestinal fat turned into the colourful clouds.

花油做彩虹 The tiger's flower oil turned into the rainbow.

虎气成雾气 The tiger's breath turned into the mist.

虎皮做地皮 The tiger's skin turned into the earth's surface.

硬毛变树林 The tiger's stiff fur turned into the forests.

软毛变成草 The tiger's soft fur turned into the grass.

细毛变秧苗 The tiger's fine fur turned into the seedlings.

虎血做流水 The tiger's blood turned into the flowing water.

虎肚做大海 The tiger's belly turned into the sea.

大肠变大江 The tiger's large intestine turned into the large river.

小肠变成河 The tiger's small intestine turned into the small river.

大虱变成牛 The tiger's large lice turned into cows.

小虱变猪羊 The tiger's small lice turned into pigs and sheep.

卵变绵山羊 The lice's eggs turned into cashmere goats.

头皮变鸟雀 The tiger's scalp turned into sparrows.

骨髓变金子 The tiger's bone marrow turned into gold.

骨头变银子 The tiger's bones turned into silver.

虎心变天心 The tiger's heart turned into the heart of the sky.

虎肺变成铜 The tiger's lungs turned into copper.

虎肝变成铁 The tiger's liver turned into iron.

虎脾变成锡 The tiger's spleen turned into tin.

骨节变成石 The tiger's joints turned into stone.

肋骨变道路 The tiger's ribs turned into roads.

腰子变石磨 The tiger's kidneys turned into stone mills.

左腰成公磨 The tiger's left waist turned into the male mill.

右腰成母磨 The tiger's right waist turned into the female mill.

石磨成双对 And the stone mills became pairs.

虎身分好了 Although the tiger's body was meticulously
apportioned,

虎肉没有分 Its flesh remained whole.

要分虎肉了 So the moment arrived to divide the meat,

虎肉十二份 Into twelve equal shares.

一份莫分多 Each portion should not be too much,

一份莫分少 Each portion should not be too little.

山梁松树上 On the mountain ridge,

停歇着老鸦 As the crow settles in the pine's embrace,

给老鸦一份 A portion was bestowed upon the crow,

够它吃饱了 To satisfy its hunger.

老鸦喜欢了 The crow was pleased with the offering,

飞到山梁上 And flying to the mountain ridge,

飞进深箐里 Flying into the deep ravine,

喜鹊分一份 It bestowed a portion upon the magpie

够它吃饱了 to satisfied its hunger.

喜鹊喜欢了 The magpie was pleased with the offering,

飞到石崖里 And flying into the stone cliff,

竹鸡分一份 It bestowed a portion upon the bamboo partridge,

它吃得饱了 to satisfied its hunger.

它心里高兴 The bamboo partridge was pleased with the offering,

叫着飞过去 And calling joyfully as it wheeled into the sky,

跑到深箐里 Soaring into the deep ravine,

刨到树林里 Then burrowing neath the forest,

野鸡分一份 It bestowed a portion upon the wild chicken,

它吃了好饱 to satisfied its hunger.

吃了高兴了 The wild chicken was pleased with the offering,

叫着满山飞 And calling joyfully as it flew over the mountains,

山梁山坡跑 Running on the mountain ridges and slopes,

豺狗分一份 It bestowed a portion upon the wild dog,

它吃了好饱 to satisfied its hunger.

吃了去拖猪 After feasting, it was time to lead the pig,

山梁满山跑 Running all over the mountain ridges,

画眉分一份 To bestow a portion upon the thrush.

吃了心欢喜 The thrush was pleased with the offering,

飞进阴坡地 And flying into the shady slope,

飞到阳坡里 And to the sunny slope,

黄蚊分一份 It bestowed a portion upon the yellow mosquito.

吃了好喜欢 The yellow mosquito was pleased with the offering,

飞到大树下 And flying under the big tree,

飞到深箐里 And into the deep ravine.

大蚊分一份 It bestowed a portion upon the big mosquito.

分着心欢喜 The big mosquito was pleased with the offering,

飞到角落里 And flying into the corner,

飞到房间里 And into the room.

黄蜂分一份 It bestowed a portion upon the wasp.

心里高兴了 The wasp was pleased with the offering,

黄蜂吃不完 And hardly finishing it,

黄蜂叼走了 The wasp carried it away,

飞到深箐里 Flying into the deep ravine,

飞到山梁上 And to the mountain ridge,

葫蜂分一份 It bestowed a portion upon the bumblebee.

吃了心欢喜 The bumblebee was pleased with the offering,

葫蜂吃饱了 And the bumblebee was full,

飞到深箐里 So, flying into the deep ravine,

飞到山梁上 And to the mountain ridge,

土蜂分一份 It bestowed a portion upon the ground bee.

分了心欢喜 The ground bee was pleased with the offering,

土蜂吃不完 And hardly finishing it,

抬着去喂儿 The ground bee fed its young,

飞到深箐里 And then flying into the deep ravine,

飞到山梁上 And to the mountain ridge.

苍蝇分一份 It bestowed a portion upon the fly.
分了心欢喜 The fly was pleased with the offering,
苍蝇吃饱了 And the fly was full,
叫着飞走了 And called joyfully as it flew away,
到处找腐肉 Searching everywhere for rotting meat,
到处去下蛋 And laying eggs everywhere.
虎肉十二份 So the twelve shares of tiger meat,
虎肉分完了 Were completely distributed.
老鹰没分着 Yet the eagle did not get a share,
老鹰心不甘 And with a discontented heart and a pride to assert,
飞到了天上 It soared heavenwards,
张开了翅膀 And spread its wings,
遮住了太阳 To block the sun's light.
天成一团黑 The sky turned completely dark,
地成一片黑 The earth turned completely dark,
白昼分不出 So day could not be distinguished from night.
天神请苍蝇 The Sky God summoned the fly,

天上治老鹰 And commanded the fly to punish the eagle in the sky.

苍蝇飞上天 The fly flew up to the sky,

落在鹰翅上 And landing on the eagle's wing,

密密下了子 It laid eggs densely.

过了三天后 Three days later,

过了三夜后 Three nights later,

鹰翅生了蛆 Maggots grew on the eagle's wing,

生蛆跌下来 Causing the eagle to fall down.

鹰掉到地上 The eagle fell to the ground.

把地遮一半 But half of the ground was covered with the eagle,

分不清白昼 And day could still not be distinguished from night.

天神请蚂蚁 So the Sky God summoned the ant,

请他抬老鹰 And commanded the ant to carry the eagle.

把鹰抬开了 The ant carried the eagle away.

老天还在暗 Yet the sky was still dark,

大地还在黑 And the earth was still dark.

麋胆来洗天 So the Sky God used the deer's bile to clean the sky,

麋尾来涮地 And the Sky God used the deer's tail to sweep the earth.

把天洗亮了 Brightening the sky,

把地涮明了 Cleaning the earth.

造天造好了 And thus the sky was well made,

造地造好了 The earth was well made.

地上光明了 The earth became bright.

昼夜分出来 Day and night were separated.

太阳出来啦 The sun came out,

月亮出来啦 And the moon came out.

第三章 人类的起源

Chapter Three: The origin of humans

远古的时候 In ancient times

造天造好了 The sky was created.

造地造好了 The earth was formed.

昼夜分开了 Day and night were separated.

还没有人类 Yet there were no humans.

还要找人种 The Sky God still needed to create the humans.

