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

2. Striking the bi-nzao.

Compiled by Yang Yung-xin.

People, whether men or women, if they had been influenced by a bi-nzao, would need the shaman-healer to be called to come and separate it, then they would be well. Striking the bi-nzao was variously described. Some said that it was “to strike” the bi-nzao, there were those who said it was “to break” the bi-nzao, and it was also said that it was “to separate” the bi-nzao.

When they were striking the bi-nzao, the methods which were used, varied. There was one kind where it was necessary to choose a very early morning. Without the knowledge of the person who was influenced, the shaman-healer would come outside and bring a slip-on boot, with which he would strike the person who was possessed by the bi-nzao, and then return. The patient was so startled that he would recover.

There was another kind for which it was necessary to choose an early morning, just at sunrise, and to prepare powdered arrowroot. When this was boiled together with some ferns and given to the person with the bi-nzao to drink, he would be well.

Then, in another case, it was necessary to take a chicken’s egg. This was tied up and hung on the branch of a peach tree. The shaman-healer shook a string of bells which caused the bi-nzao to come. When the egg began to move they took a knife and struck it. Then the sufferer would be well.