



THE HOPI KACHINA CAPE

Much like European women, Hopi women wear special bridal clothes when they marry. A Hopi woman's bridal ensemble includes a dark dress, thick leggings, and a white cotton wedding manta draped across her shoulders. A manta is a rectangular textile that was to be worn as a blanket or "wrap-around" dress. A Hopi bride received two mantas, one to be worn at her wedding, the other to be buried with her at her death.

The Hopi manta was embroidered with cloud and lightning designs, as well as with butterflies and related motifs associated with rain. In a wider sense, this white cotton embroidered manta symbolized the renewal of life, just as a marriage celebrated the renewal of the family, the clan, and the Hopi.

Today, women wear the Hopi manta at special ceremonies, dances and on feast days. Hopi men also wear the manta during Kachina ceremonies.