

**M360**  
**Hua Miao spirit worship.**  
**5. A-she.**

***Compiled by Wang Ming-ji.***

This kind of spirit borrowed the form of cats, snakes, or chicken, and came into the bodies of parents. This kind of spirit wanted only to take children of one or two years of age. When a child was still within its mother's body, not having yet been born, the a-she changed into a snake, a cat or a chicken and went to bite the child. This spirit wanted children only. It was the child still in its mother's womb and the child up to four or five months of age for whom there was the greatest fear of being bitten by an a-she. Children who were able to walk would still see the a-she, but only dimly. Infants could see these a-she but could not describe their appearance to adults. All they could do was to scream and kick. This being so, how was it that their appearance was known? It was because the parents saw them in dreams. If a parent dreamed that he had seen a snake, a cat or a chicken, then he had seen the appearance of an a-she.

These a-she, like the bi-nzao, were sky powers, but they out-stripped the bi-nzao. The shaman-healer could not control them, he could only trick them. The shaman-healer could not destroy these a-she.

Curing the a-she. When the shaman-healer went to gather the a-she, he would gather it and put it into a flask. When it was to be put in there, it was necessary for the parents and children each to scrape up a handful of dust and put it into the flask. Then they took blood from the inside of a cock's comb and put that in. This counted as putting in the a-she. When the shaman-healer took the flask to throw it away, if on that day he met with nobody on the road, the shaman healer would himself have trouble from the a-she.