格滋撒人种 So Gezi scattered the seeds of humans.

撒下三把雪 He threw three handfuls of snow,

变成三朝人 Which turned into humans of three different eras.

撒第一把雪 The first handful of snow,

第一朝人种 Turned into the first era of humans.

高一尺二寸 They were a foot and two inches tall,

只长一只眼 With just one eye,

只长一只脚 And only one foot.

一人走不了 So a single person could not walk,

两人搂着走 But two people could hold each other and walk.
速度快如飞 They walked as fast as flying.
吃的是泥土 Their sustenance was mud,
泥土来当饭 Mud served as their meals,
吃的是沙子 Their sustenance was sand,
沙子来当菜 Sand served as their vegetables.
他们很怕晒 They were afraid of the sun.
月光下生存 So they survived under moonlight,
日光下灭亡 And perished under sunlight.
撒第二把雪 The second handful of snow,
成第二朝人 Turned into the second era of humans.
长着一双眼 These had a pair of eyes,
眼睛是直眼 but their eyes were vertical.
这是直眼人 They were the humans with vertical eyes.
眼睛是凸眼 They had bulging eyes.
身高一丈三 They were thirteen feet tall,
没有衣服穿 They had no clothes to wear,
没有裤子穿 They had no trousers to wear.

树叶做衣穿 Leaves served as their clothing,
树叶当裤穿 Leaves served as their pants.
吃着是野果 They feasted on wild fruits,
住着是山洞 They dwelled in caves.
分不了四季 There were not four distinct seasons.
在那个时候 At that time,
天有九太阳 The sky had nine suns,
天有九月亮 And nine moons.
白天太阳晒 In the daytime, the sun shone,
晚上月亮照 In the night time, the moon shone.
晚上过得去 Nights were bearable,
白天过不去 But days were not.
太阳过于晒 The sun's heat was too harsh,
牛骨被晒焦 Cow bones were scorched,
鸡毛被晒掉 Pigeon feathers were sunburned until they fell out.
他们没法歇 The humans could not rest,
做活瞌睡来 So they felt sleepy while working.
地里就睡着 They fell asleep in the fields.

时间睡太长 They slept too long,
锄头木儿朽 So the hoe handle rotted,
嘴成鸟窝了 And their mouths turned into birds' nests.
睡了几百年 They slept for hundreds of years,
睡了几千年 They slept for thousands of months.
身上长青苔 Moss grew on their bodies,
人被晒死了 And they scorched to death.
格滋知道了 When Gezi knew this,
左手拿着鍬 With a chisel in his left hand,
右手拿着锤 And a hammer in his right hand,
他来鍬太阳 He came to chisel the suns,
他来鍬月亮 And he came to chisel the moons,
留一个太阳 Leaving one sun,
留一个月亮 Leaving one moon.
日落阿娃山 The sun set behind the Awa mountain,
月落波落山 The moon set behind the Bolo mountain,
分出了白昼 And so day and night were separated.
撒第三把雪 Gezi scattered the third handful of snow,

是第三朝人 Which turned into the third era of humans.
是朝横眼人 This was the era of humans with horizontal eyes.
有两只眼睛 They had two eyes.
两眼朝天长 Both eyes grew with their gaze towards the sky.
为了给食物 Gezi provided these humans with food,
撒下三把荞 He scattered three handfuls of buckwheat,
落在米拉山 Falling on the Mila Mountain.
撒下三把谷 He scattered three handfuls of grain,
落在石山岭 Falling on the Shishan Mountain.
撒下三把麦 He scattered three handfuls of wheat,
落在寿延山 Falling on the Shouyan Mountain.
撒下的麦子 The wheat that Gezi scattered,
麦子出穗了 Grew abundant heads.
撒下的谷子 The grain that Gezi scattered,
谷子出穗了 Grew abundant heads.
撒下的荞子 The buckwheat that Gezi scattered,
荞子开花了 Blossomed fruitfully
有了种的种 So humans had seeds for sowing,

有了吃的食 And food for eating.
可人心不好 But the hearts of these humans were not good.
他们不耕田 They did not till the fields,
他们不种地 They did not farm the land,
他们不薅草 They did not weed,
他们不拔草 They did not pull out the grass.
没有牙齿草 There were no toothless grass grew,
铲铲就放水 They simply flooded it with water.
白天睡田边 They slept by the field during the day,
夜晚睡地角 They slept in the corners of the land at night.
白天到晚上 From day to night,
吃饭又睡觉 Eating then sleeping,
睡觉又吃饭 Sleeping then eating
好吃又懒做 They were indulgent in food yet lazy in work.
格滋知道了 When Gezi learned of this,
扯把香樟叶 He tore off a fragrant camphor leaf,
叶落到地上 The leaf fell to the ground,
落到田地里 And fell into the fields,

变成牙齿草 turning into the Agrimonia plant.

横眼睛的人 The humans with horizontal eyes,
从此有活做 Had work to do from then on.

横眼这朝人 But these horizontal-eyed humans,
糟蹋五谷粮 They wasted the five grains.

糍粑打埂子 They used glutinous rice cakes to build ridges,
猪膀堵水坝 They used pork shoulders to block dams,
粑粑堵水口 They used rice cakes to plug water outlets,
荞面糊墙壁 They used buckwheat flour to plaster walls.

格滋看不过 Gezi could not bear to watch.

他们心不好 These horizontal-eyed humans were not good,
不知珍惜粮 They did not value the grains,
不知节约食 They did not conserve the food.

要换这朝人 Gezi desired to replace these horizontal-eyed
humans.

派武姆勒娃 So Gezi sent Wumulewa,
来换这朝人 To replace this era of humans,
下凡到人间 Wumulewa descended to the humans' world.

会变三种样 She could transform into three different forms,
会变三种物 She could transform into three different things,
变成一只熊 She turned into an old bear,
到山梁看看 To inspect the mountain ridges,
到山腰查查 To check the mountain waist.
老熊堵流水 The old bear blocked flowing water.
坝里蓄下水 And the water was stored in dams.
去寻好心人 The old bear went to find good-hearted humans.
去找善良人 The old bear went to find kind-hearted humans.
直眼人学颇 She found a vertical-eyed human named Xue Po.
有五个儿子 He had five sons,
有一个姑娘 And one daughter.
兄妹六个人 These six siblings
计划开田地 planned to cultivate the farmland.
山上犁生地 They planned to plough new land on the
mountain
箐底开水田 And to open up paddy fields in the valley.
生地犁回来 The new land was ploughed,

水田开出来 The paddy fields were made,
今天犁好地 The land was well ploughed,
今天开成田 The fields were well laid out.
到明早一看 But the next morning, upon a glance,
被熊翻回来 The bear had turned them back.
今天开好的 What was opened up today,
明天被翻回 Was overturned the next day by the bear,
明天犁好的 And the land that was ploughed next day,
后天被翻回 By the day after, was again overturned.
犁了三天地 Three days spent ploughing the land,
开了三天田 Three days spent opening up the field,
都被熊翻回 All overturned by the bear,
都被熊翻过 All overturned by the bear.
没法犁下去 The six siblings could not continue to plough,
没法开下去 The six siblings could not continue to open up the
fields.
熊会来翻地 For the bear would come and overturn them.
想到来下扣 They thought of a solution.

地头下一扣 Setting traps at the field's head.

地中下一扣 Setting traps at the field's middle.

地尾下一扣 Setting traps at the field's end.

