

them back to their corner whenever they exhibit a disposition to stray. The stench soon becomes fearful; it does not seem to offend the nostrils of those who participate in the rites, but a white man seldom cares to encounter it more than once. Throughout the week the ceremony of initiation into the degrees of the snake order proceeds along with the decoration of the Khiva and the preparation of the bodies of the dancers for the final ceremony and their fortification against snake bites by drinking a liquid antidote prepared by the medicine man.

Each evening the snakes are taken up one by one and given a sponge bath of some narcotic liquid, prepared from herbs, which probably has a tendency to keep them amiable in confinement. Towards 5 o'clock in the evening of the day when the moon is at the full the inhabitants gather on the walls of the houses near the "Sacred Rock," a tower of basalt standing in the center of a small plaza on the edge of the mesa at the Waldi pueblo. Here in a hole in the rocky floor of the plaza next the houses, under a conical grotto of cornstalks or aspen boughs, the snakes have been placed, the doorway to the hole where they are deposited being covered tightly with a blanket. First come the dancers of the Antelope gens (their principal order), their bodies colored black with white snakes outlined upon them, their faces half white and half black and the sacred kilt around their loins, and dance around the sacred rock, rattling a gourd containing pebbles and chanting a deep-toned prayer for rain. Their part concluded they take post each side of the grotto, facing out, and the snake dancers, led by a stalwart chief, come on. Their bodies, girdles, kilts, leggings and moccasins are all dyed a rich tan color, to which their black hair, trimmed with eagle feathers, lends a pronounced emphasis. On the right leg of each of the thirty-six dancers is a hollow tortoise shell with bear's claws clacking against it. They come by twos. The man on the right is armed with a bunch of eagle feathers, and apparently leads and guides his partner. They pass several times around the sacred rock, then form in line facing the Ante-