

M0008892: Display about an altar erected as part of a Oraibi Marau Ceremony, Arizona

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MARAÚ ALTAR. (*Maraú=vongya*).

This altar is erected every alternate year in the months of January and September. In the first ceremony the large figures are absent. The Maraú fraternity (*Mámzrautu*) is a woman's society but, like other woman's fraternities, it has a chief priest as well as a chief priestess. The ceremony, performed in connection with this altar, lasts nine days. During this time the performances on two occasions are also continued throughout the entire night. The ceremonies consist of singing, rattling, asperging of charm liquid, sprinkling of corn-meal, waving of sticks, dances, making of *báhos* and *nakwákwois* and various other rites and observances.

The form of the altar differs from that of most of the Hópi altars in being semi-circular. The altar is partly dismantled once during the ceremonies and renewed on a later day.

Of the altar accessories, the two sticks held by the Maraú-Manas, those lying besides the altar, one of the small round sticks from the sand-ridge, and certain slabs and other objects are used in the night ceremonies.

It is said that the altar is named after an unidentified insect called "maraú-bivichoya". The meaning of the word "maraú", has not yet been ascertained. It seems to be an archaic word, and no one seems to know its meaning.

EXPLANATION OF THE ALTAR.

1. Slabs representing corn-stalks (*úyí*).
2. Slabs representing rays of lightning (*tála-wipi*).
3. Sticks, called people (*sinomu*) representing dead members of the order.
4. Frogs (*pákwa*).
5. Blossoms (*sihu*) of various herbs, plants, etc.
6. Chief's palladium (*tiponi*).
7. Sacred object (*rúhpi*)? exact significance not known.
8. Prayer stick (*báho*) with a road (*púhu*).
9. Cloud symbols (*ómawuu*).
10. Maraú-Youths (*Maraú-Taka*), deities of the Maraú cult.
11. Maraú-Maids (*Maraú-Mana*), deities of the Maraú cult.



12. Medicine bowl (*ngáhkuy-chakápta*) with the usual six ceremonial ears of corn and their "husbands", the six aspergills (*makwanpi*), and also one aspergill for asperging purposes. Decorated with a frog, tadpoles and cloud symbols.
13. Rattles (*áya*).
14. Tray (*póta*) with prayer offerings (*báhos* and *nakwákwois*) and shell rattles (*mósillli*).
15. Corn-husk (*shilákwa*) with corn-pollen (*talási*).
16. Gourd vessel (*múngwikuru*).
17. Priestess palladium (*yúata*, "mother").
18. Pipes (*chóngo*) and tobacco pouch (*píp-tokpu*).
19. Buzzard feathers (*homása*) used for dis-charming purposes.
20. Bone whistles (*tótóqpi*).

Oraíbi, Arizona.

PRESENTED BY MR. STANLEY McCORMICK.

CONSTRUCTED BY H. R. VOTH.