Contents

List of Plates 9 Preface 11 CHAPTER ONE Towards a Sociology of Ecstasy 18 CHAPTER TWO Trance and Possession CHAPTER THREE Affliction and its Apotheosis 66 CHAPTER FOUR Strategies of Mystical Attack; Protest and its Containment 100 CHAPTER FIVE Possession and Public Morality - I Ancestor Cults 127 CHAPTER SIX Possession and Public Morality – II Other Cosmological Systems 149 CHAPTER SEVEN Possession and Psychiatry 178 Bibliography 207 Index 213