犁头作踩板 The plough's head was used as a pedal,

犁腰作夹弓 The plough's waist was used as a bow,

犁把作横担 The plough's handle was used as a crossbar,

耕索作扣绳 The plough's line was used as a trap string,

牛担作扣杆 The ox yoke was used as a trap pole,

犁耳作扣梢 The ploughshare was used as a trap latch,

养兜作扣环 The carrying basket was used as a trap ring.

把扣做好了 After setting the trap,

把扣下好了 And laying it properly,

老熊到地里 The old bear came to the field,

踩到扣子上 And stepped on the trap.

老熊被扣上 So the bear was caught,

老熊被栓住 And the bear was tied up.

大儿来串地 The eldest son came to inspect the trap,

看见捉住熊 And, seeing the bear caught,

心里很高兴 He was very pleased.

老熊会讲话 The bear can speak,

他对大儿说 And the bear spoke to the eldest son,

替我解一解 “Please untie me,

请您放了我 Please let me go.”

不情愿的答 Unwillingly, the eldest son answered,

不能替您解 “I cannot untie you,

我要去撵山 I have to patrol the mountains,

我要去打猎 I have to go hunting.”

二儿来串地 The second son came to inspect the trap,

看见捉住熊 And, seeing the bear caught,

心里很高兴 He was very pleased.

老熊会讲话 The bear can speak.

对二儿子说 And the bear spoke to the second son,

替我解一解 “Please untie me

请您放了我 Please let me go.”

不愿意的答 Unwillingly, the second son answered,

您的心不好 “You are a bad bear.”

就是要捉您 That’s why we caught you.

我不得闲解 I cannot untie you,
我要去放羊 I have to go tend the sheep."
三儿来串地 The third son came to inspect the trap,
看见捉住熊 And, seeing the bear caught,
心里很高兴 He was very pleased
老熊会讲话 The bear can speak,
对三儿子说 And the bear spoke to the third son,
替我解一解 "Please untie me,
请您放了我 Please let me go."
不愿意的答 Unwillingly, the third son answered,
您的心不好 "You are a bad bear."
就是要捉您 "That's why we caught you.
我不替您解 I cannot untie you,
我要去放牛 I have to go tend the cows."
四儿来串地 The fourth son came to inspect the trap,
看见捉住熊 And, seeing the bear caught,
心里很高兴 He was very pleased.
老熊会讲话 The bear can speak,

对四儿子说 And the bear spoke to the fourth son,

替我解一解 "Please untie me"

请您放了我 "Please let me go."

不愿意的答 Unwillingly, the fourth son answered,

您的心不好 "Your heart is not good,

就是要捉您 That's why we caught you.

我不得闲解 I cannot untie you,

我要去犁地 I have to go plough the field."

四弟兄喊打 The four brothers called for beating,

四弟兄叫杀 And the four brothers called for killing.

小儿背着妹 But the youngest son, who was carrying his sister,

也跑过来看 Also ran over to see the trap.

看到熊被扣 Seeing the bear trapped,

认真看了看 He looked closely,

仔细瞧了瞧 And observed carefully,

看熊像祖母 And noticed that the bear resembled their
grandmother.

小儿出来说 The youngest son came forward and said,

千万不能打 “Do not beat,

千万不能杀 Do not kill,

要把熊放了 We must release the bear.”

熊对小儿说 The bear spoke to the youngest son,

您不要害怕 “Do not be afraid,

若是救了我 If you save me,

送您一句话 I will give you a message.”

学泼的小儿 So Xue Po’s youngest son,

解开了绳索 Untied the rope.

救武姆勒娃 Saving Wumulewa.

熊对他们说 The bear then said to them,

这朝人心坏 “The humans of this era are bad,

还要换人种 It is time to replace them.

水要漫山川 Water is about to flood the mountains and valleys,

大水快发了 A great flood is about to come.

您们四兄弟 Among you four brothers,

大哥打金柜 The eldest brother should go to make a golden chest,

二哥打银柜 The second brother should go to make a silver chest,

三哥打铜柜 The third brother should go to make a bronze chest,

四哥打铁柜 The fourth brother should go to make an iron chest.

您们四弟兄 Go, you four brothers,

大水要来了 For the flood is coming.

赶快躲进柜 Quickly hide in the chests.

小弟良心好 The youngest brother has a good heart,

给你葫芦籽 So I give you gourd seeds.

快去种葫芦 Quickly plant the gourd.

大水要来了 For the flood is coming.

住进葫芦里 Live inside the gourd.

有了葫芦种 When you have the gourd seeds,

正月里初一 On the first day of the first month.

种下葫芦种 Plant the gourd seeds.

三天浇一次 For three days, water it once,

三天会出芽 And then, in three days, it will sprout,

三天藤爬地 In three days, the vine will crawl,

三天开白花 In three days, white flowers will bloom,

三天结葫芦 In three days, a gourd will form,

三天会长大 In three days, it will grow large.

藤有牛担粗 With a vine as thick as a yoke,

叶有簸箕大 And leaves as big as winnowing baskets.

结个独葫芦 When that solitary gourd forms,

葫芦像囤子 It will be like a storage bin.

您不要着急 Do not worry,

它不是怪物 It is not a monster.

葫芦成熟了 When it becomes a ripened,

葫芦能摘了 It is the time to pick the gourd.

葫芦摘回来 Bring back the picked gourd.

闪电开葫芦 Use lightning to open the gourd,

打雷关葫芦 Use thunder to close the gourd.

你们兄妹俩 You two siblings,

住进葫芦里 Live inside the gourd.

饿了吃葫籽 When you are hungry, eat gourd seeds,

箐底的黄蜡 Use the yellow wax from the bottle of the valley

糊住葫芦口 To seal the gourd's opening.

高山的松香 Use pine resin from the high mountains,

封住葫芦嘴 To seal the gourd's mouth.”

她们四个哥 The sister's four brothers,

听了熊的话 Heard the bear's words,

顺着他的意 And, following the bear's intention,

大哥打金柜 The eldest brother made a golden chest,

二哥打银柜 The second brother made a silver chest,

三哥打铜柜 The third brother made a bronze chest,

四哥打铁柜 The fourth brother made an iron chest.

兄弟都打好 When the four brothers had prepared all the
chests.

他们把熊杀 They killed the bear.

熊血流成河 The bear's blood flowed like a river,

堵坝倒塌了 Collapsing the dam.

身体顺河漂 The bear's body floated down the river,

脑袋顺水淌 The bear's head drifted along,

淌入大海里 The bear's body flowed into the sea,

塞住出水洞 Blocking the water outlet.
大海海水涨 The sea's water rose,
加风狂雨暴 With fierce winds and violent storms,
海水厉害淹 The water flooded fiercely,
哗哗波浪翻 With waves crashing and overturning.
翻江又倒海 With waves crashing and overturning.
学波四个儿 The four brothers of Xue bo,
先闸一道围 First built a barrier,
水涨到山腰 But as the water rose to the mountain waist,
再筑一道围 They built another barrier.
水淹过高山 When the water submerged the high mountains,
躲进柜子里 They hid inside the chests.
金银柜沉水 The golden and silver chests sank,
铜铁柜沉水 The bronze and iron chests sank,
洪水接着天 The flood reached the sky,
鱼吃天上星 Fish ate the stars above,
蟹在天上跑 Crabs scurried in the sky,
白昼分不清 Day could not be distinguished from night.

