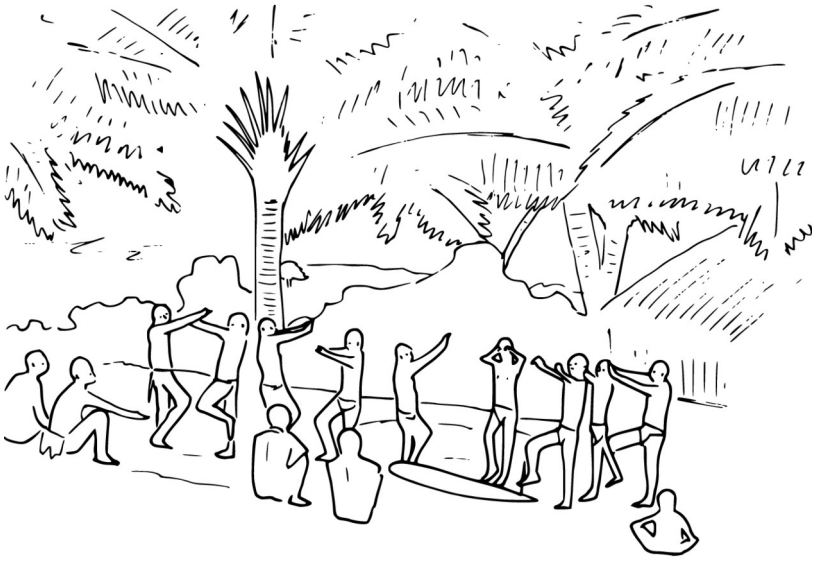


Fig.073 Illustrations showing natives dancing together inside their camp with other natives observing them. All this communal activities are a benefit to their overall stability with everyone feeling included in the band. If signs of mental instability are manifested, these are addressed with the ostracism of the entire community, without which no one can survive.

Mental-health Among the Natives of Lower Asia

"No idiots, maniacs, or lunatics" have ever been observed among the natives. And this is not because those so afflicted are "killed or confined by their fellows" since "greatest care and attention are invariably paid to the sick, aged, and helpless" (Man 1883). Interestingly also if natives have "a painful dream" they will not "venture out of the camp the following day". By all accounts natives' body and psyche are "far better nourished" than those of peasants. Moreover, they have "no concept of suicide" and even when they are abducted and brought to another city where everyone dies of smallpox with the exception of a woman, she can go as far as becoming "an accomplished pianist" and move to another city to open a "school for native girls". And while retaining an "excellent memory" superior to that of Indian intruders, if forced to attent school in spite of their "tender years" they learn "English and Urdu fluently and a "fair knowledge of arithmetic" (Mukerjee 2003). Additionally, natives "have not acquired the power of thinking abstractly" and only deal with "concrete things". Also, they quickly estimate how to "adapt their conduct and conversation to the character of a person they meet". They are "excellent mimics" and can imitate exactly the "tone of voice or manner of walking or any other idiosyncrasy" of a person (Radcliffe-Brown 1922).