
Exorcisms

A LOOK AT CATHOLIC AND TIBETAN CONCEPTS

BY KYLE T. COBB JR.



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Acts 19:13-16

Aramaic Bible in Plain English

But there were also some Jewish men who were going around and were exorcists of demons, exorcising in the name of our Lord Yeshua over those who had a foul spirit in them, while saying, “We exorcise you in the name of Yeshua whom Paulus preaches.” But there were seven sons of a man who was a Jew, a Chief Priest, whose name was Sqewa, who were doing this, And that evil spirit answered and said to them, “I know Yeshua, and I know Paulus, but who are you?” And that man who had the evil spirit in him jumped upon them and overpowered them and threw them down, and when they were stripped and wounded, they fled from the house. And this became known to all the Jews and Aramaeans dwelling in Ephesus and great fear fell upon all of them, and the name of our Lord Yeshua The Messiah was exalted. Many of those who believed were coming and relating their wrongdoing, and they were confessing the things that they were doing. Many sorcerers also gathered their books and brought and burned them before everyone and they calculated their price, and it came up to fifty thousand silver pieces.

Gilgamesh

THE FIRST HISTORIC DEMONS

Gilgamesh

3 types of demons from Sumerian texts

- Disembodied human spirits
- Half-monster, half-human entities
- Non-human forces



Gilgamesh

Utukku- Sumerian and Babylonian demon that haunts barren places.



Alu (Gallu)- Bull of Heaven that hunts the night for souls.

Lilu -Prototype of incubus/succubus

- Believed to steal life-force
- Blames for crib death



Sumeria

FORMAL EXORCISMS

Sumerian contributions

- Developed first uniformed rituals
- Invoked names of demons
- Used animal surrogates
- Use of Purification spells

Invocation of names

- Attempted to learn names
- Would recite name to bind demon and force from host
- Who use list of common demons in lieu of name

Use of animals

- First use of pigs and sheep to bind demons
- Once demons in animals, animal would be killed to slay demon

Purification spells

- Standardized

Sumerian Exorcism

- Ritual black and white yarn is spun
- Placed around hosts bed with black on the left and white on the right
- God Asari-alim-nunna (Marduk) invoked
- Washed twice 7 times



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Jewish writings

MONOTHEIST IMPACT

Judges 9:23

- Demon as Agent of God

Young's Literal Translation

and God sendeth an evil spirit between Abimelech and the masters of Shechem, and the masters of Shechem deal treacherously with Abimelech,

King James Bible (Cambridge Ed.)

Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech:

שׁוֹפְטִים 9:23 Hebrew OT: Westminster Leningrad Codex

וַיִּשְׁלַח אֱלֹהִים רוּחַ רָעָה בֵּין אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ וּבֵין בְּעָלֵי שֵׁכֶם וַיִּבְגְּדוּ בְּעָלֵי-שֵׁכֶם בְּאַבְיִמֶלֶךְ׃

1 Samuel 16:14

- Demon as Agent of God

Young's Literal Translation

And the Spirit of Jehovah
turned aside from Saul, and
a spirit of sadness from
Jehovah terrified him;

King James Bible (Cambridge Ed.)

But the Spirit of the LORD
departed from Saul, and an
evil spirit from the LORD
troubled him.

שׁוֹפְטִים 9:23 Hebrew OT: Westminster Leningrad Codex

וְרוּחַ יְהוָה סָרָה מֵעַם שָׁאֹל וּבָעֲתָתוֹ רוּחַ רָעָה מֵאֵת יְהוָה:

Christian New Testament

DEFINING EVIL



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Matthew 4:24

Aramaic Bible in Plain English

And his fame was heard in all Syria, and they brought to him all those who had become ill with various diseases, those who were afflicted with severe pain, and the demon possessed, and lunatics and paralytics, and he healed them.

King James Bible (Cambridge Ed.)

And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

Mark 1:23-27

Aramaic Bible in Plain English

And in their synagogue there was a man who had a vile spirit in him, and he cried out And he said, “What business do we have with you, Yeshua the Nazarene? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, The Holy One of God.” And Yeshua rebuked him and said, “Shut your mouth and come out of him.” And the foul spirit threw him down and he cried out in a loud voice and came out of him. And all of them marveled and they were inquiring with one another, saying, “What is this?”, and “What is this new teaching? For he commands even the foul spirits with authority and they obey him.”

