M355 Hua Miao spirit worship. 2. The spirits bi-jio-a-su.

Compiled by Wang Ming-ji

Bi-jio-a-su was the name given to the Shaman-healer's spirits. The bi-jio-a-su knew very well the thoughts of the Spirit Zu-gi-za, and they were well able to pacify him, but they had to have a human being's body as their house to live in, only then could they function. This kind of spirit had no house, no home, whether in caves or caverns, on mountains or in scrub land, in streams or in ponds; nowhere had it a place to live, because all places were occupied by the Spirit Zu-gi-za. (Explanation. These bi-jio-a-su spirits were of two kinds. The ones that took the form of birds or snakes, these were the ones which cured people's sickness. The ones which took the form of tigers and wolves, these were the ones which ill-wished people.) These spirits, in whatever family they were living, through all generations remained in that family only. They did not go to other Miao clans.