只有风浪声 And the only sound was of the wind and the waves.

被水淹没了 The chests were submerged in water.

七十七昼夜 For seventy-seven days and nights,

他们四弟兄 The four brothers,

躲进柜子里 Hid inside the chests,

已经沉水底 Already sank to the bottom,

只有兄妹俩 Only the two siblings,

在葫芦里面 Inside the gourd,

顺着水儿飘 Floated upon the water.

天神着了急 The Sky God became anxious,

天神着了慌 The Sky God was in a panic,

下凡来治水 The Sky God descended to the mortal world to control the water.

东方指一指 The Sky God pointed east,

山头现出来 Then the mountain tops appeared.

南方指一指 The Sky God pointed south,

树草露出来 Then the trees and grass emerged.

西方指一指 The Sky God pointed west,
水退到河边 Then the water receded to the riverbanks.
北方指一指 The Sky God pointed north,
水退到河底 Then the water retreated to the riverbed.
中间指一指 The Sky God pointed to the centre,
大水退去了 Then the flood receded.
大地出来了 The earth reappeared.
人烟没有了 But there was no sign of humans,
人也死光了 All the humans had died out.
世间很寂静 The world was silent,
世间太荒凉 The world was desolately quiet.
天神找人种 The Sky God searched for humans,
天神找人烟 The Sky God searched for humans.
骑高头大马 The Sky God rode a tall horse,
手拿赶马鞭 With a horsewhip in his hand.
四面八方找 The Sky God searched in all directions.
走到岔路口 At a crossroads,
遇到葫芦蜂 The Sky God met a gourd bee,

他问葫芦蜂 He asked the gourd bee,
葫芦蜂、葫芦蜂 “Gourd bee, gourd bee,
您是好蜂子 You are a good bee,
您若有好心 If you have a kind heart,
请您告诉我 Please tell me,
看见人种没 Have you seen any humans?”
葫芦蜂回答 The gourd bee replied,
人种我没见 “I haven’t seen any humans,
要是遇着了 If I did see them,
我要叮死他 I will sting them to death.”
听了他的话 Hearing this,
天神发怒了 The god became angry,
拿起赶马鞭 Raising his horsewhip,
打它一鞭子 He whipped the gourd bee once,
腰被打断了 Breaking its waist.
蜂子大声叫 The gourd bee cried loudly,
接好我的腰 “Fix my waist,
我就告诉您 And I will tell you.”

扯根马尾来 So the Sky God pulled a horse's tail hair,
接葫芦蜂的腰 And repaired the gourd bee's waist.
蜂腰一接好 The gourd bee's waist was repaired
腰成了细腰 Its waist became slender,
蜂子飞跑了 And it flew off.
天神看见了 When the Sky God saw this,
天神发火了 He became furious,
天神大骂道 And cursed loudly,
七月蜂子忙 "In July, you will be busy,
八月来做包 In August, you will build nests.
娃娃倒着养 Your offspring will be raised upside down.
九月放火烧 And in September you will be burned in a great
fire."
成了葫芦蜂 And so, these curses towards gourd bees,
生活的规律 became the law of their existence.
天神找人种 The Sky God continued searching for humans,
找到山梁上 Through the mountain ridges,
找到深箐里 And through the deep valleys,

见到小松树 Until he came upon a small pine tree.

天神问松树 The Sky God asked the pine tree,

松树、松树 "Pine tree, pine tree,

您是好树木 You are a good tree,

您若有好心 If you have a kind heart,

请您告诉我 Please tell me,

看见人种没 Have you seen any humans?

松树回答道 The pine tree replied,

人种没见着 "I haven't seen any humans.

要是见到了 If I did see them,

叶子似钢针 my leaves would become like steel needles,

我要戳死他 And I would pierce them to death."

听了它的话 Hearing this,

天神发怒了 The Sky God became angry.

拿起赶马鞭 He picked up his horsewhip,

一鞭打下去 And whipped the pine tree once,

松叶成三瓣 Splitting the pine leaves into three parts.

天神大骂道 The god cursed loudly,

等找到人种 “Once I find humans,
人烟旺起来 and their habitation thrives,
让人们砍您 I will let humans chop you down.
砍一绝一棵 Chop down every one of you,
不准您再发 Never allowing you to grow again.”
成了小松树 So, these curses towards the pine tree,
生长的规律 became the law of its existence.
天神找人种 The Sky God searched for humans.
找到山梁上 On the mountain ridges,
找到山腰间 And the mountain waists,
见到罗汉松 There, he saw the Arhat pine.
天神问汉松 The god asked the Arhat pine,
汉松、汉松 “Arhat pine, Arhat pine,
您是好树木 You are a good tree,
您若有好心 If you have a kind heart,
请您告诉我 Please tell me,
看见人种没 Have you seen any humans?”
罗汉松回答 The Arhat pine answered,

人种没看见 “I haven't seen any humans.
要是看见了 If I did see them,
我的叶子密 My leaves would be dense,
让他来避风 to shelter them from the wind,
替他来遮雨 and cover them from the rain.”
听了好喜欢 The Sky God was pleased to hear this,
对罗汉松说 He then said to the Arhat pine,
您是棵好树 “You are a good tree,
找到了人种 Once I find humans,
人烟旺起来 and their habitation thrives.
砍一发百棵 For every chop you receive, a hundred of you will
sprout,
永远不会灭 You will never be extinguished.”
成了罗汉松 So, the Sky God's beneficence towards the Arhat
pine,
生长的规律 became the law of its existence.
天神找人种 The Sky God searched for humans,
找到小沟边 He searched by the small ditches.

找到小溪前 and in front of the streams,
遇到了螃蟹 Until he encountered a crab.
天神问螃蟹 The Sky God asked the crab,
见到人种没 “Have you seen any humans?”
蟹对天神说 The crab said to the Sky God,
人种没见着 “I haven't seen any humans.
如果遇到了 But if I did see them,
我用大钳子 I would use my big pincers,
夹他一钳子 and give them a pinch,
我要夹死他 I would pinch them to death.”
听了它的话 Hearing this,
天神很生气 the god became very angry,
他对螃蟹说 and said to the crab,
您的心不好 “Your heart is not good,
孵儿在肚里 You shall incubate your offspring inside,
吃了您出来 and your offspring will eat their way out.”
天神说过后 After the Sky God spoke,
就成了螃蟹 These curses towards the crab,

生长的规律 became the law of its existence.

天神找人种 The god continued to search for humans,

找到了天边 Reaching the ends of the sky,

寻到了地角 and the corners of the earth.

找来又找去 Searching here and there,

找到山岩上 Until he arrived at the mountain rocks,

见了小蜜蜂 and saw a little honeybee.

天神问蜜蜂 The Sky God asked the honeybee,

蜜蜂、蜜蜂 “Honeybee, honeybee,

看见人种没 Have you seen any humans?”

如果看见了 “If you have seen them,

请您说给我 Please tell me.”

小蜜蜂回答 The little honeybee answered,

人种没看见 "I haven't seen any humans.

要是遇到了 If I did see them,

请他吃蜂蜜 I would invite them to eat honey."