King James Bible (Cambridge Ed.)

And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him. And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

Eastern Demons

DEFINING EVIL

Mahishasura

- No male could kill him.
- Led an army against the gods and defeated them.
- Gods' anger created the goddess Durga.
- Durga eventually cuts off the head of Mihisha



Rakshasa: Mahabharata



- The Rakshasa live in the jungle and dining on travelers
- Female demoness scout falls in love with Bhima.
- Warns Bhima of the Rakshasa attack
- The demons attack and are ultimately defeated.

Japanese- Oni



Tibetan
Grul-dzul



Definition

FINDING A DEMON

Demon Generic Definition

- Not previously been a human.
- Outward manifestation beyond the explainable abilities of an associated host.
- Limited power and therefore at a lower level than a primary deity.
- Not exhibiting normal symptoms of a scientifically definable physical or mental disease.

Demon Definition using 5 characteristics

- Will
- Emotion
- Intellect
- Self-Awareness
- Speech

The Christian Charge

FIGHTING DEMONS

Mark 6:7

Aramaic Bible in Plain English

And he called his twelve and he began to send them two by two and he gave them authority over vile spirits to cast them out.

King James Bible (Cambridge Ed.)

And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

Mark 9:38-41

Aramaic Bible in Plain English

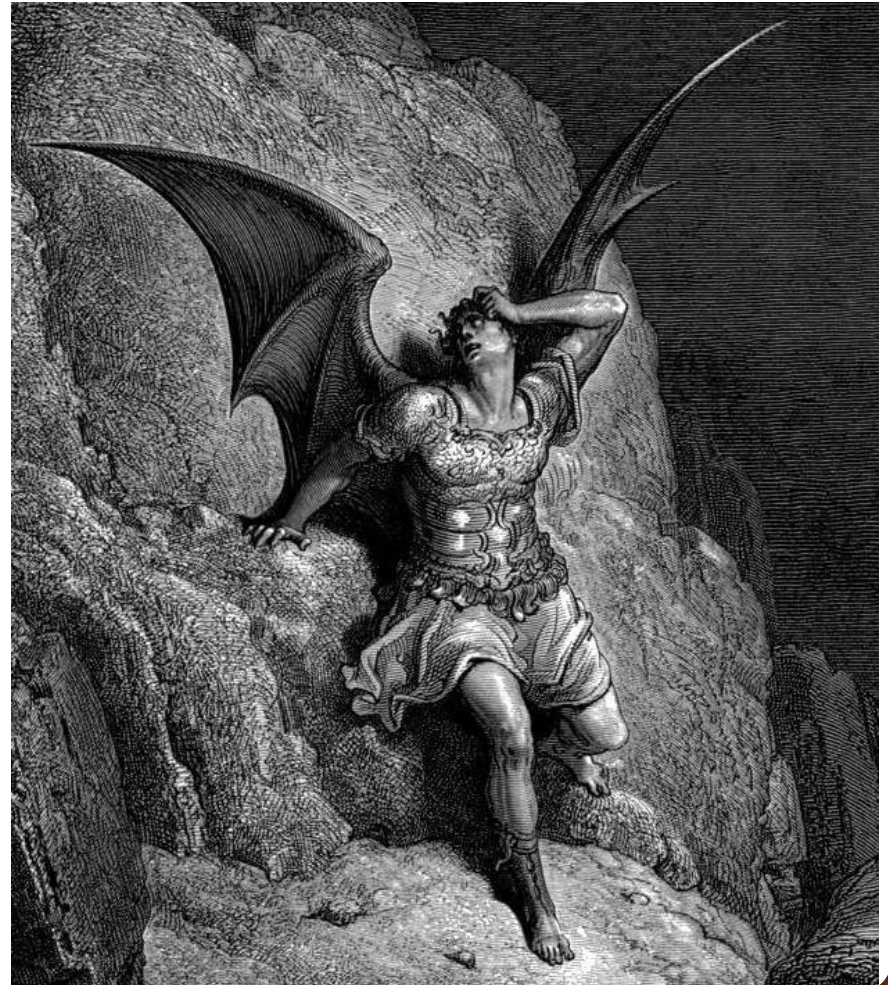
Yohannan said to him, “Rabbi, we saw a man casting out demons in your name, and we forbade him because he did not go out with us.” Yeshua said to them, “Do not forbid him, for there is no man who does a powerful work in my name and can soon speak badly about me.” “Whoever therefore is not against you is for you.” But everyone who will give you only a cup of water to drink in the name that you are one who belongs to The Messiah, amen, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”

King James Bible (Cambridge Ed.)

