

## A Study on the Costume of Lama Ritual Dance

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Lamaism is a Mahayana with strong shaman characteristics in Tibet and Mongolia. It was established through settlement of Esoteric Buddhism, based on Indian Buddhism, transferred to Tibet, mixed with a traditional Tibetan religion Bon which emphasizes shamanism, conducts Tantric and shaman rituals. One of the rituals, Tsam, is a dance drama for protection of Buddhism and enlightenment of the followers in which the monks perform in mask.

In spiritual aspect, Tsam dance was based on Indian folk art and spread in Tibet. Mongol-Tibet Tsam dance can be classified into Fancy-dress Tsam of Geser and Nomon Khan, and Talking Tsam of Milbogdo, which died out already. Basic forms of Tsam ritual are; dancing in clockwise march in triple circle and representatives with mask dancing together in the center of the circle. Major props in Tsam are masks and garments. The characteristics of the masks are as follows. Except for the masks for the old-man and Tibetan role, the masks are usually several times as large as human face and weigh about 32kg. The masks for the devil and the Buddha have three eyes. One eye is in the forehead, and the other two are under it. The one is called the eye for the inside (human mind), and the latter two are called the eye for the outside (world eye). The garments belong to the temple dances consist of jacket and trousers and Tzam dance gown, diagonally folded tippets and two piece straight petticoats. These garment form two different costumes: one consisting of jacket and trousers, the so-

called 'skeleton-dress' which is also used for dances in Tibetan monks, another consisting of Tzam dance gown, a tippet and in one case a two piece straight petticoat: this latter costume is used in the pantomime performed by the lamas both in Tibet and Mongolia. Or simply wearing caftan or long waistcoat and mask. The mask and garment vary in different regions. As a set of garment for the devil, It includes a mask with three eyes and five skulls, a robe-like gown and a square tippet. This feature can be seen in the garment for the devil in both Mongol and Tibetan Nationality's ritual temple dance. Mongol robe has the same design as the well-known Chinese royal uniform; blue satin embroidered with red, green, golden, white and black thread in green, red, blue and yellow stripe symbolizing dragon, cloud, the ten long-living creatures and land. Meanwhile the garment for the devil in Tibetan Nationality's temple dance uses brilliant satin with dragon, phoenix, bat and gourd patterns. It is like common overcoat, caftan with blue upper-bodice, striped sleeve with red-yellow-red colors and the lower part of body with the same multi-colored patch across.. The shape of lapel of overcoat is round neckline in Mongolia, but a straight neckline in Tibetan Nationality's temple dance. A neck collar, tippet have the same shape and patterns, and differ only in color. These show that the general design of Ritual dance costume is the same in Tibetan Nationality, Tibet and Mongolia, but there is regional differences due to Chinese influence as seen in Mongolia.