

Contents

Introduction 11

Part I. Cultural and organizational setting

Chapter 1. The cultural conventions of communications 15
Chapter 2. Ecology and subsistence 28

Part II. The initiation rites

Chapter 3. General features of the system 47
Chapter 4. First degree initiation 51
Chapter 5. Second degree initiation 59
Chapter 6. Third degree initiation 63
Chapter 7. Fourth degree initiation 72
Chapter 8. Fifth degree initiation 79
Chapter 9. Sixth degree initiation 83
Chapter 10. Seventh degree initiation 95

Part III. Other idiom clusters

Chapter 11. The social context of communication 105
Chapter 12. Community and temple leadership 107
Chapter 13. Spirits and the dead 123
Chapter 14. Sorcery 131
Chapter 15. Sickness and curing 137
Chapter 16. Killing, warfare and cannibalism 144

Part IV. Codes in Baktaman ritual

Chapter 17. Structure in non-verbal codes 157
Chapter 18. Taboo 162
Chapter 19. Colours 172
Chapter 20. Natural species as vehicles for communication 180

- Chapter 21. Sacrifice and commensality 191
Chapter 22. On the variety of metaphors in Baktaman rites 199
Chapter 23. On the interpretation of ritual idioms 207

Part V. The sociology of Baktaman knowledge

- Chapter 24. The epistemology of secrecy 217
Chapter 25. Ritual, speech, and knowledge 223
Chapter 26. Baktaman ritual as a fertility mystery 232
Chapter 27. Creative and stagnant sectors of knowledge 239
Chapter 28. The temple syndromes 247
Chapter 29. Transmission and integration 255

Appendix I: Contact history 269

Appendix II: Demography 270

Appendix III: Myths 278

References 283

Index 285