



Quest for Harmony: The Moso Traditions of Sexual Union and Family Life.

Chuan-kang Shih

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In this long-awaited ethnography, Chuan-kang Shih details the traditional social and cultural conditions of the Moso, a matrilineal group living on the border of Yunnan and Sichuan Provinces in southwest China. Among the Moso, a majority of the adult population practice a visiting system called *tisese* instead of marriage as the normal sexual and reproductive institution. Until recently, *tisese* was noncontractual, nonobligatory, and nonexclusive. Partners lived and worked in separate households. The only prerequisite for a *tisese* relationship was a mutual agreement between the man and the woman to allow sexual access to each other. In a comprehensive account, *Quest for Harmony* explores this unique practice specifically, and offers thorough documentation, fine-grained analysis, and an engaging discussion of the people, history, and structure of Moso society. Drawing on the author's extensive fieldwork, conducted from 1987 to 2006, this is the first ethnography of the Moso written in English.

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