

important person in their domestic economy. With them the Earth is the great Mother, the incarnation of femininity, and so the woman builds and owns the houses made of earth and owns the farms. Growth is a male principle, and so the men cut and haul the roof timbers from the mountains and assist in taking care of the flocks and growing crops. The woman selects her spouse, and their children belong to her gens and not to his; descent is always through the female line. Their "church," or place of religious rites, is an underground room or cellar, scooped out of the basaltic rock on which the pueblos are built, and generally from twenty to forty feet in diameter; the top is covered with timbers and matting on which is a layer of earth, leaving a "manhole," through which a ladder affords the means of ingress and egress. In this "Khiva," as the Moquis call it, their religious ceremonies and rites of initiation into the different orders are performed.

Every man is born into an order, but advancement in it is, like taking the degrees in Masonry, a matter of study and practice, accompanied by much ceremony and the jugglery of priest-craft. The religion of the Moquis is a Nature worship, and the Sun their principal deity; next in importance in this arid region is the Rain God. The propitiation of this deity is the Snake dance, one of their most notable ceremonies. Ten days before the August full moon the runners go out to collect snakes for this rite, and usually bring in from fifty to a hundred of all kinds and sizes. These are placed in the Khiva, which has been prepared for this ceremony by dividing it into sections with lines of cornmeal blessed by the priests and called "sacred meal." One of these sections represents the altar, and is marked out with wavy lines of meal to denote rain clouds, and zig-zag lines of different colored meal to represent the lightning, each color being a prayer for some particular crop. The snakes are herded over to one side of the Khiva by some of the old men who, armed with wands of eagle feathers (which the snakes greatly fear), keep watch and ward night and day over the wriggling mass, brushing