

M376

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

12. Ndao-shu.

(shu is blood.)

Compiled by Yang Yung-xin.

This was the pollution of a house by a daughter and it had to be cleansed to put things right. The ritual was called “striking the blood”. The shaman-healer had to be brought. A dog was required and it was also necessary to set seven baskets or else nine baskets of “horse food”, together with a piece of cloth, four Chinese feet in length, for trousers, and one thousand two hundred cash as well. When the shaman-healer had arrived, seven lengths, or else nine lengths of hemp stalk had to be cut and tied up with red yarn. Seven lengths were bound with seven bands, nine lengths were bound with nine bands, and placed on a table in the middle of the house. With a brush, the dust in the room from front to back was swept to the table, there in the middle of the house. The shaman-healer took a hi-zhi, (a piece of bamboo split into four) and poked out anything under the bed or under the shelf, bringing it to the table. While stirring a basin of water, the shaman-healer recited at length an incantation. Two helpers who were with him, one leading the dog went ahead, the other carrying the chicken followed behind, going around the fireplace, three times to the right and three times to the left. Then another helper brought the washing dolly. According to the number of baskets he struck that number of times with the washing dolly. The head of the family might not speak, but only with his foot indicate the place where the child had been born. The father-in-law who had come to cleanse the house, would bring a felt cape and wrap up the child. He would spread the skirt of his gown and gather up the spirit of the child and the spirits of his descendants. He gathered up the blood also by wrapping up the dust. The shaman-healer went ahead leading the dog and carrying the chicken, and they all went outside together. When they had gone about one li, the father of the family would follow them, and they would smoke and drink wine together. Then each would go his own way, except that, if they had come by one road, when they returned, they would have to use another road.