

THE CORAZA



As one says, the origin of this party was due to the vivacity from a priest when having sent to carve in San Antonio de Ibarra the image of a saint that undercover buried it behind the church of San Rafael's parish, then he summoned the natives to a minga (work in team) to make a gutter that coincidentally went by the secret funeral. When the mingueros discovered it they ran to warn to the cure that with "astonish" he said this is a "miracle", to be August 19th it corresponds to San Luis Obispo and will be necessary to surrender him cult every year to this Saint. So the ceremony of the Coraza would be no longer as offering to the pachamama but to San Luis Obispo Patron.

With relationship to the party we were already spoken about the expenses that the priest has to make like to rent the disguises. The Coraza's disguise is the most expensive and it consists of a helmet in form of half invested moon, adorned with jewels of golden metal and slopes that cover the face of the Coraza, it takes ostrich feathers in the superior part of the helmet; a very adorned white shirt of shines with tinsel cloth, a round layer that falls on his very adorned shoulders and a white pant sewn with cloth shine mirror or with decorations in his coarse ones, gloves, stockings and white canvas shoes and a control

cane. The disguises of the companions are almost always designated the relatives who are taken charge of the expenses. The companions are: Ñaupadores, Captaincy, Loa, Yumbos, Black Captain, Soldiers, Volatero, Estanquero, Service, etc.

The food that will be distributed in the party consists of: buda (laundry of corn with several meats) chicha and/or liquor with cigarettes that it is distributed to the assistants. This party is prepared during one year, it begins the day in that the priest in mass has announced jointly with the priest's name.

To the day of the party the bands arrive and the whole people get ready in the square organizing careers and competitions, at about the half-day takes place the mass, then the lunch that consists on opening shawls or cloths improvised to shower on them the food that consists on mote, egg hard dive, beans, mellocos, etc, as well as pieces of guinea pig meat, rabbit, lamb, etc that will be ingested by the assistants located in different rotations.

After the food, the Coraza travels around the square and then the town, accompanied just for his band of musicians, when he enters again into the square, the Loa screams commendations to his Mr. and Captain Coraza, to his accompanying ones and sometimes picaresque expressions to the public, while flyers and castles explode. Finally people meet in groups at different homes (especially of the Coraza or priestes) and they drink until high hours of the night. It fits to highlight that to the exit of the Coraza, the soldiers and yumbos they throw currencies and scrape to the face of the Coraza to hurt him until he bleeds. So the Coraza comes out riding accelerated of the place. From the historical point of view this bled reflective the same essence of the ritual of revitalization of the Land.