M356 Hua Miao spirit worship. 3. Bi-nzao.

Compiled by Wang Ming-ji.

This spirit is a sky power, a spirit which is able to make people very restless. It is lower than the Spirit Zu-gi-za, but it is present everywhere and in every place. (Whether it be old people, young men or young women, whoever whistles, blows leaves or sighs, as soon as anyone started doing this, the spirit comes and enters that person's body making him so restless that he might hang himself.) This spirit, from that time onwards, takes the soul of that person who has hanged himself and makes him into a horse to ride. It would ride him until this soul found and caused another person to hang himself. His soul then came and replaced the soul of the first person setting him free to go and join the souls of his parents. In this way the soul of a person who had hanged himself had to be the spirit's slave until one was caught to replace him. Only then could he escape and go to live with the souls of his mother and father.

Explanation. The shaman-healers' spirits and the bi-nzao, these two kinds of spirits, are both below the Spirit Zu-gi-za, but the shaman-healers' spirits bi-jio-a-su cannot overcome the bi-nzao. When, and if, he wanted to cure a person caught by a bi-nzao, the shaman-healer had first to trick the bi-nzao and then perform the ritual to cure the bi-nzao possession.