

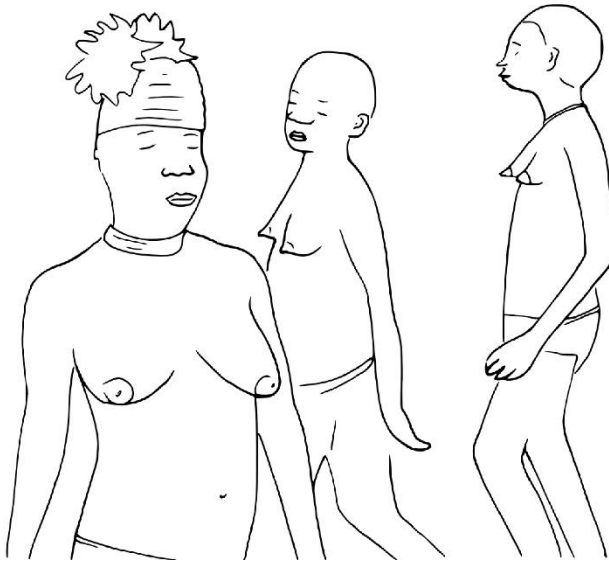


Fig.016 Illustration showing native girls coming of age. They are aware of their beauty and take advantage of the situation to step forward in a dance. While they are proud of their bodies and health, they do not own any form of luxury item like jewels and the like. Similarly young men can be proud of what they have hunted but do not take advantage of their status.

Humility Among the Natives of Higher Africa

A young native can "proudly" carry a young "yellow-backed duiker on his shoulders" but back in the camp people "laugh and shout" joking about events of the hunt "especially where somebody had missed an easy target" or has made "a fool of himself in some way". And if somebody is considered a "camp clown" and risks his life to fetch honey from a high tree he is "apparently too gentle to take it for himself". But also, a great hunter who manages to kill an elephant "except for the first night of singing and dancing" he no longer talks about it and sits quietly with "some of his friends" not taking part to festivity the rest of the tribe set up to thank "their forest" for having provided them with "more meat than a hundred tiny mboloko antelope". Either way a good hunter is "respected" and may be chosen as a leader "to conform" with the village system of black people and act as a "spokesman for the collective decisions and opinions" of the band but has "no special authority or political power" among the natives since decisions are made by "consensus". Generally, also there is "little inclination" on the part of the natives to cling to traditional ways in the event of an emergency. While blacks are "taboo-ridden" natives quickly accept "whatever practical help is available" (Duffy 1984).