

M0002723: Dyak transference of suffering to inanimate substitute

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DYAK TRANSFERENCE OF SUFFERING TO INANIMATE SUBSTITUTES

One of the most curious of physical practices is practiced by both male and female magicians, known as 'balian'. Their methods of treatment are of the most primitive, using the most of herbs of proved efficacy, massage, and so on, but they rely largely on non-physical methods. Thus, in the case of a patient suffering from a disease of the abdomen, the balian will place a small object, such as a shell or a piece of wood, on the patient's abdomen. It is a 'dummy' or substitute, and the balian is working magic on it, instead of on the patient. The object is then thrown away, and the patient is left to the deity, a process which may take a few days.