天神对它说 The Sky God said to it,

好心的蜜蜂 "Kind-hearted honeybee,

善良的蜜蜂 Benevolent honeybee,
找到了人种 Once humans are found,
人烟旺起来 and their habitation thrives,
人们住哪里 Wherever humans live,
您就住哪里 That is where you will reside.
十人见到您 If ten people see you,
十人会请您 All ten will invite you,
五人见到您 If five people see you,
五人会请您 all five will invite you,
生儿上千个 You will bear thousands of sons,
育女上万个 and ten thousand daughters,
团结又和睦 Who will live in unity and harmony,
勤劳又兴旺 And be industrious and prosperous,
甜蜜来生活 And lead a sweet life."
天神说的话 The words of the god,
成了小蜜蜂 And his beneficence towards the little honeybee,
生长的规律 became the law of their existence.
小蜜蜂还说 The little honeybee also said,

在大河尽头 “At the end of the great river,
在大海海边 By the edge of the great sea,
我去采花蜜 I went to collect nectar.
采到了那里 Upon reaching there,
有人轻声讲 I heard someone speaking softly,
话语没听清 But I couldn't make out the words.”
天神找人种 So the Sky God continued to search for humans,
找到了河边 Until, reaching the riverbank,
见到了柳树 He saw a willow tree.
天神问柳树 The Sky God asked the willow,
柳树、柳树 “Willow tree, willow tree,
看见人种没 Have you seen any humans?”
如果看见了 “If you have seen them,
请您告诉我 Please tell me.”
柳树回答道 The willow tree replied,
人种没看见 "I have not seen any humans,
听到了人声 but I have heard human voices,
见到个葫芦 I saw a gourd,

漂在河尽头 floating at the river's end,
大河入海口 where the great river meets the sea.
我用左手围 I tried to encircle it with my left hand,
我用右手围 and with my right hand too,
都没有围住 but I could not encircle it.
葫芦淌走啦 And the gourd drifted away.”
听了柳树话 Hearing the willow's words,
心里好高兴 the Sky God was very pleased,
他对柳树说 and said to the willow.
您是心好树 “You are a kind-hearted tree,
人种找到了 Once humans are found,
人烟旺起来 and their habitation thrives,
倒插您倒活 You will thrive when planted upside down,
顺栽您顺活 and live well when planted right-side up,
就成了柳树 So, the Sky God's beneficence towards the willow
tree,
生长的规律 became the law of its existence.
天神找人种 The god continued his search for humans,

找到山沟里 in the mountain gullies,
找到小河旁 and beside the small rivers.
看到老乌龟 Until he saw an old turtle.
天神问乌龟 The Sky God asked the turtle,
乌龟、乌龟 “Turtle, turtle,
看见人种没 Have you seen any humans?”
如果看见了 “If you have seen them,
请您告诉我 Please tell me.”
老乌龟回答 The old turtle answered,
没有看到人 “I haven’t seen any humans
看见个葫芦 But I saw a gourd,
漂在大海中 Floating in the great sea,
葫芦里有人 with humans inside.
他们在说话 Humans were speaking,
可以听得见 And I could hear them,
您去叫叫看 Try calling out to see.”
天神好高兴 The Sky God was very pleased,
他对乌龟说 And said to the turtle,

乌龟心肠好 “You have a good heart.

敲下马蹄壳 I will knock off a horseshoe,

给您做房子 to make a house for you.

房子随身带 The house can be carried with you.

顺着河边住 As long as you live along the riverbank,

就会有吃的 you will have something to eat,

就成了乌龟 So, the Sky God's beneficence towards the turtle,

生长的规律 became the law of its existence.

天神找人种 The Sky God continued his search for humans,

找到大海边 Until, reaching the edge of the great sea,

顺着海边看 The Sky God looked along the seashore,

顺着海边找 And the Sky God searched along the seashore.

有个呜咽雀 There, he found a sobbing sparrow,

啾啾叫着飞 Chirping as it flew.

天神问咽雀 The god asked the sobbing sparrow,

它没有回答 But it did not reply,

它飞来飞去 Flying back and forth,

就不理天神 Ignoring the Sky God.

天神生气了 So, the Sky God became angry,

天神发火了 The Sky God became furious,

大声的骂道 And he yelled loudly,

找人找不着 “I have not find the humans,

心里好着急 and I am so anxious.

这个呜咽雀 Sobbing sparrow,

高兴什么呢 why are you happy?”

拉弓来射它 He drew his bow to shoot it,

一箭没射着 But he missed, and his arrow

射在葫芦上 Hit the gourd instead.

葫芦里叫起 From inside the gourd words echoed,

五天没人敲 “Five days without a knock,

十天没人敲 ten days without a knock,

今天是谁敲 Who knocks today?

谁来敲我墙 Who is knocking on my wall?”

找到了葫芦 Having found the gourd,

天神抬葫芦 The Sky God lifted it,

葫芦抬出来 Lifting the gourd out,

大河入海处 from the place where the great river meets the sea.

大海沙滩上 Then, on the seashore,

摆葫芦的地 where the gourd was placed,

放葫芦的场 where the gourd was reset,

天神来请人 The Sky God called for someone,

请到了塔撤 And invited Tache,

请来开葫芦 to open the gourd.

打不开葫芦 But since the gourd could not be opened,

塔撤有请求 Tache made a request,

给它换副嘴 to have his mouth changed.

天神问塔撤 The god asked Tache,

要个什么嘴 “What kind of mouth do you want?”

塔撤对他说 Tache said to him,

我想要铜嘴 “I want a bronze mouth.”

天神帮它换 So the Sky God helped to change,

换了副铜嘴 Tache's mouth to a bronze mouth.

再去开葫芦 Then Tache tried to open the gourd

葫芦没打开 but failed again.

塔撒叫了声 So Tache called out,

悄悄飞走了 and quietly flew away.

又请啄木鸟 Then the Sky God called for a woodpecker,

来打开葫芦 to open the gourd.

问要什么嘴 He asked what kind of mouth it wanted,

啄木鸟回答 The woodpecker answered,

想要副铁嘴 “I want an iron mouth.”

给它安铁嘴 The Sky God gave it an iron mouth,

让它开葫芦 and let it try to open the gourd.

他问啄木鸟 He asked the woodpecker,

葫芦开了吗 “Does the gourd open?”

戴着铁嘴答 Wearing the iron mouth, the woodpecker answered,

葫芦没打开 “The gourd couldn't be opened”,

打不开葫芦 While the woodpecker could not open the gourd,

它戴着铁嘴 It wore the iron mouth,

到处啄树木 And pecked at trees everywhere,

树木都啄伤 damaging all the trees.

天神给换嘴 So the Sky God changed its mouth,

换了副银嘴 to a silver mouth.

让它开葫芦 Commanding it to try to open the gourd again,

啄木鸟说道 The woodpecker said,

银嘴不合适 “The silver mouth does not fit,

戴着有些疼 It hurts to wear it.”

打不开葫芦 When the woodpecker did not open the gourd,

给它换了副 The Sky God changed its mouth to one,

铜混铁的嘴 made of copper and iron.

让它开葫芦 Again he commanded the woodpecker to open the
gourd,

还是没打开 but it still would not open.

找到小松鼠 Then the Sky God found a little squirrel,

请它开葫芦 and asked it to open the gourd.

天神问松鼠 The god asked the squirrel,

要什么样嘴 “What kind of mouth do you want

才能开葫芦 to open the gourd?”

松鼠对他说 The squirrel said to him,

要金做的嘴 “I need a golden mouth

才能开葫芦 to open the gourd.”

给它换金嘴 So the Sky God gave the squirrel a golden mouth,

让它开葫芦 and let it try to open the gourd.

