

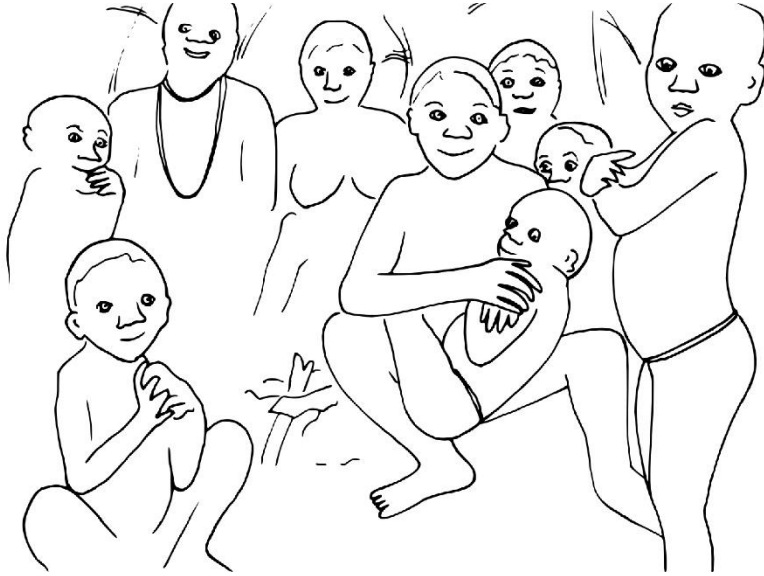


Fig.013 Illustration showing a group of natives gathered inside a hut. While the father and mother are in the background, children of all ages interact with one another sitting around the fire place that in case of darkness of rain is brought inside. Everyone loves one another and there is a great sense of unity.

Family Bonding Among the Natives of Higher Africa

Natives call "everyone who is of the same age group" as their parents "either father or mother" and those who are older "grandparent" and those of the same age "brother or sister". Anyone younger is referred to as a "child" (Turnbull 1961). In general parents are "completely devoted to their children" and all natives "do as little work as possible, since it is much more enjoyable to dance, sing, make music, and engage in all kinds of sports, games and diversions" (Hallet 1973). Overall, in a camp "batches of families cling together" in groups "joined by kinship" (Schebesta 1933). And with a new day an infant begins to cry soon "soothed by an attentive mother" and from another comes "the first sound of a conversation" and "one by one" natives wander out of their huts and begin the day "in much the same way" our ancestors had "for thousands of years". There are "neighbours to greet" and "infants to wash" but also "food to prepare" and "plans to discuss" without "children to get ready for school" and "no rush-hour traffic to fight, no bus, train, or airplane to catch, no time clock to punch". Children squeal and laugh as they chase "each other around the huts" while a young mother sings a "gentle lullaby to her infant" and men remaining "mostly reserved" starting to mingle only "when the food" is ready (Duffy 1984).