And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbad him, because he followeth not us. But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part. For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.

3 terms for spirits in New Testament:

- Demon
- Unclean spirit
- Evil spirit



3 ancient Greek religious hierarchies:

- Theos θεοί (theoi plural)
 - The Titans or Olympians
- Daimon δαίμων
 - Nymphs, satyrs or divine heroes
- Daimonions δαιμόνια
 - Inspiration spirits



Terms in New Testament:

- Daimon, only appears once , in Matthew 8:31
- Daimonion is found at least 60 times.
- unclean spirit πνεῦμα ἀκάθαρτον is used about 20 times in Luke , Acts and Revelations
- Evil Spirits πνευμάτων πονηρῶν is used 6 times in Luke and Acts.

Terms in New Testament:

- One use of two of these terms combined in Luke 4:33
- “spirit of an unclean demon.”
- πνεῦμα δαιμονίου ἀκαθάρτου

Terms in New Testament:

Daimonizo

- English translations have changed this verb into meaning “to possessed by a demon.”
- Real meaning “to be influenced by a demon.”

Terms in New Testament:

- ekballo ἐκβάλλει
 - means “to push out”
- exorkizo ἐξορκιστῶν (or exorcism) meaning to “adjure or command”
 - only once in the New Testament
 - Acts 19:13
 - used when referring to non-Christians expelling demons.

Exorcism as a Catholic Rite

THE CEREMONY

Exorcism

- First added to the Baptism Rite around 200 A.D.

Pre Roman Ritual:

Defined Prayers

- Sacramentaries- Pre-Middle ages prayer books
- Missals- Middle Ages prayer book expanded as to include portions of the ceremonies.



Pre Roman Ritual:

16th Century Papal Missals

- The 1523 Sacerdotale of Castellani divided rituals into 3 parts: Sacraments, blessings and processions.
- The 1579 Sacerdotale of Samarini created an official Roman edition of Castenllani
- The 1602 Rituale of Santorius added the administration of the Sacraments.

The Rituale Romanum of 1614

- Pope Paul V
(1605-1621)
- In place prior to
June 17, 1614
- Catholic
Standard for over
400 years.



The Rituale Romanum of 1614

Rite of Exorcism

- 11 prayers
- 17 biblical text
- last 20-25 minutes
- repeated over and over
- One session will last between 2- 12 hours.

The Rituale Romanum of 1614: Rite of Exorcism

The Priest is charged:

- not believe too readily that a person is possessed by an evil spirit; but he ought to ascertain the signs by which a person possessed can be distinguished from one who is suffering from some illness, especially one of a psychological nature.



The Rituale Romanum of 1614: Rite of Exorcism

Signs of Possession:

- ability to speak with some facility in a strange tongue or to understand it when spoken by another
- the faculty of divulging future and hidden events
- display of powers which are beyond the subject's age and natural condition
- various other indications which, when taken together as a whole, build up the evidence.



The Rituale Romanum of 1614: Rite of Exorcism

Signs of Possession:

The evidence must prove beyond all reason and earthly explanation that the person is possessed by a demonic spirit.



The Rituale Romanum of 1614: Rite of Exorcism

Requirements of the Priest:

- be properly distinguished for his piety, prudence, and integrity of life.
- fulfill this devout undertaking in all constancy and humility, being utterly immune to any striving for human aggrandizement, and relying, not on his own, but on the divine power.
- be of mature years, and revered not alone for his office but for his moral qualities.
- study of the matter... by examining approved authors and cases from experience.

The Rituale Romanum of 1614: Rite of Exorcism

Requirements of the Priest:

- engage in prayer and fasting as he asks for the Lord's assistance.
- should first go to confession, or at least, elicit an act of contrition, and, if convenient, offer the holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and implore God's help in other fervent prayers
- vests in surplice and purple stole.

