

THE OWL DANCE

The man puts one arm round his partner's waist and holds her right hand in his left. The dance is a rhythmic shuffle, more like a procession than a dance, for each couple follows close behind the other in a circle round the drum or fire.

THE LODGE

Made of trees, with one ~~big~~ central tree; side poles and the whole skeleton covered with green branches. Fluttering from the top of the central pole a variety of calico strips and ribbons, representing sacrifices, prayers and appeals for blessings.

THE TORTURE (now obsolete)

An inch or more of the flesh on each shoulder, and each breast, was taken up between the thumb and finger by the man who held the knife which had been ground sharp on both edges, and then hacked and notched to make it produce as much pain as possible. This was forced through the flesh below the fingers, and being withdrawn, a splint, or skewer, was inserted by the other man. Then two cords lowered from the top of the lodge (by men who were placed outside for the purpose) were fastened to these skewers, and they instantly began to haul him up, until his body was just suspended from the ground; similarly, the knife and skewers were passed through the flesh on each arm below the shoulder, below the elbow, on the thighs, and below

the knees.

~~THEY WERE LACED WITH SKINNED BUFFALO HORN~~

While the blood was streaming down their limbs, the bystanders hung upon the splints each man's appropriate shield, bow and quiver, etc. In many instances the skull of a buffalo with the horns on it was attached to each lower arm and each lower leg. When these things were all well adjusted each one was raised higher by the cords until these weights all swung clear from the ground.

Each one in turn passed into the charge of others, who commenced turning him around with a pole. This is done in a gentle manner at first, but gradually increased. He is turned for about ten or fifteen minutes, and then lowered to the ground. The bystanders pull out the two skewers from the breasts and shoulders, thereby disengaging him from the cords; but leaving all the others with their weights, etc., hanging to his flesh.

Then the little finger of his left hand is chopped off near the hand; sometimes the forefinger.

Then they are led out of the lodge, with the weights hanging to their flesh and dragging on the ground. Then they must run, pulled by other young men, dragged until the weights are pulled out, and this must be done by such violent force as to tear the flesh out with the splint.

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