

## THE ERSU OF CHINA

Mawa slowly approached the table in front of the altar where three white large stones were placed. The **Ersu** woman placed her sacrificial offering of a sheep on the table. Bowing and praying fervently, she evoked the power of the deities represented by the white stones, hoping that they would intervene and heal her aging mother who was gravely ill. As she completed her religious ceremony, Mawa began planning for a second sacrificial ceremony, this time to the sacred tree outside the village. The **Ersu** woman had vowed that no expense would be spared in her efforts to ensure that her mother received healing.

The 43,000 **Ersu** are located in the lower reaches of the Dadu River in the southern part of Sichuan Province. Their ancestors are believed to have come from Tibet and settled in Sichuan 200 years ago. Although officially regarded as a subgroup of the larger Tibetan minority by the Chinese government, the **Ersu's** adopting of various local cultures of the neighbouring ethnic groups around them have caused them to evolve into a distinct ethnic group.

Although the **Ersu** profess to be Buddhists, few truly adhere to Buddhist teachings. The practice of venerating white stones as representations of deities is a common practice among them and other ethnic groups in the region. There are no known believers amongst the **Ersu**.

- Pray for God to be revealed to the **Ersu** in dreams and visions.
- Pray for God to open doors for workers to be sent to the **Ersu's** remote homeland.

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This is a series of useful prayer profile compilations to pray for people groups collated from various online sources. Please click on the links below for more info: <https://joshuaproject.net/>, <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/>, <http://asiaharvest.org/people-group-profiles/>