



LIST OF THE MASKS.

In the vernacular a mask is called *bak*.¹ The masks for the religious dances in Sikhim are carved out of the tough light wood of the giant climber called *zar*; while in Tibet, where wood is scarce, they are composed of mashed paper and cloth. In all cases they are fantastically painted and varnished, and usually provided with a yak-tail wig.

The masks found in Sikhim temples are the following:—

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| I.—King of the Ogre deities <i>Ku</i> . ² | { | 1. <i>Yeshe gon-po</i> ³ or Mahākāla. Colour red. |
| | | 2. <i>Guru dak-mar</i> , a fierce form of Guru Rimbochhe. Colour red. |
| II.—The angry Ogre deities <i>To-wo</i> . ⁴ | { | 3. <i>Lhāmo Mak-zor ma</i> , or Mahārāni, the <i>Kālī</i> form of Devi. Colour blue. |
| | | 4. <i>Lang</i> , ⁵ the Bull. Colour black. |
| | | 5. <i>Tāg</i> , ⁶ the Tiger. Colour brown. |
| | | 6. <i>Sengge</i> , the Lion. Colour white. |
| | | 7. <i>Khyung</i> , the Garuda-bird. Colour green. |
| | | 8. <i>Teu</i> , ⁷ the Monkey. Colour ruddy brown. |
| | | 9. <i>Sha-wa</i> , the Stag. Colour fawn. |
| | | 10. <i>Yāk</i> , the Yak. Colour black. |

The above are all of hideous appearance and huge size, having a vertical diameter of at least twice the length of an ordinary human face, and a breadth in proportion. Each has projecting tusks and three eyes, the central eye being the eye of fore-knowledge. Those of an anthropoid form have a chaplet of five skulls, with pendant bead ornaments of human bones.

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| III.—The Ghouls ... | { | 11. <i>Tur</i> or Grave-yard ghosts. A monster human skull of yellowish colour. A pair of these are needed. |
| IV.—The Earth demons—servants of above. | { | 12. <i>Sa-chak pa</i> . Large hideous masks with only two eyes. |
| V.—The Indian Teacher—buffoons. | { | 13. <i>A-tsa-ra</i> (Skt. <i>acharya</i> = teacher). These are of ordinary human size, white in colour, with moustaches and hair done up into a coil. Their wives are red or yellow complexioned. |

¹ *kbag*.
² *sku*.

³ *Ye-she mgon-po*.
⁴ *glang*.

⁵ *stag*.
⁶ *spre-u*.

⁷ *khro-bo*, from Skt. *khroda*.

The dresses accompanying the first two classes of masks are ample robes of rich brocade and satin, with gilt embroidery. The dress of the skeletons is tight fitting white calico with red bands to imitate the ribs and limb bones.

Dress of masquers. The weapons carried by the maskers are made of wood carved with dorje patterns. The staves of the skeletons are topped by a death's-head.

The object and meaning of the masked play are described under the heading of Lāmaic Festivals.