MYTHS ABOUT
DISEASE
Fig. 71 Hogu Pyŏlsŏng and two servants: Koreans called smallpox Sonnim, Sonnimmama, Pyŏlsang, Pyŏlsangaegi or Pyŏlsangmama. They also called it Hogu (meaning 'houses and inhabitants') because they believed that every household would have some patients if one patient were found in a village. Koreans believed that smallpox came from Kangnam, China, and also called it Hokwi (meaning 'north barbarian ghosts'). Once a smallpox epidemic was triggered in a village, the village people sincerely prepared for a shamanistic rite to calm down the Sonnim Gods, hoping for an early retreat. Date unknown.