

Sacrifice to Fire

Celebrate a New Year on New Year's eve; sacrifice to fire on a New Month's eve. -- Yi proverb

Come sacrifice to fire!

Come sacrifice to fire!

Come sacrifice to fire!

In those remote, ancient times,

Life-essence, *ni jju*, dropped from the skies

Settling onto earth;

Transforming into raging fires,

Burning nine days, from dawn to dusk;

Burning nine nights, from dusk to dawn,

Burning to transform into living beings;

Burning to transform into living souls.

Could the fires become living beings?

Could the fires become living souls?

The fires burned to transform into ancestors.

The fires burned to transform into forebears.

Could they transform into ancestors?

Could they transform into forebears?

Cherished proverbs of the elders are gathered and bundled;

The origin of fire is the birth of human culture.

The Origins, transmitted by fathers, are more precious than gold;

Those *Histories*, transmitted by mothers, are more precious than silver.

Beauty is *ashi*, fire!

The fires devour both man and beast;

Beauty is *ashi*, such beauty!

New Year's eve is a celebration, a celebration of fire,

New Month's eve is a sacrifice, a sacrifice to fire.

Come sacrifice to fire!

Come sacrifice to fire!

Come sacrifice to fire!

Earth and sky together sacrifice;

Animals and humans together sacrifice.

Fire's life is indebted to life, likewise

Life's life is indebted to fire.

The sun is indebted to the moon, likewise

The moon is indebted to the sun.

Those fathers owing debts to sons will be repaid;

A debt owed by sons to fathers will be paid;

Those mothers owing debts to daughters will be repaid;
A debt owed by daughters to mothers will be repaid.

What a wife owes a husband will be repaid;
What a husband owes a wife will be repaid.
Debts of city and countryside mutually repaid;
Debts both foreign and domestic mutually repaid.

Come sacrifice to fire, come sacrifice to fire!
It is time humans repay their debts;
It is time that beasts repay their debts.
This and that language owe a debt to each other;
It is time to repay the debts between words.
It is time nations repay mutual debts;
It is time to repay the debts of this era.
This love and that love owe mutual debts;
This hatred and that hatred owe mutual debts;
Whether this law and that law, mutual debts must be repaid.

Come sacrifice to fire!
Come sacrifice to fire!

Sacrifice on Ninth day of Pig Month, Ninth day of Dark Month

Hear this: Auspicious times and days are not to be chosen.
Eggs will not be cracked,
Horseflies will not bite,
Humankind's original sins,
Will be judged by thunder;
If the sky has committed crimes,
Then torches raised by humans will enlighten the sky.

Come sacrifice to fire!
Come sacrifice to fire!

The mountain gods must sacrifice this way,
The demons and monsters must sacrifice this way,
White, black, yellow, and red ones must sacrifice this way;
Sunyi and *bimo* ritualists are indebted to the common folk,
all must sacrifice this way;
Common folk are indebted to the *sunyi* and *bimo*,
All must sacrifice this way.
Demons are indebted to demons,
all must sacrifice this way;
Ritualists are indebted to ritualists,
all must sacrifice this way.

Sacrifice, sacrifice, sacrifice!

Sacrifice, sacrifice, sacrifice!

Sacrifice, sacrifice, sacrifice!

Let's sacrifice to fire!

Let's sacrifice to fire!

Let's sacrifice to fire!

Burn the grass effigies of these harmful ghosts:

Burn the inner ghosts,

Burn the outer ghosts,

Burn the *nyi hmu* ghosts,

Burn the *li zzi* ghosts,

Burn the “root of sickness” ghost,

Burn the “origin of poison” ghost,

Burn the “root of poverty” ghost,

Burn the “bitter life” ghost,

Burn the “fierceness” ghost,

Burn “the slaughtering” ghost,

Burn the “huckster” ghost,

Burn the “cursing” ghost,

Burning the “vile-mouthed” ghost.

Burn, burn, burn!

Burn, burn, burn!

Burn, burn, burn!

To avoid the wrath of these vile ghosts,

Jy lu spirit, please settle down here,

Ku hxo spirit, please settle down here;

A boy's *ke po* spirit, please settle down here,

A girl's *ge fi* spirit, please settle down here.

So too, to avoid the wrath of these vile ghosts,

God of wealth, please don't settle here!

God of harvest, please don't settle here!

God of education, please don't settle here!

That being auspicious is reserved for the future;

A sense of gratification is reserved for the future.

Diligence and thrift are reserved for the future;

Humility is reserved for the future.

Confidence is reserved for the future;

Unity is reserved for the future.

Dignity is reserved for the future.

Sa, sa, sa be blessed,

Sa, sa, sa be blessed,

Sa, sa, sa be blessed.