



Fig.029 Illustration showing a native woman drinking from a forest stream of using a leaf as a cup. The forest provides the natives all that they need in order to thrive without the overloaded material culture that is necessary to comply with in order to make a living in a contemporary industrial society.

Sustainability Among the Natives of Higher Africa

Natives light fires in the hollows of trees where porcupines are hiding and then pluck out their quills which are "highly prized as ornaments" especially since they love to "push them through the cartilage of their noses". But the chameleon is a "sacred animal" one should neither kill, wound "nor make it suffer" otherwise a "lightning strikes you dead" (Schebesta 1933). But while black people "run in superstitious terror at the mere sight of a chameleon", natives "love to play" with it "perched upon their heads". After carefully placing it on their leaf-thatched huts they "go about their tasks" while the chameleon "catches flies or moths" as some kind of mosquito lamp (Hallet 1973). Interestingly also the "molimo", the natives' ceremonial trumpet is not "elaborately carved, decorated with patterns full of ritual significance and symbolism". It is not "something sacred, to be revered" made of carved "bamboo or wood" but can be as simple as a "length of metal drainpipe" the natives have stolen "from roadside construction gangs" (Turnbull 1961). Also, natives not only eat the intestines of monkeys and crack open their bones "for their marrows" but they "peel off" the tail a cover for their bows. The "tip of the elephant's trunk" with "its twin holes" is used as an amulet and the "thick hairs" of the tail are turned into bracelets (Duffy 1984).