葫芦打开了 And the gourd was opened,

人种出来了 and humans came out:

是兄妹两个 A brother and a sister.

看见兄妹俩 Seeing the siblings,

心里好高兴 The Sky God was very delighted,

心里很喜欢 The Sky God was very pleased.

她们是兄妹 But they were siblings,

繁衍怎么办 So how would they procreate?

神对他们说 The Sky God said to them,

挑担有两头 “A carrying pole has two ends,

成对成一双 These two ends became a pair.

香樟做刀把 With a camphor tree for the knife handle,

要做成一家 to become a family.

让兄妹两个 The Sky God let the siblings

山顶滚石磨 Roll a millstone from the mountain top.

哥来滚公扇 The brother rolled the male part,
妹去滚母扇 The sister rolled the female part.
滚到山箐底 Rolling down to the valley bottom,
公母合拢来 The male part and the female part came together.
要向石磨学 Learning from how the millstone,
做成对和双 Became a pair,
兄妹俩回答 The siblings answered,
我们是人来 “We are humans.
它们是石磨 They are millstones.
我们兄妹俩 We two siblings,
同胞父母生 Born of the same parents.
怎能和磨学 How can we learn from a millstone?”
神让兄妹俩 So the god let the siblings
山阳滚筛子 Roll a sieve on the sunny side,
山阴滚簸箕 And roll a winnowing basket on the shady side.
滚到山箐底 As they rolled down to the valley bottom,
筛子垒簸箕 the sieve stacked on the winnowing basket,
滚成了一对 Such that they rolled into a pair.

您们兄妹俩 “You two siblings,
要向它们学 should learn from them,” said the Sky God.
可是兄妹说 But the siblings said,
筛子是筛子 “A sieve is a sieve,
簸箕是簸箕 A winnowing basket is a winnowing basket,
我们兄妹俩 We two siblings,
同胞父母生 Born of the same parents,
怎能和它学 How can we learn from them?”
神对她们说 The Sky God said to them,
您们兄妹俩 “You two siblings.
一只是雄鸟 One is a male bird,
一只是雌鸟 One is a female bird,
雄的飞过去 The male flies over,
雌的飞过来 The female flies over,
雌鸟和雄鸟 The female and male birds,
它们在一起 They are together,
兄妹要学鸟 You siblings should learn from the birds,
要做成一对 To become a pair.

要做成一家 To become a family.”

可是兄妹说 But the siblings said,

我们都是人 "We are both humans,

同胞父母生 Born of the same parents,

不能和鸟学 We cannot learn from the birds."

神对兄妹说 The god said to the siblings,

这面一棵树 "A tree on this side,

那面一棵树 A tree on that side.

一棵是公树 One is a male tree,

一棵是母树 One is a female tree.

风吹摇啊摇 They sway while the wind is blowing,

摇着挨拢来 They sway and come closer,

挨拢成一家 And they become a family as they come closer.

学树成一家 Learn from the trees to become a family.”

可是兄妹说 But the siblings said,

同胞父母生 "Born of the same parents,

不能和树学 We cannot learn from the trees.”

神让兄妹俩 So the god set the siblings apart,

哥在河这边 The brother on this side of the river,

妹在河那边 The sister on that side of the river.

哥哥吆公鸭 The brother called the drake,

妹妹吆母鸭 The sister called the duck,

哥哥吆公鹅 The brother called the gander,

妹妹吆母鹅 The sister called the goose,

鸭子成一家 The ducks became a family,

老鹅成一对 The geese became a pair.

您们兄妹俩 “You two siblings

要向它们学 Should learn from them,” said the Sky God.

可是兄妹说 But the siblings said,

同胞父母生 “Born of the same parents,

不能学它们 We cannot learn from them.”

兄妹不结亲 If the siblings did not marry,

人烟不能续 Humans could not continue,

天神有办法 But the Sky God had a solution.

哥到河上游 The Sky God sent the brother to the upper river,

去养鸭放鹅 To raise ducks and geese.

妹到河下游 The Sky God sent the sister to the lower river,

去养猪放猪 To raise pigs.

由于天气热 Because of the hot weather,

天天在玩水 The siblings played in the water every day.

属狗那一天 On the day of the dog,

哥河里洗澡 The brother bathed in the river,

妹下游放猪 While the sister let the pigs downstream,

由于天气热 Because of the hot weather,

下游捧水吃 The sister scooped water to drink on downstream.

属猪那一天 On the day of the pig,

一天吃三次 The sister drank water three times a day,

三天吃九次 And the sister drank water nine times over three days.

妹妹怀孕了 The sister became pregnant.

过了九个月 After nine months,

生孕时间到 the time to give birth arrived.

生儿没生出 The sister did not give birth to a son,

生女没生出 The sister did not give birth to a daughter,

生个怪葫芦 The sister gave birth to a strange gourd.

葫芦十二节 The gourd had twelve sections.

哥哥不在家 The brother was not at home.

妹妹好害怕 The sister was very scared.

葫芦丢箐里 And threw the gourd into the valley.

雨水淌葫芦 Rainwater flowed over the gourd,

淌到了河里 And it was swept into the river.

河水冲走了 The river carried it away.

天神知道了 When the Sky God knew of this,

急忙到处找 He hurriedly searched everywhere.

找到了箐底 He searched the bottom of the valley.

找到了山梁 He searched the mountain ridge.

找到深箐里 He searched deep in the valley.

遇到了乌鸦 There he encountered a crow.

天神问乌鸦 The Sky God asked the crow,

看到葫芦没 “Have you seen a gourd?”

乌鸦它回答 The crow answered,

要是看到了 “If I saw it,

我要吃人种 I would eat the humans,

我要喝人血 I would drink humans' blood.”

天神对它说 The god said to it,

不能吃人种 “You cannot eat the humans,

不能喝人血 you cannot drink humans' blood.

请您告诉我 Please tell me,

等找到人种 When I find the humans,

人烟旺起来 and their habitation thrives,

每年年初一 Every year on the first day,

都请您吃饭 I will invite you to a meal.”

乌鸦对神说 The crow said to the god,

南京应天府 “In Nanjing Yingtianfu,

大坝柳树湾 there was a dam situated at Willow Tree Bay.

大海的中间 In the middle of the sea,

葫芦在那里 You will find the gourd there.”

天神顺河找 The Sky God followed the river,

找到了葫芦 And found the gourd.

葫芦在水里 The gourd was in the water,

没法拿出来 And the Sky God was unable to take it out.

请三对野猪 So he asked three pairs of wild boars

拱开了海埂 To open the sea dike.

请三对獭猫 The Sky God asked three pairs of otters

打开三个洞 To open three holes.

海埂拱开了 The sea dike was opened,

洞子打开了 And the holes were opened,

海水还不落 But the sea water did not recede.

请三对黄鳝 So the Sky God asked three pairs of eels,

请来钻海底 to burrow under the sea,

海底钻通了 The sea bottom was burrowed through,

海水淌干了 And the sea water drained.

葫芦陷泥里 The gourd was stuck in the mud,

还是出不来 And still could not come out.

请来三对兔 So the Sky God called for three pairs of rabbits,

请来三对鹰 Three pairs of eagles,

请来三对虾 And three pairs of shrimps.

兔抓葫芦跑 The rabbits grabbed the gourd and ran.

鹰抓葫芦飞 The eagles grabbed the gourd and flew.

