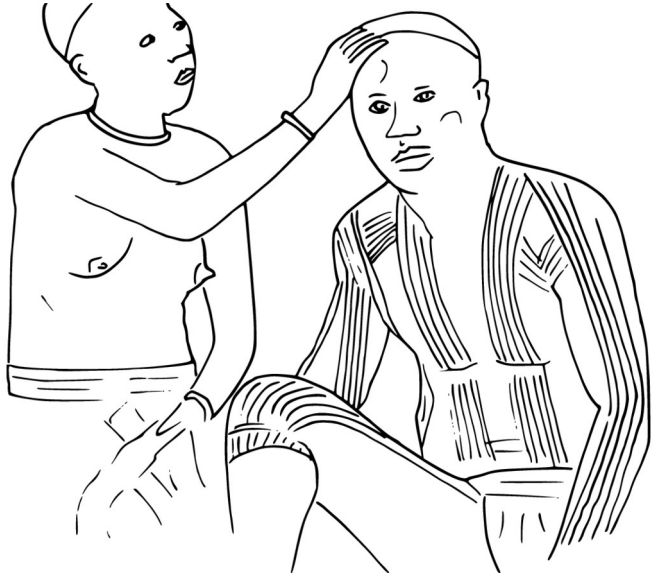


Fig.076 Illustration showing a native woman decorating her husband with body paint. While some patterns are related to their clan of belonging or to the actual animal food they eat, abstract patterns are the design of women. If one is particularly inventive, her design is imitated by other women and can go viral.

Mindfulness Among the Natives of Lower Asia

Natives have their own languages which are "unlike any other" but don't "have words for numbers greater than two". They adore children and laugh "a lot". In their dances native women turn, wind, shake and bump their "hips back and forth" keeping their upper torsos still. With the other natives "young and old" they form a circle and then a row "stamping ahead, back and to either side as they gyrate "their hips". The more a wife loves her husband "the more magnificent" the design she execute on him. Men and women alike return from the forest "adorned with garlands" and a man returning from an "exceptionally successful hunting trip" is met by his wife with a specially "unusual and elaborate design", which she carries out with "great devotion". If the body paint colours are specific to the clan the body pattern are "based on the season of a person's birth" for instance bearing dugong-inspired designs (Mukerjee 2003). The designs are "more or less symmetrical" and may cover the whole of the body "with the exception of the hands and feet". On the face they are made "with greater care". After the men return from their day's hunting the patterns are made representing "the food" they are going to eat like turtles or boars. For special occasions they use "the highly-prized white clay" to draw snake patterns along with other ornaments of Pandanus leaf and shells (Radcliffe-Brown 1922).