

INTRODUCTION

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A kindlier spirit-guidance is that of the "borungur", or elder brother of the Bibbulmun, the mystic kinship between man and animals and trees in a logical association of evolution and ancestor-worship, and for which, for want of a better one, I must resort to the American-Indian word "totem". The spirit of the "totem" moves invisibly among its group, and if any of its laws are wilfully broken, it seeks the woggal, whose vengeance is swift, and sometimes all-embracing. In their age-old ceremonies, the tribes sing the increase of the totem at the proper time, fight those who slight or mock or wantonly interfere with it, and propitiate the spirit. When a man dies, his totem mourns its human kin, and is not again eaten by the living while the memory of the dead remains fresh in their hearts. Children are taught the laws from earliest infancy, and dare not kill nor hurt the young of the "borungur" who are their own little brothers and sisters - a conception of humane-ness and love of God's small creatures as beautiful in its simplicity as the "Little Flowers of St. Francis".

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