Preface

On the front cover of this book is an illustration of the Caijia people, an excerpt from Mán Miáo Tú Shuō [A picture book of Hmong] compiled by Chen Hao during 1796-1820 in the Qing Dynasty of China. A brief description about Caijia customs is provided in this illustration.

蔡家苗在贵筑修文清镇威宁平远等州县，男子衣毡衣，女则制毡为髻，缘饰青布，髧尺许，若牛角，以长簪绾之，翁媳不通言，居丧三月不食稻肉，惟饭稗粥，犹存古礼，夫死以妇殉，若外家抢去则免

Càijiā miáo zài guìzhù, xiūwén, qīngzhèn, wēiníng, píngyuǎn dēng zhōu xiàn, nánzǐ yì zhānyì, nǚ zé zhì zhān wéi jì, yuán shī qīng bù, gāo chǐ xǔ, ruò niújiǎo, yǐ cháng zǎn wǎn zhī, wēng xì bù tōng yán, jū sāng sān yuè bù shí dào ròu, wéi fàn bàizhōu, yǒu cún gǔ lǐ, fū sǐ yǐ fù xún, ruò wàijīa qiǎngqù zé miǎn.

Hmong people of Caijia are distributed across Guizhu, Xiuwen, Qingzen, Weining, Pingyuan. The Caijia men wear clothes made of felt. Each Caijia woman uses felt to make a bun several inches' high in the shape of horn on the top of her head, which is decorated with a blue cloth and is fixed by a long hairpin. Daughters-in-law and their fathers-in-law are not supposed to speak with each other. The people of Caijia follow ancient rituals. They do not eat rice or meat during the three months of mourning but are only allowed to have millet porridge. A Caijia woman is not supposed to live alone, once her husband dies. She should follow her husband in death, unless she is taken away by a member of her parents' family.

The original copy of Mán Miáo Tú Shuō is now archived in the Waseda University Library and the digital copy can be accessed in the Kotenseki Sogo Database (Japanese & Chinese Classics).

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