

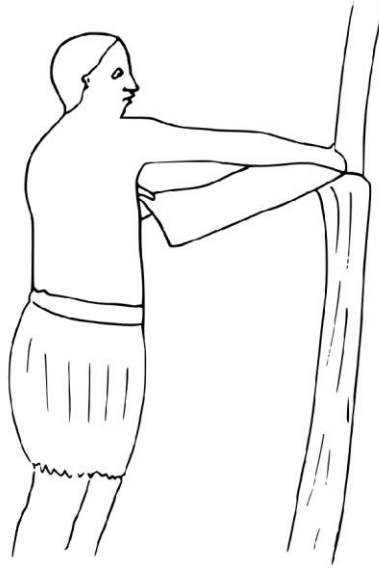


Fig.026 A native man stripping the bark off a small tree. With the bark a fine textile is prepared so that both men and women have the material needed to make their loincloths. This loincloth is latter painted with patterns making use of pigments that are also extracted from the natural environment.

Control Among the Natives of Higher Africa

Native men make a fire in the forest "some distance from the camp each morning before the hunt". They then burn "small, fresh branches with green leaves still attached" and from the ends they blacken "parts of their faces, especially around the eyes". In this way they wear "a part of the hunting fire" made from the "'sacred forest, in order to bring good luck in the hunt". And while they get ready with their hunting nets, native women take up "their traditional role as beaters". Advancing silently "into the half-circle of nets" they start to "shout and beat the bushes" with outwitted animals "squealing" and running towards the nets. Yet beside their brutal manners "in their long history" natives "have never harmed their environment or threatened the existence of a single animal or plant species". Spending their "entire existence in one particular section of the forest" marked by "natural boundaries such as streams, hills and changes in vegetation" natives come identify certain "landmarks and locations" where someone "killed the elephant" or "fell while getting honey". Some locations however can be even more special like *Apalura* "the most beautiful place in the forest" where "God live" and where "hundreds of butterflies" are "clustered on the damp sand" and natives make love (Duffy 1984).