

NOTES ON SUN-WORSHIP AMONGST THE KIPSIKIS OR LUMBWA TRIBE.

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Sun-worship is practised among the Kipsikis tribe and is one of the most important festivals and is celebrated annually in the month of May.

First of all the people are warned that the following day those having beer should bring it to the hut of the Master of the ceremonies, who is an elder and his Office is hereditary. When they have brought it they are then told that the beer will be ready on the third day and trumpets will be blown.

At 6 a.m. the trumpets are blown and the people prepare to proceed to the place of the ceremony which is called "Kapkorosit" on account of the large bundle of sticks bound together which has been set up on the site.

Then 8 small girls (uncircumcised) bring goats' dung in their hands and place it near the bundle of branches—then the 8 small girls, whose task it is to bring water, take the dung and build a circular wall about 5 inches high and 3 feet in diameter. The Elder's wife now brings a white he-goat which is adorned with a leather collar covered with cowrie-shells, also the whole of his skin is covered with "Senendet" grass. The elder now takes a gourd from 4 of the 8 little girls into which the milk of a goat, a sheep and a cow, each of which have borne once only has been milked; the elder then pours an equal portion from the 3 gourds into the fourth which contains water. The space enclosed by the goats' dung wall is called "Togomda" because what is placed inside it cannot get out.

The elder brings a gourd of tembo and pours it into the enclosure and the contents of the 4 gourds of milk and water also the contents of the four gourds full of water brought by the remaining 4 of the original 8 girls.

The preparation being now completed, the elder, with another of like age, retires about 6 paces to 2 separate poles placed about 4 feet apart each with a cow's tail in his hand. The onlookers who are behind the 2 poles may now enter headed by the elder's wife with the caparisoned goat; they incline half right and proceed to encircle the "Togomada." A fire has been lighted near the Kapkorosit pole. The two elders leave their places at the portal and advance to the top of the "Togomda" and stand between it and the people, dip

their cows' tails in the milk, water and beer and sprinkle the people with the mixture; the goat during this is led round the "Togomda."

During the sprinkling of the people each elder says, addressing the sun: "I am now giving you milk—do you give us children—cattle, wimbi and good grazing."

Everyone during this is facing the rising sun, which is now at about 7 a.m., and responds "soi," meaning "thanks," proleptically.

After the sprinkling of the people, they leave their positions, encircle the Togomda, pass between the two posts, turn about and face the rising sun and finally disperse.

The elder having adjured all married men present not to quarrel with their wives nor to have connection with them that day.

The adult males and old women next proceed to the elder's hut to drink beer. He first covers over with grass, which has been pulled up by the roots, all the vessels containing the beer—then they begin to drink and continue to do so until the beer is finished, the beer being diluted with hot water whenever necessary—and having drunk his fill each goes home.