

About three months afterwards, a very superstitious man, one of the potters of the village, on returning home one evening, reported that as he was passing the place where the woman had been buried he heard a voice, as if it were her spirit, saying that if he would clear away the cactus and build her a proper tomb he would be cured of his disease from which he was suffering. As soon as he told this foolish fancy or wilful falsehood, it was believed and those who heard it told it to others. And the next day they went to the place and began clearing the ground, and brought stones and mortar and built a tomb over the remains of the woman. And soon people began to flock to the place from all quarters to be cured of their infirmities and diseases. The blind, the lame, the lepers, those who were supposed to be possessed by evil spirit, and all sorts of ailing ones came to worship. Most of them could not tell what they worshipped, whether it was the grave or the body or spirit of the deceased woman, and when questioned they would say they came because others came, and they did as others did. So rapidly did the superstition spread that within a few weeks thousands were coming not only sick people, but also their relatives and friends, and multitudes more out of mere curiosity and all sorts of tramps and adventurers, fortune tellers, jugglers, acrobats, religious beggars, etc. People came hundreds of miles, Hindus of all castes, and Mohammedans, rich people and poor, old and young. Within a month or six weeks from the time the folly commenced, the crowds had increased so that there were ten thousand people there at one time. Shopkeepers set up booths made of mats for the sale of supplies for the worshippers, peddlers of all sorts of trinkets flocked to the place, and side shows of various kinds were started.

The great majority of the worshippers were women, and the manner of their worship was as follows : They first went to the place where the woman died under the mango-tree, and there each one paid a small fee equal to about two-thirds of a cent. The money was received by two men who sat