

were to call his name by the name of any chief, it would be immediately seized by the chief, or any other article in like manner. When a child is born both the father and mother are tabooed. A few days after the birth a preparation is made for a feast. The name is given to the child by the parents. Several prayers or incantations are offered up at the time - the subject of which is, if a boy, that he may be courageous and daring. After the parties have feasted, - (the mother upon sacred food - the father and others upon common) the leaves of a particular tree, as I am informed are procured, and dipped into water, and the person holding the child in his or her arms sprinkles it with the water. This I believe is a universal custom amongst the natives. They believe the child would die if this ceremony were omitted. From whence this custom of sprinkling the young children originated, I could obtain no information. -