

from the customs which have been described, and leave them for the consideration of gentlemen abler than myself to decide upon their importance.

The Mandans believed that the earth rests on the backs of *four* tortoises. They say that "each tortoise rained ten days, making forty days in all, and the waters covered the earth."

Whenever a Mandan doctor (*medicine man*) lighted his pipe, he invariably presented the stem of it to the north, the south, the east, and the west, the *four* cardinal points, and then upwards to the Great Spirit, before smoking it himself.

Their annual religious ceremony lasted *four* days; *four* men were called for by *Nu-mohk-muck-a-nah*, as has been stated, to cleanse and prepare the Medicine Lodge, "one from the north, one from the south, one from the east, and one from the west." *Four* was the number of tortoise-drums on the floor of the Medicine Lodge; there were also *four* buffalo and *four* human skulls arranged on the floor of the Medicine Lodge. There were *four* couples of dancers in the bull-dance, and *four* intervening dancers in the same dance, as has been described; the bull-dance was repeated *four* times on the first day, eight times on the second day, twelve times on the third day, and sixteen times on the fourth day, adding *four* dances on each of the four days, which added together make forty, the exact number of days that it rained upon the earth to produce the Deluge.

There were *four* sacrifices of various-coloured cloths raised on poles over the Medicine Lodge. The visits of *O-ke-h'ee-de* were paid to *four* of the buffaloes in the bull-dance; and in every instance of the young men who underwent the tortures explained, there were *four* splints run through the flesh on the legs, *four* on the arms, *four* on the body, and *four* buffalo-skulls attached to each one's wounds. And, as has been related in the tradition above given, *four* was the number of bulls given by the medicine child to feed the Mandans when they were starving.