

covered the floor, a spear, a spoon, and a bowlful of locusts. Not having eaten anything that day, and from the novelty of my situation, not wishing to return immediately to the wagons, I asked a woman who sat at the door with a babe at her breast, permission to eat. This she granted with pleasure, and soon brought me more in a powdered state. Several more females came from the neighboring roosts, stepping from branch to branch, to see the stranger, who was to them as great a curiosity as the tree was to him. I then visited the different abodes, which were on several principal branches. The structure of these houses was very simple. An oblong scaffold, about seven feet wide, is formed of straight sticks. On one end of this platform a small cone is formed, also of straight sticks, and thatched with grass. A person can nearly stand upright in it; the diameter of the floor is about six feet. The house stands on the end of the oblong, so as to leave a little square space before the door."

BARBARIC DESTRUCTION OF CHILDREN.

The Bakones are not a numerous tribe now, though believed to have been once populous; their timidity and infamous practices have done much to diminish their numbers. The Arabs, knowing them to be a cowardly people, have captured thousands and sold them into slavery, and even to this day occasionally attack the Bakone villages, not so much to make them slaves as to plunder them of the ivory they may possess.

The Bakones are extremely superstitious, and carry their barbaric ignorance to the point of sacrificing infants to the gods they worship. It is also their custom to kill their children for the most frivolous causes, so that comparatively few are suffered to attain their majority. If a child turns from one side to another during sleep it is murdered, because the Bakones believe an evil spirit has influenced the act, and therefore will continue control of the child if it be allowed to live. All deformed children are at once put to death; so are all infants that cut the upper teeth before the lower ones appear.

The Bakones have few weapons and rely chiefly on the bow and arrow, with which they hunt the antelope species and smaller animals. They also use a strange weapon made like a two-pronged hoe, with short handle, which is of great service to them in digging out ground-animals such as mice, moles, ipis, ants, small snakes, etc., all of which they eat with avidity.

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