The Rituale Romanum of 1614: Rite of Exorcism

Preparing for the Exorcism:

- It should be conducted in a church or holy ground. Only if the person is ill can the exorcism be done in a private home.
- The priest should hold a crucifix in his hand (or have one in sight). If a Holy relic is available, it may be used.

The Rituale Romanum of 1614: Rite of Exorcism

Preparing for the Exorcism:

- The priest should not engage in casual conversation and should order the demon to be silent. Questions the priest must ask:
 - the number and name of the spirits inhabiting the patient
 - the time when they entered into him
 - the cause thereof

The Rituale Romanum of 1614: Rite of Exorcism

Preparing for the Exorcism:

- When performing an exorcism on a woman, there should be women of good repute participating in the Rite.
- The priest should use words from the Holy Writ and not his own.

The Rituale Romanum of 1614: Rite of Exorcism

The Priest Commands:

- “unclean spirit, whoever you are, along with all your minions now attacking this servant of God, by the mysteries of the incarnation, passion, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, by the descent of the Holy Spirit, by the coming of our Lord for judgment, that you tell me by some sign your name, and the day and hour of your departure. I command you, moreover, to obey me to the letter, I who am a minister of God despite my unworthiness; nor shall you be emboldened to harm in any way this creature of God, or the bystanders, or any of their possessions.”



The Rituale Romanum of 1614: Rite of Exorcism

The First Exorcism:

- I cast you out, unclean spirit, along with every satanic power of the enemy, every spectre from hell, and all your fell companions; in the name of our Lord Jesus + Christ Begone and stay far from this creature of God... +



The Rituale Romanum of 1614: Rite of Exorcism

The Second Exorcism:

- ...Depart, then, + impious one, depart, + accursed one, depart with all your deceits, for God has willed that man should be His temple. Why do you still linger here? Give honor to God the Father + almighty, before whom every knee must bow. Give place to the Lord Jesus + Christ, who shed His most precious blood for man. Give place to the Holy + Spirit, who by His blessed apostle Peter openly struck you down in the person of Simon Magus...



The Rituale Romanum of 1614: Rite of Exorcism

The Second Exorcism:

- the ceremony takes about 25 minutes if the exorcism portion is done once.
- The intent is that the exorcism is repeated many times
- it is not uncommon for a session to last 12 hours or more.



Exorcisms of Tibet and Nepal

THE NATURE OF THE BEASTS

Tibetan terms:

- Bdud- Demon
- Gto- Expel
- Bardo-State between ghost world, reincarnation and Nirvana.

Tibet spirits

- Ser na- “yellow nose”- hungry ghost that possess living to feed.

Tibet- 4 ways to stop a spirit

- Use of a phurba
- Spirit traps to protect the home
- Gouduojie festival rituals
- Direct exorcism



Tibet- spirit trap

- Yarn spindle mounted to the outside of a house or to a tree
- Colored interwoven yarns catch the attention of spirits.



Tibet- spirit trap



- Spirit becomes fascinated with the colors and is trapped within
- Spindle is then burned to destroy the spirits inside.

Tibet- Detection a possession

rnam-rtog ceremony

- The enticement... “Come swim in the lake...”
- The destructive part... “May you be carried away in the landslide...”
- Obey and prosper. Defy and be destroyed.

Tibet- Detection a possession

- construction of an effigy on the victim
- Blood or red wine is poured over the effigy as a red offering.
- chant... “Take the meat and go...”



Tibet Sri Demons



- Escaped inhabitants of the Gurung underworld of Khro-nasa.
- Dough animal effigies are placed in a tray with a thin layer of white ash then covered by black ash.
- A dog's skull is used to hold the trapped demons.

Tibet “death demons”

- za-dre kha sgyur ceremony
- “If you disobey Phyag-na rDo-rje, he will split your head! He will chop up your body and send down a rain of weapons and turn you to dust! Instead it is better that you leave!”
- A special phurba forces the demon out of the spirit world to a “higher rebirth” or the demon is destroyed.



Tibet

Nag-po mgo gsum



- 3-headed black demon
- Performed annually demon will periodically return.
- Effigy of the demon's host used to trap the demon

Tibet

Nag-po mgo gsum

- Effigy is threatened.
- Chants draw other demons into construct trap.
- Trap is then placed at a crossroad to ward off any traveling demons



Tibet

God, severance rite



- Demon asked to enter and feast on the body of performer.
- Goddess Ma-gcig slab-sgron (ma-cig lab-dron) invoked to cut up the body and distribute it among swarms of demons.
- When satiated, they leave and take the anger, passion, ignorance and ego.

