Glossary

All terms are in Northern Yi (Nuosu) unless specified as Chinese (Ch). The Northern Yi words are given both without (as elsewhere in this volume) and with boldface tone indicators (syllables ending in t, x, or p) for specialists. (See also Appendix: The Book of Origins Contents with Tone Indicators.)

bai jiu (Ch): commercial alcohol
bbopa: oral origin stories
bbopa teyy / bbopa tepyy: written origin stories
bbudde: folk tale
bburma: Yi script
bimo / bimox: folk priest
bimo teyy / bimox tepyy: written texts used by bimo priests
bisse: apprentice bimo
Cuan wen (Ch): Cuan script; a name for early Yi script
cy / cyt: genealogy
cyvi / cytvi: patrilineal clan
Dduzi / Ddut zi: Torch Festival
Hmamu teyy / Hmatmu tepyy: Book of Teachings
Hnewo teyy / Hnewo tepyy: Book of Origins
Hxiemga / Hxiemgat: Han people
gaitu guiliu (Ch): system in Ming and Qing that sought to replace native rulers
gaxy: slave caste
Gefi / Gepfi: life spirit

jin (Ch): Chinese measurement of about 1.1 pounds
kenre / kepnpew: oral poetry riff
kevie: splendid hunting dogs
long shulin (Ch): dragon tree forests; sacred groves
maddu: soul vessel
mgajie / mgapjie: lower-caste serfs
monyi / mopnyit: female shaman
(also called nimu / nipmu)
ndeggu / ndepggup: conflict arbitrator
Ni / Nip: ancient name for Yi
Nimu cobi / Nipmu cobi: rite for directing soul to land of ancestors
nuoho / nuohop: upper-caste Nuosu (Black Nuosu)
Nuosu: subgroup of Yi ethnic group
Nuosuxio: northern Yi language
nzmo (nzy): elite ruling class caste
Ozzu / Opzzup: local Tibetan groups
quho / quhox: serf caste (White Nuosu)
shaoshu minzu (Ch): ethnic minority group(s)
Shuo: old word for what are likely Han people
shuoma / shuoxma: varieties of rhododendron
sunyi / sunyit: male shaman
tian gou (Ch): mythological dog that eats the sun
tusi (Ch): government-appointed native leader
vala / vapla: fringed wool cloaks
vazyrhli: antiphonal song and dance performed by young male singers
vondi / vondit: creatures with claws, dangling digits
vonre sse cinyi / vonre sse cinyix: twelve sorts of flora and fauna transformed from red snow
voma / vopmat (Ch: yuangen): turnip
Xinan Yizhi (Ch): Chronicles of the Southwest Yi
Yiery: name in the epic text for “foreigners”
Yiwen (Ch): Yi script
Yizu (Ch): Yi ethnic group
yy yyr: sacred grass