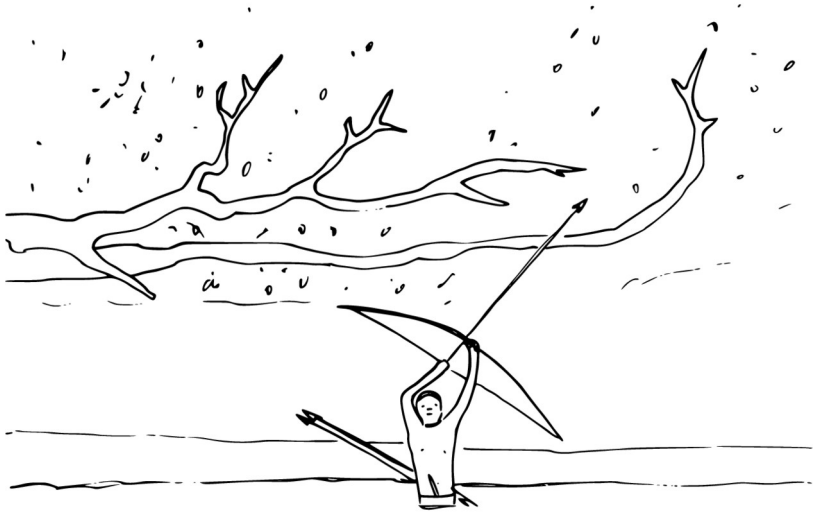


Fig.081 Illustration showing a native courageously facing the approaching of a ship of colonizers. Not only natives think that these large ships are moving islands, but after understanding the kind of deadly diseases they bring with them, from welcoming the crews of curious foreigners they now warn them to keep at bay.

Courage Among the Natives of Lower Asia

If natives are made fun of because they do not learn modern techniques to for example catch fish, before the advent of civilization the sea was "full of fish" and arrows were "more than adequate for harvesting them". Even ten-year-old natives shoot fish with bow and arrow "leaping from rock to rock" as their prey "darted about underneath". Even in "stormy weather" in this way natives can obtain a "large basket of fish" at times when foreign fishermen catch none (Radcliffe 1922). And in the moonlight, when spotting the dugong grazing in "herds of thousands on the sea-grass beds" a native paddling on a boat "imperceptibly" shoot his spear forward and then dives "cleanly into the water" to retrieve the spear shaft. Within seconds the dugong "agonized by the barb in its back" shoot the boat forward heading out to the sea until its pace slows and the natives are able to haul "the nine feet long" carcass. Similarly when spearing an "eightypound" turtle in the night the boat is dangerously "rocked" in the shark-infested sea. Also, as natives witness a foreign steamer let out an "instantaneous shout" and brandish their bows until one of them rushes into the water and shoots an arrow at it (Mukerjee 2003).