

In the kitchen the women were preparing food for the breakfast and for the dinner the next day. Alfred had butchered a beef that morning. Boche had killed it by hitting it on the head with a sledge hammer, and then Alfred cut its throat. One of the women was putting cooked meat through a meat grinder. When I kidded her about grinding it instead of pounding it, she explained that the meat was too fresh to pound, so they had to grind it.

About 8:40 everyone started to get ready to go inside the tipi. A fire had been started earlier, and Alfred reported that it was burning good. People got together their equipment and James and some others got out their red and blue blankets. People went informally out to the tipi. Everyone had to circle the tipi completely on the outside before entering. John and I were told to take a seat anywhere we wanted, so we sat down on the south side, close to the entrance. There weren't too many people there, probably because of the weather. For most of the ceremony there were twenty-one people present.

I did not take notes during the meeting and did not really put my mind to memorizing the steps in the ritual, but I did notice the people attending, where they sat, the main things that were said and done, but, in the following account, may have transposed some event sequences to some extent. The basic outline of the meeting is correct, but I cannot remember during the morning ceremony, for example, which event preceded which in all cases. The following description is felt, therefore, to be accurate in broad outline, and in the events reported, with the possibility that within categories some of the events noted may be slightly out-of-order. For convenience, I am dividing the meeting into sections, corresponding to the main ritual happenings.

