

M354
Hua Miao spirit worship.
1. The Spirit Zu-gi-za and the ancestors. 3.

Compiled by Wang Ming-ji.

Notes.

This material is recorded in Document B pages 11 to 15.

Having reached the top of page 7 in his manuscript, that is M353 in the present transcription, Wang Ming-ji gives the impression that he had completed all that he had to say about the Spirit Zu-gi-za and the ancestors, and turned his attention to the second item on his list, the spirits bi-jio-a-su. However, on page 11, and without any explanation, he suddenly switched back to the Spirit Zu-gi-za, and continued on this theme to the end of page 15.

The reason may have been that, having completed his exposition, as he thought, he met a new informant with further material concerning the Spirit Zu-gi-za, and the subject had to be reopened.

In the present transcription these additional paragraphs, recorded in M354 are re-located to follow directly after the earlier material in M352 and M353.

The incantation headed ㄊㄨˊ ㄊㄢˋ ㄘㄩˋ, “divining sticks”, on page 8 of this transcription appears as an isolated entry, a kind of post-script, at the very end of Wang Ming-ji’s account of the Miao spirit worship on page 25 of Document B. In the present transcription it has been re-located to a more suitable context.

The incantation, which begins with the words ㄩˊ ㄆㄛˋ ㄊㄨˊ ㄉㄨˊ ㄊㄨˊ, “The zu-mu then intones”, on page 10 of the transcription, and concludes on to page 11, was not in Wang Ming-ji’s original manuscript. It was sent later in a note conveyed by his son Wang Jian-guo, and subsequently copied into Document B on page 31. The expression

ㄐㄨㄟ, ㄐㄨㄟ, which occurs three times in this incantation, means literally, “mixed, mixed” and refers to the token offering about to be made, consisting of rice, meat and wine. The significance of the exclamation is, “All is prepared”, hence the paraphrase in translation, “It is ready! It is ready!”