

As to the circular flap in the cape, and the cuts in it, the owner of the regalia knew nothing. He said that the feathers at the corners of the robe represented the people holding to and living in accord with the injunctions of the father. The human race lives over the entire world, and this is indicated by the fact that the feathers are at the four corners. The two long loose strips of skin attached to the cape are those by which Indians and whites hold to the father. This latter interpretation is probably due to the influence of ghost-dance ideas.

Marks cut on the bone whistle symbolize a strong breath; that is, vitality. Leg-bands of thongs wrapped with whitened corh-husk fibre, with attached red-tailed hawk feathers, are tied just below the knee, while bands of young wild-cat skin are worn around the ankles. The regalia are kept folded in a rectangular buffalo-skin case opening along the top. Similar cases are used for the regalia of all the crazy dancers. They are scarcely distinguishable from the cases used to hold the regalia of the women's dance.

In connection with these regalia, the owner said that the father made man and woman to live on the earth in order that the human race might grow. These regalia would make part of human life as long as men survived. The father said to men, that, if they did no evil during their life, life would continue as it was; but if they did wrong, there would be a change. However, when men were more numerous, they disobeyed the father and killed each other. Then he told them that there would be a change of life (their race would be superseded by another). Then a new life began. These regalia were then given new life. They are day, night, wind, rain, human beings, and all animals, and have existed among the people since they were given.

Before parting with his regalia, the owner prayed to them. He said they should remember that he was selling them not only for money, but because they would be kept in a better place. Their shadow would remain in his tent and their teachings in his mind. Therefore he asked that he himself and his relatives might remain well and have good fortune.

The white-fool regalia are supposed to be very powerful, and there is thought to be considerable danger that those who remove them from their buffalo-skin case and handle them, or even see them, will become temporarily paralyzed in consequence. This of course does not apply to the white-fool himself. To prevent any such effect, hacawaanaxu-root is used. Before the case is opened, the hand is touched to the ground, a little of the root spit on the palm, and the body is then rubbed over with the hands. The regalia are laid on sage, and not allowed to come in contact with the ground.

Lowest Degree. -- The ordinary crazy-dancer's apparel has been described. Plate XXXV shows a figure dressed in this costume, and in what is described as a characteristic dance position.