

**M363**  
**Hua Miao Spirit Worship.**  
**8. Worship of the door a-nzhang.**

*Compiled by Wang Ming-ji.*

If, because of sickness, people wanted to worship the door a-nzhang on no account should there be any thunder. If there were thunder, they would have to devote the sacrifice until Dragon or Rabbit Month, and then it might be offered. However, the door a-nzhang could only be worshipped on an Ox-day or a Horse-day. Other days might not be used.

When the door a-nzhang was to be worshipped, it was necessary to kill a gilt which had no blemish at all. It had to be killed at the foot of the door, and then taken to the fire to remove the bristles. First the bristles were singed off, then a pit was dug under the door. When the meat and the intestines had been washed, all the water was poured into the pit. The meat was then boiled in a pot.

On the night when the door was worshipped, no Chinese person at all might be allowed to enter the house, and no word of Chinese might be spoken. If it should happen that a Chinese word was spoken it would invalidate the sacrifice.

When the meat was cooked the four trotters were cut off. Early in the morning, as it was getting light, the father rose and took the brothers to eat meat before going outside. This meat was called "zi". Sons might eat it, daughters did not eat it. When they had eaten the meat, the father went and opened the door and said,

Open that prosperity may come in,  
Close that calamity may be shut out.  
When the family, all its many members,  
Keep going and coming, do not be angry.