

of the other gifts must also make atonement, but not to the same extent. One of the presents is called gupt dan (secret gift). It may be silver, gold or jewels, wrapped in the skin of an animal or enclosed in a fruit, but the public are not supposed to know which it is or to whom it is given. These presents are distributed on the 11th day. On the 12th day a great feast was given to his caste people. Two men are chosen, into whom it is imagined, subsequent to the repetition of mantras (hymns from the Vedas), the spirit of their god and of Holkar enter. To the man into whom the spirit of their god is supposed to have entered, food is given in new silver vessels, which were made for the purpose. Holkar's representative received his food in the silver vessels which had been used by His Highness; he also received his golden lota (circular drinking vessel). It was believed that Holkar's spirit got the benefit of the food. These two received as gifts all the vessels in which their food was served. These being silver, with the exception of the golden lota, are worth quite a large amount of money. When the two men have their meal about half completed, then the caste people begin to partake of theirs. On the same day the Brahmins invoke the presence of the spirits of the departed relatives of the family. Rice balls are then put on the floor for them, and the members of the family come and prostrate themselves before them and worship. The feast is continued also on the 13th. A number believe that on the 14th day his soul left this world. They think that after his caste people had been feasted, a sum of money spent and certain gifts given, that the soul was willing to take its departure. All do not agree about the time of the soul's exit from this world; a number of opinions are held. Some think that the soul remains until, in addition to what I already mentioned, food is given daily to a number of the poor for six months; also a monthly feast for the same length of time is given to the Brahmins. Others contend that this must be done for a year, and the great commemorative shraddha observed before the soul takes its final departure. The shraddha is a certain funeral ceremony observed by Hindoos at various fixed periods, consisting of offerings with fire and water to the gods and spirits of the dead, and of food and gifts to the relatives present and to the assisting Brahmins. It is believed by many to be essential to the