



Fig.022 Illustration showing two black men overlooking the process of smoking elephant meat conducted by two native women. Natives are more or less forced to hunt down the dangerous elephants of the forest so as to provide meat to the protein-starving. Often what they get in return is palm wine and other addictive substances sealing their dependence to the exploiters.

Honesty Among the Natives of Higher Africa

Natives cut away "the shrubbery" of a tree to mark a "discovery" like edible caterpillars as their own "property". Having done so "nobody would contest" this find or steal it (Schebesta 1933). But while there is barely any stealing among natives, some older ones see it as a good thing to live next to one of the villages of the blacks as there is "much good food to be had for the stealing". There might be however a native that ought of "laziness" slips "around the camp at night, taking a leaf from this hut and a leaf from that, until he had enough to thatch his own hut" (Turnbull 1961). Oftentimes the évolués, the blacks who have been educated in the way of the Europeans cheat natives by trading with them goods "ten times the normal price" (Hallet 1964). Blacks also "force" natives "in the battle" with forest elephants appropriating for themselves "the carcass and the valuable ivory tusks" just giving natives "a pot of beer" and "some bananas and perhaps a piece of cloth" and "a few scraps" of the meat. Selling ivory blacks have grown "enormously rich" attaining "a standard prosperity that they need not work" and "can devote their time to wild carousals." Also, blacks "abduct" native girls without dispatching any of the gifts that are a costume of matrimonial "procession" (Schebesta 1933).