

M357
Hua Miao spirit worship.
Worship of the venerable and the old.

Compiled by Wang Ming-ji.

Notes.

This material is recorded in Document B page 9.

In Wang Ming-ji's manuscript this passage is inserted after his description of the spirits called Bi-nzao, to which, however, it is entirely unrelated. It bears the number "one" in words, and is followed by another detached piece marked "two". Neither appear in the list of subjects with which his description of the spirit worship begins (M351), and together they break the sequence outlined in that index. It looks as though the decision to include these two pieces was taken after the writing had commenced, and the new material was simply inserted at the point which had then been reached. Something similar seems to have happened in respect of those paragraphs which form the second half of Wang Ming-ji's discussion of the Spirit Zu-gi-za and the ancestors. (M354)

In the final paragraph the repeated cry 混, 混, means literally "mixed, mixed" and refers to the contents of the spoon, maize meal, meat and wine, about to be scattered over the rock or at the foot of the tree. The significance of the cry was, therefore, "all is prepared", hence the paraphrase, in translation, "It is ready! It is ready!"