

Female Participants Invited to Festival:

- (1) Name: Banamu (Xiong Yan). She is 44 years old and has an undergraduate degree in fine arts. Now she is a freelance writer focusing on film, television and literature. She has written her own poetry, non-fiction prose, novels and film scripts. She has also filmed materials for documentary films. She loves the Mosuo culture (she is a Mosuo person herself) and is an active researcher of Mosuo culture, including the ways that Daba are involved in conducting rituals for healing. She is especially interested in studying Daba culture, in Mosuo proverbs, and in traditional Mosuo folk songs. She is currently studying Mosuo medicine.

- (2) Name: SajiYodzhen (Yodzhen is the given name). She is 43 years old and from Badzu Village, where she lives with her mother, her mother's sister, and her youngest daughter. She is the *dabu* and as such takes primary responsibility for the household, including cooking and farming tasks, as well as helping care for livestock. She has three daughters, and is from the Mosuo ethnic group. Yodzhen has a wide range of knowledge about medicinal plants and healing, and knows which plants to dig up from the mountains near her family's home, even during the winter. She can brew different herbs to treat different kinds of ailments. Yodzhen shared photographs of this process.

Essays:

Banamu:

The original religion of the Mosuos was Daba. Daba religion believes in animism, nature worship, ancestors worship, ghosts and gods. The main characteristics of Daba religion are polytheism, heavy witchcraft and heavy divination, which are very primitive religious. Daba religion has a relatively standard and unified ritual track, there is no writing, only oral classics. Today's Daba, based on the primitive beliefs, has absorbed Tibetan religions such as Bon, Lamaism and Taoism, forming a pluralistic system of religious ethics. The Daba religion reflects the primitive cosmology, philosophy and ethics of the Mosuo people, and it is also the norm of moral behavior in the historical and social life of Mosuo people. The Daba religion is the Mosuo people's original concept of the universe, life and ethics. The disseminator and implementer of the Daba religion, called Daba, is a combination of witchcraft, medicine, learning, and craftsmanship. He is a folk intellectual of the Mosuo people and is highly respected among his people. They can communicate the relationship between God and Man, relieve the human suffering, bring peace and comfort to people. Daba's day-to-day work consisted mainly of worshipping gods, exorcising demons, helping people to heal diseases, and paying attention to human life. From welcoming the birth, growth, life, to giving away the human life, they are busy and dedicated, intelligent, powerful and erudite, worthy of our respect and dependence. In today's high-speed human society, there are various social problems, as well as human psychological problems, especially

the need of our religion to help human beings, need religion to sort out emotions and behaviors, and need to guide the way and direction!

Yodzhen: I will share some thoughts on two kinds of health problems today. I am good at making a treatment for women's health issues, but the plants I need for that are not growing right now, since it is winter. We do have the plants needed to treat colds, so I went up the mountain with my daughter to look for those. We found them, dug up some roots, found the leaves we needed, and returned home to brew them together. The medicine is drunk warm and is very good at soothing colds.



