

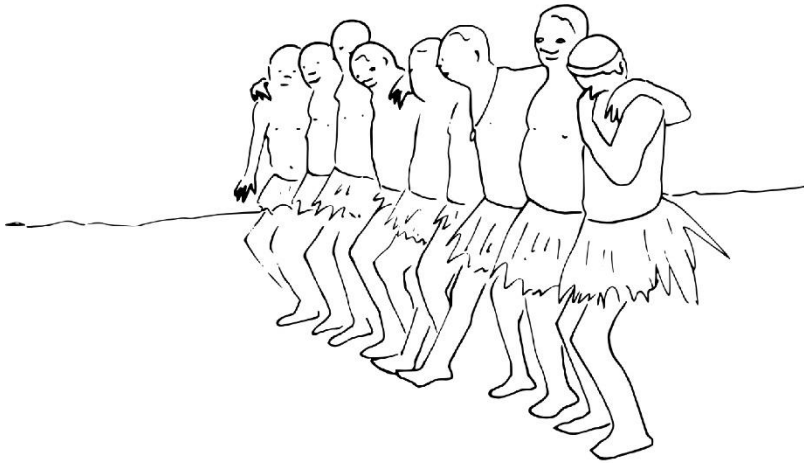


Fig.015 Illustration showing an example of the cohesion within a band of natives. Similarly dances and other spontaneous ceremonies bring together neighbouring bands. This is to say that within and among native societies there can be conflicts but these are quickly overcome in a collective type of commotion.

Conflict resolution Among the Natives of Higher Africa

Even if another group of natives come to their territory to gather food uninvited, natives "fight only with words" and the invaders "run away and leave behind whatever they have stolen" (Turnbull 1961). Natives are like the shy okapi who "flees from the trail of the hunter". They occasionally have "fierce arguments" but is not in their nature "to nurse grievances for long or to bear malice against one another". When the black and then the white people came to settle in their territory, natives "never advanced to battle in formal ranks" but they crept up "stealthily under cover of the forest" discharging "a volley of silent insidious arrows, and then retired noiselessly, leaving no trace of their whereabouts". Interestingly to avoid inner conflicts "mothers-in-law and sons-in-law have absolutely no transactions with one another" and in a lesser degree also a "father-in-law and daughter-in-law". Young wives can go as far as erecting "a fence of phrynium leaves so as to cut off the view of the abode of her parents-in-law." The moment a woman gets "quarrelsome", a man can start spinning a "whirring wood" while she rushes to her own clan to get a gift to offer "as atonement to her husband" (Schebesta 1933). Also through a reenactment two quarrelling men are "good friends once again" (Duffy 1984).