

THE SHAKE DANCE OF THE QUILLENTE INDIANS, WITH DRAWING BY AN INDIAN PUPIL OF THE QUILLENTE DAY SCHOOL.

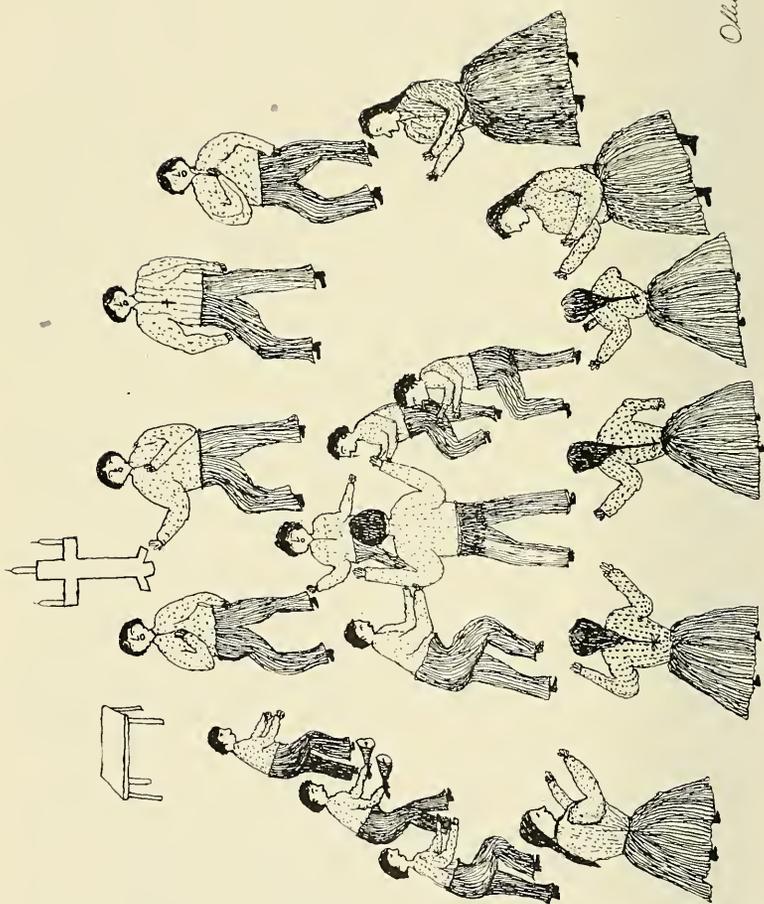
BY ALBERT B. REAGAN.

In this dance the Indians worship Jesus, calling Him Jesus-Man, confounding him with Kwatte, their god. This religious movement began in the early eighties. It is a compromise between the old Indian worship and Christianity. The former having been forbidden by the government, the Shaker "church" was organized so that the Indians could still have their performances under the constitutional rights granted to all religious denominations. And in this they have entirely won, for Judge James Wickersham, of Tacoma, Wash., fought the Shaker Church case through the courts and obtained for the aborigines the right to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience.

The movement began on the Big Skookum River, near Shelton, Wash., in 1882. An Indian, John Slocum, was very sick and was unconscious for several days. Regaining consciousness, coming back to "life" again as the Indians say, he said he had been dead and in heaven, but that the keeper of that blissful place had told him that he was a bad Indian and that he would have to go to hell. But one more chance would be given him. If he would go back to earth, lead a good life and teach other Indians to do the same, he would in time be admitted into the happy hunting ground. He at once began to preach the Shaker doctrine, exhibiting the power conferred upon him by those above in a vigorous shaking and quivering of all the muscles of his whole body. And all his followers exhibit their power the same way to this day.

They have candles and usually a cross. They begin their services with a prayer and close them with a "doxology." The Shaker dancing ceremony which usually lasts for hours is a hypnotic performance.

The watchword of the organization is: "Do good to those who do good to you and get 'even' with those who mistreat you." And the guiding prayer "Our God is in heaven. If we die He will take our life to heaven. Help us so that we shall not die. Wherever we are, help us not to die. Our Father who is there, always have a good mind to us."



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In the performance continuous hand bells are rung to the tune of the chant "Hi, hi, hi," etc. The dancers jump up and down to the time of the "music." The faces of all the actors become hideously distorted. The quivering, trembling, twisting, writhing hands, wave, whirl, gyrate in all directions till the scene reminds one much of the demons in the "inferno" dancing over a lost soul. And the simple-hearted Indians believe that in this performance they are worshiping the most high God.

Below is a copy of the Quilente Shaker organization, creed, etc., taken from the "Quilente Independent," the only paper in Washington published by an Indian (W. H. Hudson):

PREAMBLE.

In order to form a more perfect union and to secure recognition of our rights under the Constitution of the United States, to worship God according to our conscience, We, the delegates, from the Shaker Sects of LaPush, in conference assembled, do hereby organize, ordain and establish the Shaker Church.

OBJECT.

Our object is to teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to forward His Kingdom among the Indian race; to fight against the evils of intemperance, which we believe to be a detriment to the advancement of our race; to the pursuits of civilization and Christian living.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Three in One.
2. We believe that the Shaker movement was a dispensation of Almighty God to His Indian Children, to the end that they may see with spiritual eyes, their evil ways, and to point our way to salvation through Jesus Christ the Son.
3. We believe that Jesus Christ has the power to forgive sins on earth.
4. We believe that God hears our prayers for the sick, and that if we pray and believe, He will heal us of our physical ailments.

COVENANT.

1. We promise to support the Church in all the ways that we can, spiritually and temporily.

2. We promise to accept the Shaker Religion, and hereby consecrate our time, our talents, our all to its maintenance.

3. We promise to abstain from use of all intoxicating liquors.

We, the members of this church, in view of the solemn promises you have made, do promise to help and sustain you in your efforts to live a better life.

4. We promise to pray for you, that God in His Infinite Goodness, may make you and us, worthy to walk in His footsteps, looking forward unto the day when we all stand before His Judgment Seat, equals with all men, and hear the words, "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Amen.