Man Chinni Exorcism



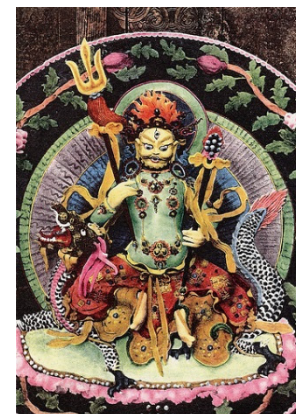
THE RITUAL

Tibet and Nepal Man Chinni Exorcism



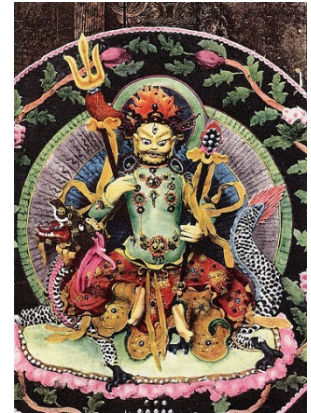
- A Man Chinni exorcism is typically used when it is determined that a bad spirit has possessed a victim, causing anti-social behavior or unusual physical complaints.

Tibet and Nepal Man Chinni Exorcism



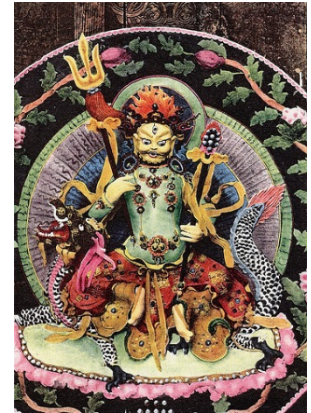
- Man refers to the heart/mind and loosely translates as Consciousness, Imagination or spirit-soul. In terms of the Man Chinni, "Chinni" is a verb (chinninu) and in this case it means "to break apart" or "to untie, sever, or cut through."
- In combination, Man Chinni means to sever the hold of the malevolent spirit from the patient's soul.

Tibet and Nepal Man Chinni Exorcism



- Laagu Chaapya occurs when a malevolent spirit (laagu) holds onto or sticks to heart-mind of a person.
- Laagu is a broad diagnosis category that includes all types of malevolent spirits causing a person to suffer. Generally, these demons are believed to be kept as pets by sorcerers that “feed” and keep them.

Tibet and Nepal Man Chinni Exorcism



Four primary ritual acts included:

- Identifying the source of the problem.
- Severing the hold of the spirit
- Transferring the spirit into a surrogate
- Returning the spirit to its proper place.

Tibet and Nepal Man Chinni Exorcism



Shamans's altar called an asan includes:

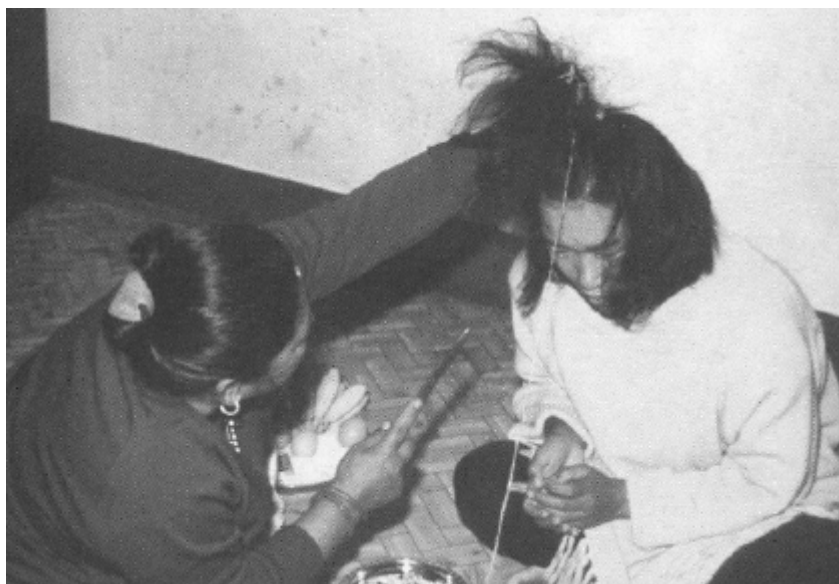
- an incense bowl
- a candle
- a water vessel
- some alcoholic beverage in a vase
- a metal tray of rice
- a phurba
- a kun lung (thighbone trumpet)
- a mala (rosary)

Tibet and Nepal
Man Chinni Exorcism

“Come here now.
Don't be shy.
Who are you?
Why are you
bothering this
person?”



