

Specimens10146/10147

THE INARI COROBOREE XXX

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The word inari means "his bones".

Among the Worora, and other Kimberley tribes, the custom at the death of a man is to dry his bones on a platform, then to wrap the bones in "paper bark" and deposit them in a sacred cave.

An elderly man named Wundugul, of the Punuba people, who live at Napier Downs, was in Broome gaol in company ^{with} some Worora men from the Glenelg River district. Wundugul showed the Worora men this dance, which they brought back to their own country when they were released from gaol. One day, as Wundugul was sitting by the sea at Broome, he saw the waves rising in the distance, white with foam. In a dream he saw that these waves were the bones of his father, who had been drowned at sea and his bones never recovered by his people. His father's name was Tjamburngali.

The decorated emblems used in the dance represent the bones of the man drowned at sea.

The white lines of down, stuck on the bodies of the performers, represent the lines of salt that dry on the skin after swimming in the sea. Wundugul, and his father, belonged to the Adbularia moiety of their tribe; hence, in the dance, they men of that moiety carry a double-ended emblem. The men of the other moiety, the Arwunaria, are allowed to share in the dance, but they carry only a single-ended emblem.

The Adbularia men carry their double-ended emblems transversely behind their shoulders, swaying them up and down, with a see-saw motion.

The Arwunaria men carry their single-ended emblems vertically behind their backs, dancing with the common high-stepping movement.

from J. R. B. Love
Kunmunya Mission