


The Koma use of Murala. Stick Cc1

a date having been made for the opening of the Koma, and the sight having been agreed upon, At the rise of the morning star, the Chief, Councillors, Witch doctors and the man who performs the Circumcision, proceed to the appointed place. Upon arrival there, medicine composed of the last Koma's furskins and another substance (like Carbon which is found in the ground at certain places) are mixed up, with this a cross is made upon the stone to be used as the operating table  Another circle is drawn ^{painted} around this stone the same medicine being used. The Muralas are then placed in position. Two at the entrance and two at the exit. Another is placed in the porridge, ^{or another on the stone} The Circumcision Officer is disguised, having been painted about the face more especially the eyes, (this is to guard against his being molested afterwards) The Witch doctors having shewn their medicine around all is ready. The boys are now brought close to the place, but out of sight of the operating table, and then the Operator arrives, when they say quietly, Hush here comes the Knife; The Operator then takes up his

position in front of the rock, and with knife (sometimes a native knife or an ordinary pocket knife is used) ready, the said knife having been sharpened on a rough stone to give it a jagged edge, he calls out for the first one to enter. This is a sign for all present to begin singing most lustily, so as to drown the screams of the victim. The first enters, sits on the rock. The operator takes penis & severs the first skin & then the second, at the time telling the victim not to be afraid, the skins removed are placed in a horn used for that purpose, the first having been operated upon he is hustled out of sight & another ring is formed & as each one is finished he joins his brother victim in the second ring. If one refuses or struggles he is then held fast by his elder brother. When all is finished they are taking to the water. (The Camp invariably is near water but sometimes it is formed away in the bush & only a small amount of water is carried for the use of the operator) The school is never formed twice in the same place. as they are afraid it has been doctored or bewitched. The Cross on the rock

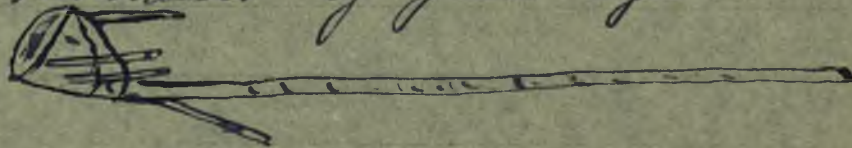
and the Muralos are not seen by the
 Victims, because the medicine that was strewn
 about by the witch doctors according to the
 boy effect their sight. They see but they
 do not see, they imagine their sight is effected
 (I think they are so frightened & nervous that nothing
 is noticed only the Operator & his Knife) The
 Muralos are left in the prisons placed
 until after the breaking up of the school
 when they are taken up and with all
 the other implements are given to certain
 men for safeguarding. ~~but~~ ^{and} placed away
 in a cave on one of the sacred hills.
 The Muralos are used as a spirit, it is
 the heart, to give them courage and inspiration.
 The Muralos are placed in position by the
 Chief himself and he visits the school
 once in every 24 hours. (it is his duty to do so,
 if he is unable to go then his brother has
 to go in his stead, No strangers white or black
 are allowed to go near the school place.
 When the Koma is a large one sometimes
 4 or 5 Knifes are used. These have all
 been put into Native medicine to ensure that
 the boys will not become sick. The Operator

receives a fee of 1/2 per boy. Sometimes if & occasionally, he receives a present from the fathers, if their sons come through alright when the school breaks up the Operator receives an ox from the Chief.

Before the boys are Circumcised they are vaccinated on left forearm & chest with the aforesaid medicine made from the furskins. The Batans use the Muralo-Sticks. The Bapedies use Rhinoceros horns.

WLB

The Muralo are made from natural Copper perhaps thousands of years ago.



Marale Stick

Dear Major

I have found out the following about the Marale Stick, I will try & get it verified next week, when the boys go to the Koma. They are all lined up outside. The Master of the Ceremony and two more assistants unseen by the boys places a block of stone on another rock. He then draws a Cross X on this stone with some black medicine. The Marale stick is then placed behind this stone. It is the spirit and it is supposed to take all nervousness away and to make the boys plucky enough to withstand any ordeal. The Master and his assistants then smear medicine on their eye lids near the nose. This being completed, the Master then sits on another rock facing the rock with the Cross on it. The assistants then bring in one boy at the time, another assistant then takes the boy & cuts off

his looin cloth or ² "Stet reim". The boy then
sits on the stone with the cross, the Master
then takes his Penis, pulls it towards him
and with a jagged Knife Circumcizes him,
One of the other assistants then takes some
"Wild hals" a bush growing in my garden
and binds up the Penis with this. He
is then dressed in another kind of robe
and taken out. The robe is then removed
and the boy is told to enter the water.
When they are all finished they have to
sing, to keep them from thinking of the
pain and to show that they are ~~not~~
afraid, and are brave.

I am giving you this for what
it is worth, but I will find out
further, But the "Marale" is the
Spirit. The same as the "Mogale"
or the boy who dances ~~in~~ in front of
an impi before going into war. to
put. pluck into them.

W. E. P. M. M. M.

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