



Fig.009 Illustration showing a group of native men marching through the forest. Not only their rhythm is elevated but the forest itself presents many dangers their weapons alone cannot withstand. Unlike modern rifles that can kill a leopard on the spot, a poison arrow would take too long to act on any animal of prey.

Courage Among the Natives of Higher Africa

Natives may venture in the forest without carrying "a spear or bow and arrow" since they are "the Children of the Forest" and should have nothing "to be afraid of it". And unlike the blacks who are terrified by the forest, natives are afraid of what "is outside" (Turnbull 1961). In a village they are terrified by blacks who are so excited to see them and start "screaming wildly". Also, the closer whites come with their cameras to photograph them "the greater" is "the panic of the terrified" natives. Yet in the forest even under "a terrific thunder" they reproach it and then keep "remarkably quiet" despite that "the giant trees" could crash them down. But singing a "litany" calling for their spirit "to protect them" can give them courage. Above all natives are courageous climbing up "liana with the agility of a monkey" and fetching honeycombs on top of high trees (Schebesta 1933). A native woman is not afraid of the mboloko's "sharp little horns" and can grip it by the "hind legs as it trashed in the nets" held by her tribesmen. And with a "giant hog" running "directly toward him" a native man pierce him through the chest with his "broad-bladed spear". Beside the deadly "horned viper" the camp can be "invaded" by a "column of deadly safari ants" and men, women and children have to make a "barrier" of "hot embers" (Duffy 1984).