

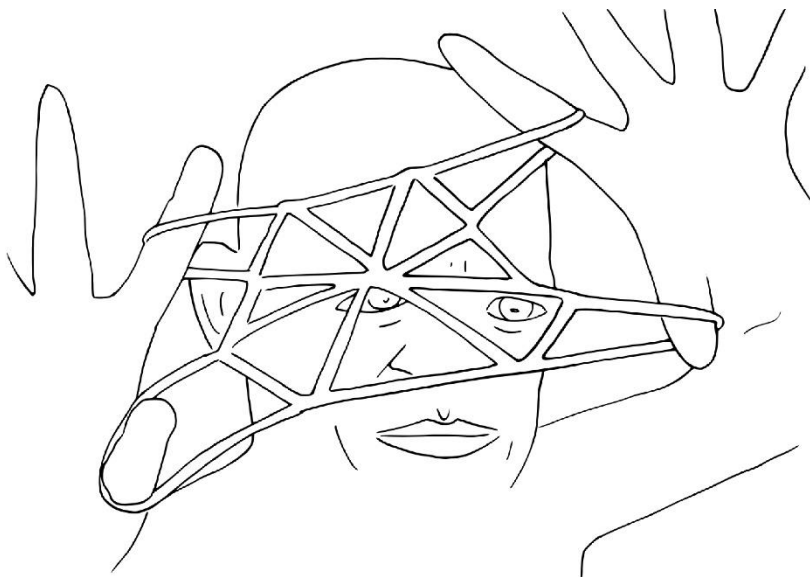


Fig.001 Illustration showing the string figure made by on old native woman. These string figures are popular diversions among female population and they are wholly alien to the culture of the surrounding black tribes. This very figure represents a butterfly while other figures can present other natural shapes like a honeycomb.

Mental-health Among the Natives of Higher Africa

Natives are mentally fit. There are no chiefs among them and even those who are not good at hunting can take "an active part in any dispute" and manage to "shout" their opponents down. Also, unlike the superstitious blacks who have colonized their forest, natives "practice no sorcery or witchcraft" (Turnbull 1961). Importantly they are not "indolent and slovenly" people but face the burden of their nomadic life "with the stoicism of a philosopher". Women however can be "prone to tears" and "liable to passionate outbursts of rage or sorrow". Their psychology is deeply affected by the blacks "who had wooed and won all their marriageable wives" and particularly their chiefs "who undertook the initiation of the young lads in the tribal codes" (Schebesta 1933). Unlike common belief natives play sophisticated games like a kind of domino in which a player tries to predict which symbols will be exposed when he "tosses a pair of *bili* tablets into the air" and they fall to the ground. If he guesses right, he wins a pebble. Each player is equipped with a pile of pebbles that are used like "poker chips". Also, natives make use of "standardized patterns on arrow shafts" for the purpose of "sending messages" like "a proposal of marriage" (Hallet 1973).