虾顶葫芦走 The shrimps held up the gourd and walked,

抬到大海边 Carrying it to the edge of the sea,

放在沙滩上 And placing it on the sandy beach.

葫芦放好了 The gourd was well placed.

天神开葫芦 The Sky God opened the gourd,

金锥开葫芦 The Sky God opened the gourd with a golden awl.

银锥开葫芦 The Sky God opened the gourd with a silver awl.

葫芦十二节 The gourd had twelve sections.

打开第一节 The Sky God opened up its first section,

出来是汉族 And out came the Han.

汉族是老大 The Han were the eldest,

住在坝子里 Living in the dam area,

盘田种庄稼 Tilling fields and planting crops,

读书学写字 Reading books and learning to write,

聪明本事大 With intelligence and high skills.

打开第二节 The Sky God opened up the second section,

出来是傣族 Out came the Dai.

傣族办法好 The Dai had good techniques,

来种白棉花 Planting white cotton.

打开第三节 The Sky God opened up the third section,

出来是彝族 Out came the Yi.

彝族是小儿 The Yi were children,

住在大山里 Living in the big mountains,

盘田种庄稼 Tilling fields and planting crops.

打开第四节 The Sky God opened up the fourth section,

出来傈僳族 Out came the Lisu.

傈僳力气大 The Lisu were strong,

出力背盐巴 Putting in effort to carry salt.

打开第五节 The Sky God opened up the fifth section,

出来是苗族 Out came the Miao.

苗族入强壮 The Miao were strong,

住在高山上 Living in the high mountains,

他们会撒麻 Spreading hemp seeds.

打开第六节 The Sky God opened up the sixth section,

出来是藏族 Out came the Tibetan,

藏族很勇敢 The Tibetans were very brave,

背弓打野兽 Carrying bows to hunt wild animals.

打开第七节 The Sky God opened up the seventh section,

出来是白族 Out came the Bai,

白族人手巧 The Bai had skilful hands,

羊毛擀毡子 Rolling wool into felt,

纺线弹棉花 Spinning yarn and cotton,

打开第八节 The Sky God opened up the eighth section,

出来是回族 Out came the Hui.

回族忌猪肉 The Hui abstained from pork,

养牛吃牛肉 raising cattle and eating beef.

天神开葫芦 The Sky God opened up the gourd,

打开第九节 opening up the ninth section,

出来纳西族 Out came the Naxi,

纳西信神灵 The Naxi believed in divinities,

崇拜大自然 Worshipping nature.

打开第十节 The Sky God opened up the tenth section,

出来哈尼族 Out came the Hani.

哈尼信多神 The Hani believed in many gods,

又崇拜祖先 Also worshipping ancestors.

开第十一节 The Sky God opened up the eleventh section,

出来拉祜族 Out came the Lahu.

拉祜拜葫芦 The Lahu worshipped the gourd.

猎虎的民族 They were a tiger-hunting ethnic group.

开第十二节 The Sky God opened up the twelfth section,

出来是佤族 Out came the Wa.

佤族崇拜火 The Wa worshipped fire,

钻木来取火 Making fire by drilling wood.

民族出来了 So, the ethnic groups were came out.

分工形成了 And the division of labour was formed.

人种长久了 Humans endured.

人类耕种了 Humans farmed.

人类狩猎了 Humans hunted.

人类畜牧了 Humans raised livestock.

人类兴旺了 Humans came to thrive.

第四章 植物的起源

The origins of the plants

找到了人种 The seeds of humans were found,

人类怎么住 How did humans live?

盖房用树木 They built houses with trees.

起屋需木料 They built houses with timber.

说树的来历 Where did trees come from?

讲树的出地 Where did trees come from?

贡旧平坝子 They came from a piece of old flat land.

树王大坝子 They came from a vast expanse of land with the
King tree growing on it

是长树的地 That was the land where trees came from,

是出树的方 That was the land where trees grew up.

远古的时候 In ancient times,

杀虎的时代 In the era of slaying tigers,

硬毛变树林 The tigers' hard fur turned into forests,

软毛成花草 And the tigers' soft fur turned into flowers and
grass.

天神开天门 The god opened the gates of heaven

放下了树种 Sowing the tree seeds.

天神撒树种 The god sowed the tree seeds

树种没撒成 But he did not succeed.

撒下三把荞 The god sowed three handfuls of buckwheat
instead,

落向三个方 Falling down in three different directions,

落在杨树下 Falling under the poplar trees.

天神撒树种 Again, the god sowed the tree seeds,

树种没撒成 But he did not succeed.

撒三把玉米 The god sowed three handfuls of corn instead,

落向三个方 Falling down in three different directions,

茅草跟脚下 Falling under the roots of thatch grass.

天神撒树种 Again, the god sowed the tree seeds,

树种没撒成 But he did not succeed.

撒三把谷子 The God sowed three handfuls of grain instead,

落向三个方 Falling down in three different directions,

芦苇草脚下 Falling under the roots of reed grass

天神撒树种 Again, the god sowed the tree seeds.

撒三把树种 He sowed three handfuls of tree seeds,

落向三个方 Falling down in three different directions,

落在海中央 Falling into the middle of sea.

被云彩挡住 The tree seeds were blocked by the clouds,

被彩云托住 The tree seeds were held up by the clouds

树种没落下 So the tree seeds did not fall down.

还要摇树种 And the god wanted to find someone to shake the
tree seeds.

柳鑫珣笱是 Liuxinxunxeshi,

是她的大名 That is her distinguished name,

祠曦麽媞麦 Ciximoruomai,

是她的奶名 That is her nursing name,

她来摇树种 She came to shake the tree seeds.

树种摇下来 The tree seeds were shaken down,

落在大海边 Falling by the seaside,

土肥水充足 Where the soil was fertile and water was abundant.

祠曦麽媯麦 Ciximoruomai.

春风直直吹 The spring breeze blowed straight,

树种落到地 The tree seeds fell to the ground.

春风横着吹 The spring breeze blowed across,

尘埃盖树种 The tree seeds were covered with dust.

六七月份里 In the months of June and July,

秋雨绵绵下 The autumn rain falls gently,

滋润着大地 Nourishing the earth,

树种得水了 And so the tree seeds were watered.

树种发了芽 The tree seeds sprouted

只长出一苗 Only a single seedling

只长起一棵 And this grew into a single tree.

看了看树干 Looking at the tree trunk,

树干有九围 The trunk was nine spans around.

看了看树叶 Looking at the leaves,

树叶有九拏 The leaves spanned nine palm widths.

看了看树梢 Looking at the treetop,

九十九丈高 The treetop was ninety-nine Zhang tall.

参天大树前 In front of this towering tree,

人显很渺小 Humans appeared so insignificant.

人们都在想 Humans were thinking,

这大一棵树”Such a grand tree!

是否是怪树 Is it a strange tree?”

人们都在讲 Humans were saying,

拿把刀子来”Bring a knife over,

要把树砍了 This strange tree must be chopped down.”

扎宝有三儿 Zhabao has three sons.

扎宝儿子说 Zhabao’s sons said,

它是棵种树 “It is a tree of species,

大地没长草 The earth did not grow grass,

大地没长树 The earth did not grow trees,

到处是荒漠 Everywhere was a wasteland,

到处是荒凉 Everywhere was desolate,

不能把树砍 The tree cannot be cut down,

需留做树种 The tree should be kept for tree seeds

好大一棵树 Such a grand tree.”

