

are made of several strands of brass wire, such as boys at home use for rabbit snares, and are coiled into rings about four inches in diameter. These immense rings are put thro a large hole in the top of the ears. On her wrist she wears an abundance of brass bangles, and of ten a few iron ones to keep the evil spirits away. On nearly all of her fingers and on her two second toes are rings, sometimes of silver, but usually of brass and copper. So much for ornaments.

Now let me tell you the story that some Gadaba women told us one day about their curious dress: A long long time ago when Rama, who is now worshiped as a god, lived in India, he was banished from his palace by a cruel step-mother. She also compelled him and his wife to wear cloths made from the fibre of certain jungle shrubs. One day some Gadaba women, dressed in pretty white cloths, while on their way for water, saw Sita, Rama's wife and made fun of her and her strange dress. Sita in anger turned and cursed them, telling them that henceforth they must dress as she did. They accepted their fate and once a year—in January—they gather twigs of shrubs growing on the hills, split these up, dry them, peel off the bark, pound it on a stone till only fibre remains, bit by bit between thumb and fingers twist this into a string long enough and then in their tiny looms they weave their two cloths—an upper and a lower. These cloths are each about a yard long and half a yard wide. They color part of the fibre, so that when they are finished they have borders of white, next are stripes of old blue and between these are four or five strips of brownish red separated by two or three white threads. Two are sufficient for a year. The upper cloth is tied by the upper corners on the left shoulder, and the lower one is tightly fastened a little below the waist.

The most surprising part of their toilet is a thick skin, firmly strapped together, of coarse black twine made also from some wooly fibre. This is worn *outside* the lower cloth as a sort of bustle. Sita wore one when she cursed them, they say, so they must. One woman said that it strenghtened the back.

They must need something to strenghtened them because we often see them coming into Bobbili carrying large quantities of firewood on their heads. They go out i to the jungle gather small branches, tie these together in long wedge-shaped bundles, bring them to market and take home the food for the family. The men spend most of their time in bird-catching hunting and tracking large game for the Rajah and other huntsmen.