

M358
Hua Miao spirit worship.
The worship of Drao-bo.

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The worship of drao-bo was the worship of the Hmao-dla, Hmao-ndlw and Hmao-dlu clans only. This originated at the time of the Elder Gi-chi. Hmao-dla was Hmao-dang's wife's brother. The two brothers-in-law took a dog and went hunting in the great forest of Ndu-zhi-di, when the wife's brother was taken ill on a hill covered in ash trees. Having no way of devoting anything to the spirits they took the dog and devoted that to every rock and tree on the mountain but to no avail. So they came and devoted it to the ash tree in the vicinity of their home, and the illness got better. Whereupon they took the dog and killed it in sacrifice to that tree. (When they devoted it to every rock and tree it was no good. Afterwards they devoted it to this particular ash tree and all was well.) When they reached the hill where the tree was, there they worshipped.

Hmao-dlu's father died early, so his mother married again into the Hmao-dla family. When her son was grown he came to enquire concerning the worship of the spirits at the Hmao-dlu family, but they were unwilling to teach him. He therefore learned the Hmao-dla worship instead. The mother of the Hmao-ndlw-dog clan had married into the Hmao-dlu-dog clan and so her son used the Hmao-dla worship. The names Hmao-dlu-dog and Hmao-ndlw-dog came about in this way. (The worship of the drao-bo is the worship of the drao-bo of these three clans only. It is not the drao-bo of any other Miao whatsoever.)