## Contents

- Acknowledgments ix
- Introduction 1
- Ethnographic Setting 6
   The Areal Context 6
   Contact With Western Culture and the Ethnographic Present 12
   Environment and Subsistence 16
   Residence and Settlement Pattern 21
   Coresidence and Kinship 27
   Social Relations: Gender, Politics, Ethos 31
- 2. Confronting Death and Anger: A Case Study 35
- 3. Ethos: Key Concepts 61 *Kogwayay* (Good Company) 61 *Abwida* (Fear) 69  $G \supset f$  (Anger) 72 Reciprocity 78

Knauft, Bruce M. Good company and violence 1985

## vi **CONTENTS**

4. Sickness, Death, and Sorcery Beliefs 81
Minor Spirit Affliction: To Di Faym 83
Moderate Spirit Affliction: Fin Forgop 86
Chronic/Severe Illness: Bap Sorcery 94
Potentially Fatal Illness: Bogay Sorcery 96
Spiritual Warrior Assault: Ogowili 104
Epidemic Sickness Sorcery: Haw Gaw 106
Personalities and Patterns 108
Conclusion 110

5. Sorcery and Mortality 113

Types and Frequency of Homicide 116 Incidence and Severity of Sorcery Attributions 123 Relations Between Sickness-Victim and Accuser/Killer 129 Sorcerv Types and Age/Sex Variations 132 Sorcerer-Victim Coresidence 137 Sorcerv and Age 140 Attributed Rationale for Sorcerv 142 155 Summarv

6. Kinship Groups and Marital Relations 157
Clan Units 157
Brother Clans 161
Relations Through Marriage 163
Types of Marriage 165
Marital Patterns and Marriage Structure 175

7. Sorcery and Kinship 181 Affinal and Matrikin Sorcerv 182 Sorcery Between Subclans 196 Inter-Patriline Sorcerv Within the Subclan 204 Intra-Patriline Sorcerv 208 Sorcery Between Brother Clans 209 Sorcerv Between Nonrelatives 212 Sorcery Between Kin Categories: Relative Distributions 214 8. Sorcery, Social Structure, and Inter-Tribal Relations 222 *Ogowili* Attributions Between Unrelated Persons 222
Directional Aggression, Marital Relations, and Clan Size 228
Population Differentials 237
External Versus Internal Dynamics 240

9. Ritual Feasts: Overcoming the Problem of Anger 245 Before the Guests Arrive 246 The Entrance 247 Giving the Food 253 Drinking and Talking 255 Dancing and Joking 257 Public Discussions 267 Central Theme and Variations 268 Theoretical Observations 270

10. Narratives: Resolution Through Romance 273
Marriage and Affines 281
Sister Exchange 282
Sorcery 286
Conclusions 293

11. Spirit Seances: The Generation of Good Company and Anger 295 Good Company 296 The Spirit World: Experience Through Song 299 The Spirit Medium 306 Overcoming Anger 307 Generating Anger 309 Seance Structure and Sorcery 311 Conclusions 318

viii CONTENTS

- 12. Ethnographic Conclusions 320
  Gebusi Sorcery as an Operational System 320
  Gebusi Sorcery as a Cultural Form 330
  Gebusi Sorcery in the Melanesian Context 339
- 13. Conclusions of Method and Theory 349
  Beyond Symbols and Awareness 351
  Interest Theory? 353
  Divergence of Domain 359
  Convergence Through Dialectic 362

## Appendices 369

A. Notes on Lexico-Statistics 369

B. Sorcery Attributions by Kin

Relationship and Sphere of Interaction 372

- C. Origin Myth 374
- D. Calculation of Pre-Contact and Post-Contact Homicide Rates 376
- E. Homicide Rates in Various Societies 378
- F. Text of a Post-Feast Sorcery Discussion 380
- G. The Sixth Narrative: The Sorcery that Wasn't 385

Notes 399

References 425

Index 457