

of Ikunuhkahtsi referred to before. These, as has been already suggested, appear to resemble in a crude way the knightly orders of mediæval Europe. Like them their functions

part of the initiation ceremony of the "Horns" is public. The novices, accompanied by their squaws, carrying the blankets and leading the ponies, which constitute the purchase



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were originally of a military nature, but are now of a purely social character. As a matter of fact, they seem to have no longer any actual existence apart from these annual gatherings; and a number of them have become altogether defunct. The "Crazy Dogs," "the Pigeons," the "Horns," the "Prairie Chickens" still survive, but there are several others, such as the "Bulls," the "Mosquitoes," the "Little Birds," which appear to have passed out of existence; and those which still remain are perpetuated by younger men buying out the older ones, as they in turn retire or purchase membership in a more distinguished order.

The "Horns" are considered to be the most ancient and honourable order of all, and membership in them costs many ponies and blankets. A

price of membership, approach in procession the place where the rest of the members are seated in solemn assembly, and after the master of ceremonies has made certain mystic passes over their heads and bodies, they are formally received into the number of the elect, and the transfer of property takes place. But it is also understood that there is quite an extensive secret ritual involved, including a severe and shocking test of virtue and self-control, in which, if the candidate fails, he is believed to die within a year. The lesser orders also have somewhat similar ceremonies, but the most interesting feature in them all, from a spectacular point of view, is that each has a special form of dance peculiar to itself, to depict the patron animal, after which that particular order is named.