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Duplicate in file

Moku - ume-ume

The name of an island in Keawalau o Puuloa sometimes called Pearl Harbor, where the great game of Ume was played from the most ancient times down to 1820.

Ume was a pastime that was very popular with all the Hawaiians, and was played in the following manner. A large enclosure or pa was made usually in or close to a town. This done, all the people helped to collect a large quantity of faggots; and when it came night a bonfire was started, which made it as light as day, and all the people gathered together.

When all were seated in a circle within the enclosure, a man stood forth as the president or ano- hale and called them to order. Another man also came forward called the mau and chanted a gay and lascivious song, waving in his hand a long wand called the maile which was trimmed with tufts of bird feathers. He would wave this to and fro as he moved about, repeating at the same time the words of his song.

As he made his circuit, passing in front of the people, he selected the fine looking women and the handsome men, and the man and woman whom he indicated by touching them with his wand or maile went out and enjoyed themselves together.

A husband would not be jealous or offended of his own wife, if she went out with another man, nor would a wife be angry with her own husband because he went out to enjoy another woman, because each of them would have done the same thing if they had been touched with the ume stick.

During the night while this game was being played the man consorted with the woman that pleased him, and the woman with the man that pleased her; and when daylight came the husband returned to his own wife and the woman to her own husband.

Owing to these practices, the affections of the woman were often transferred to the man, her partner, and the affections of the man to the woman his

partner; so that the man would not return to his wife, nor the woman to her former husband. This was the way Ume was played.

Where now stands Bishop's Bank was once a famous enclosure for this game. Played in the month of Ikuwa- Oct-Nov. the coming of the Makihiki season - Flag time.

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