树上果实满 The fruits on the tree were abundant,

三天时间里 But in the span of three days,

果实全没了 All the fruits were gone.

阿雉有三千 There were three thousand pheasants

雉儿有三群 Who formed three flocks.

树上的果实 The fruits on the tree

被它们吃完 Were all eaten up by the pheasants.

树上的果实 The fruits on the tree

被它们吃尽 Were all eaten up by the pheasants.

树种被吃完 The tree seeds were completely eaten up.

在这天地间 In this world,

再也没树种 No more tree seeds exist,

阿雉群鸟来 Because the flock of pheasants came,

把树种吃完 And the tree seeds were completely eaten up.

只能去射鸟 Zhabao had to shoot the birds

射鸟用弓箭 With a bow and arrows.

把弓做起来 So Zhabao made a bow,

把鸟射下来 And Zhabao shot down the birds.

扎宝小儿子 Zhabao's youngest son

吉大牛王山 Went to the Ji Da Bull King Mountain,

拿牛角当弓 Where he used a bull's horn as a bow.

斗门蔚礮箐 Doumenweiqing

拿倒刺当箭 He used a barb as an arrow,

滋玛狗顶山 Zimadoudingshan,

凤凰牡丹山 On the Phoenix and Peony mountain,

昆仑山顶上 On the top of Kunlun Mountain,

马尾做弓弦 Horsehair was used for the bowstring,

弓箭做成了 And so the bow and arrows were made.

额松左撇儿 E Song was a left-handed son,

右手用在前 His right hand forward,

左手使在后 His left hand behind.

达查山顶上 Da Cha was on top of the mountain

射了三支箭 And shot three arrows.

射箭的声音 The sound of the shooting

震九十九山 Shook ninety-nine mountains.

达查深箐底 Da Cha went to the bottom of the dense thickets,

射了三支箭 And shot three arrows.

射箭的声音 The sound of the shooting

荡七十七箐 Swayed seventy-seven thickets.

弓箭做好了 The bow and arrows were made.

额松左撇儿 E Song was a left-handed son.

他试好弓箭 He tested the bow and arrows.

交给学泼儿 He gave them to Xue Po

他们会打鸟 Xuepo shot birds,

打鸟唧唧叫 And the birds chirped as they were shot .

鸟儿啪啪落 The birds fell with a flap,

鸟儿打下来 The birds were shot down,

鸟儿落下地 Falling on the ground.

鸟儿射下来 The birds were shot down,

落在坝子里 Falling on the flat ground.

鸟儿落下来 The birds were shot down,

落在荒地里 Falling on the wasteland.

鸟落在对面 Falling on the opposite side,

鸟落在对岸 Falling on the opposite shore.

巴拉有三儿 Ba La had three children

是捡鸟的儿 They were the boys who picked up the birds,

是拾鸟的女 They were the girls who picked up the birds

种在嗦袋里 The tree seeds were stored in the birds' crops.

学颇有三儿 Xuepo had three children

用箭的尖角 They used the sharp end of the arrow

划开鸟嗦袋 To slit the birds' crops

鸟嗦子袋里 Inside the birds' crops

树种有九担 There were nine loads of tree seeds.

鸟住石洞里 The birds lived in stone caves,

有九十九担 There were ninety-nine loads.

看见了树种 They found the tree seeds.

阿热莫若麦 Aremoruomai,

嘴巴来做升 Used her mouth as the measuring unit,

她来量树种 Used her mouth to measure the tree seeds.

鸟的嗦子袋 The birds' crops,

装树种的袋 Were the bags holding the tree seeds.

树种量好了 The tree seeds were measured.

树种装好了 The tree seeds were packed.

树种没有泡 But the tree seeds were not soaked,

种不会发芽 So the tree seeds would not sprout.

山箐小石盆 Small stone basins in the mountain thicket,

山沟小土塘 Small mud ponds in the mountain gully,

石盆十二盆 Twelve stone basins,

土塘十二塘 Twelve mud ponds.

泡树种的盆 These were the stone basins for soaking tree seeds ,

泡树种的塘 These were the mud ponds for soaking tree seeds.

龙水十二条 Twelve streams of water,

春季春雨龙 Brought by the spring rain dragon in the spring.

春雨绵绵下 The spring rain fell gently,

落在石盆里 Falling into the stone basins,

落在土塘里 Falling into the mud ponds,

泡树种的水 To became the water for soaking the tree seeds.

二十一天后 Twenty-one days later

树种发芽了 The tree seeds sprouted.

可以撒树种 It was time to sow the tree seeds.

额松左撇儿 E Song's left-handed son

是撒树种人 Came to sow the tree seeds.

四方撒下来 He sowed the tree seeds in all directions.

中央撒一把 A handful in the centre,

四面八方长 Growing in all directions,

在这天地间 In this world.

树种撒满了 The tree seeds were spread everywhere,

野猪牙儿长 Wild boars with long tusks,

靠拱来觅食 Foraged by digging.

火烧莫女子 Huoshaomonvzi,

是间苗的儿 They were the sons who spaced the seedlings,

是薅苗的女 They were the daughters who weeded the
seedlings.

树苗间好了 And so the tree seedlings were spaced,

树苗薅好了 And the tree seedlings were weeded.

看了看树梢 They looked at the tree tops,

树梢蔫萎了 And the tree tops were withered.

看了看树叶 They looked at the tree leaves

树叶发黄了 And the tree leaves turned yellow.

树苗生病了 The tree seedlings were sick.

要找个医生 They needed a doctor,

需给树治病 To look at the tree's illness

代来莫女子 Dailaimonvzi,

她来医树病 She came to cure the trees' disease,

树病医好了 The trees were cured

树苗长大了 The seedlings grew big

树叶长绿了 And their leaves turned green.

狠劲往上长 Their trunks grew upwards speedily

眼看不对头 And as they grew they became problematic,

越大越不妥 And increasingly uncontrollable.

怕把天戳穿 So that it was feared that they might pierce the sky.

树长得太密 The trees became increasingly dense,

巴拉飞不过 So that it was feared that birds could not fly over
them,

野猪钻不通 And that wild boars could not get through them.

找个压树儿 Therefore they needed someone to suppress the
trees,

把树压下去 They needed someone to suppress the trees.

雪山莫女子 Snow mountain Mo Ruo Mai,

是压树的女 She was the girl who suppressed the trees.

来放三场雪 She brought three rounds of snow,

来放三回雪 She brought three rounds of snow.

把树压下了 And so the trees were pressed down,

把树压弯了 The trees was pressed down.

天上的飞禽 Birds in the sky

可以栖息了 Could now perch on the trees.

地上的野猪 Wild boars on the ground

可以喂奶了 Could now nurse their young by the trees.

树都一样高 All the trees were of the same height.

树都一样大 All the trees were of the same size.

请太白星君 They invited the the god Tai Bai,

骑九尺高骡 Riding a nine-foot-tall mule,

左手拿玉棍 With a jade stick in the left hand,

右手托托盘 With a tray in the right hand.

树梢打三棍 Tai Bai struck the tree tops three times,

分出树高低 To differentiate the heights of the trees

树腰打三棍 Tai Bai struck the middle of the trees three times,

分出树粗细 To differentiate the thickness of the trees.

公树长扁叶 Male trees grew flat leaves,

母树长椭圆叶 Female trees grew oval leaves.

树儿分出来 And thus the trees were distinguished.