Tibet and Nepal Man Chinni Exorcism



Speak now. Shame on you for spoiling the person... If you don't tell us what we want to learn, I will put hot coals in your mouth... If you do not talk now, you will never talk again... You will suffer so much, you will welcome death.

Tibet and Nepal Man Chinni Exorcism

- The Shaman will then try to force the demon into the shaman's body. This is done through ritual gestures. She touches the handle of the drum to the possessed's head or heart area. The shaman then does the same to themselves.



Tibet and Nepal Man Chinni Exorcism

“Who is your guru? Who sent you? Who coerced you to spoil others? Who is causing you to confuse this child and make her run back and forth? Who is that one? Where does she live? I know you do not like anyone. You feel alone. But if you do not speak, you are sinning. Open your heart. Open your mouth. It is my work to make you speak up. You know so much... Why not tell me one thing?”

Tibet and Nepal Man Chinni Exorcism



Wake up. Wake up.
Why rest? Has your
guru told you not to
speak? What do you
want to eat? I will give it
to you. Tell me fast.
Who are you?

Tibet and Nepal Man Chinni Exorcism

Second Stage

To bind the statue to the possessed, the victim's finger nail cuttings from each finger and toe are added to the mixture.

Additionally a lock of hair and string from the victim's clothes are added to the statue.



Tibet and Nepal
Man Chinni Exorcism

Rainbow Bridge to the Putla

- The White strings are connected to the patient giving it bones.
- Red strings give it blood.
- Yellow brings flesh.
- Green serves as hair.
- Blue is the breath of the patient.

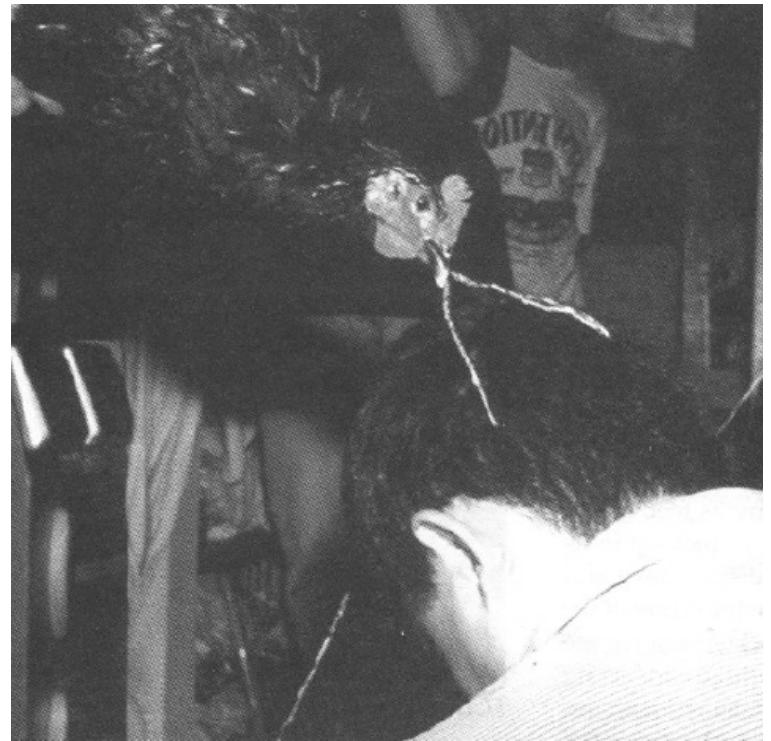
Tibet and Nepal Man Chinni Exorcism



- The chicken is swung by the feet from above the possessed's head to the putla repeatedly.
- With these motions, the demon is transferred to statue.

Tibet and Nepal Man Chinni Exorcism

“From body to body,
from blood to blood,
from bone to bone,
stomach to stomach,
lungs to lungs.”



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