

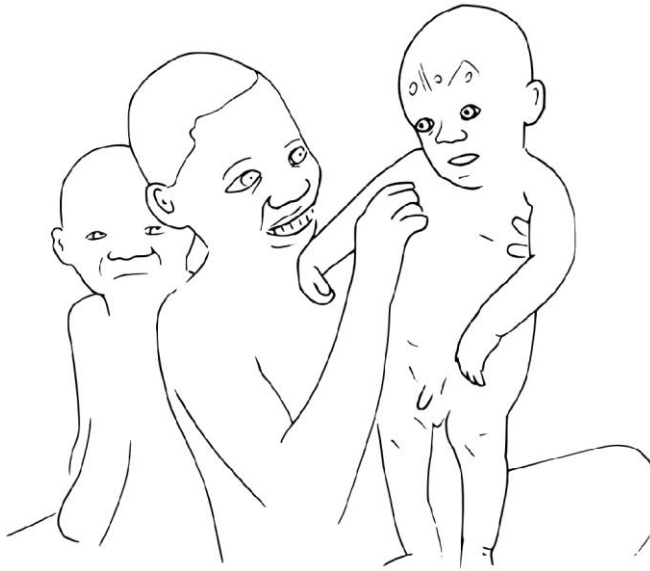


Fig.017 Illustration showing a native boy lifting a toddler and feeling joyous about it. In the background is an old lady who just painted the face of the toddler. This lady and the boy are not necessarily the grandmother and the brother of the toddler but could be anyone in the camp since anyone highly praises children.

Affection Among the Natives of Higher Africa

Natives are "devoted protectors and lovers of children" and they have "no equivalents of the orphanage" since orphans are "immediately adopted and embraced by relatives or friendly neighbors". Also, cruel or "neglectful treatment of children is condemned" and "when there is little food" the parents "go hungry" and the children "are fed" (Hallet 1973). Native children "love to imitate their adult idols". And while fathers "make a tiny bow" for his sons and "arrows of soft wood with blunt points" mothers delight themselves by weaving "a miniature carrying basket" for their daughters. And while the girls build "a miniature house", boys go off in small hunting expeditions. The small game they kill "is cooked and eaten". Their grandparents "play at being an antelope" so that they can train children to hunt bigger game as much as "their acrobatics on the swings" (Turnbull 1961). Mothers treasure as memento, items like "a belt which had belonged to a son of hers who had died some years previously". Also, when a child is born a little piece of the umbilical cord is wrapped "in a sachet made of leaves" and hanged "round the infant's neck". The mother "always carries her infant in her shoulder-sash" and carries on her daily tasks (Schebesta 1933).