

# CONTENTS

Introduction	3
I <i>The Examples</i>	11
2 <i>The Social Contexts of Women's Religions: GENDER DISJUNCTION, MATRIFOCALITY, AND A CRITIQUE OF DEPRIVATION THEORY</i>	43
3 <i>Maternity and Meaning</i>	71
4 <i>When Children Die</i>	89
5 <i>Misfortune, Suffering, and Healing</i>	103
6 <i>Rituals and Relationships</i>	119
7 <i>The Sacred in the Profane</i>	145
8 <i>No Father in Heaven: ANDROGYNY AND POLYDEISM</i>	161
9 <i>Summoning the Spirits</i>	181
10 <i>Gender Ideology</i>	195
11 <i>Leaders and Experts</i>	215
12 <i>Women, Sacred Texts, and Religious Organization</i>	243
13 <i>Spiritual Gifts and Secular Benefits</i>	257
Conclusion	279
APPENDIX A <i>Alphabetical Summaries of Key Examples</i>	289
APPENDIX B <i>Alphabetical Summaries of Auxiliary Examples</i>	291
REFERENCES	
<i>Key Examples</i>	293
<i>General</i>	305
INDEX	317