

**Miao spirits that were worshipped and those that caused
sickness**

9. Worship of the venerable and the old.

Compiled by Yang Yung-xin.

Every year in Horse-month and on Horse-day they used to worship. When they worshipped it was necessary to carry a chicken and bring a flask of wine, a person also carried a basin of maize meal as well. They went to worship together. Then, when they had eaten they dispersed.

On the Venerable Mountain, neither before nor afterwards, might trees be felled or firewood gathered. Only on the day of worship was tree felling permissible. If they were felled before or afterwards, there would certainly be sickness. If, however, they had been felled in ignorance, and the sickness came, it was necessary to carry a chicken and bring wine and worship at that time, then it would get well.

When they went to worship they would say,

Grandfather rock, Grandfather tree,
You live on high you can see clearly.

Do you take care of the children,
When the children go out,
And as they walk the rocky, the precipitous paths,
And as they walk through the waters.

From thieves and soldiers, tigers and wolves,
Do you defend them
And give them protection.

Next year on this day,
The children will bring,
Bring wine for you to drink,
Bring meat for you to eat.

(They then said, "It is ready! It is ready!" and the ritual was finished.) Having finished the worship, some wine was poured out and presented on the left side, an offering to the Spirit Zu-gi-za. So the requirements were fully complete.