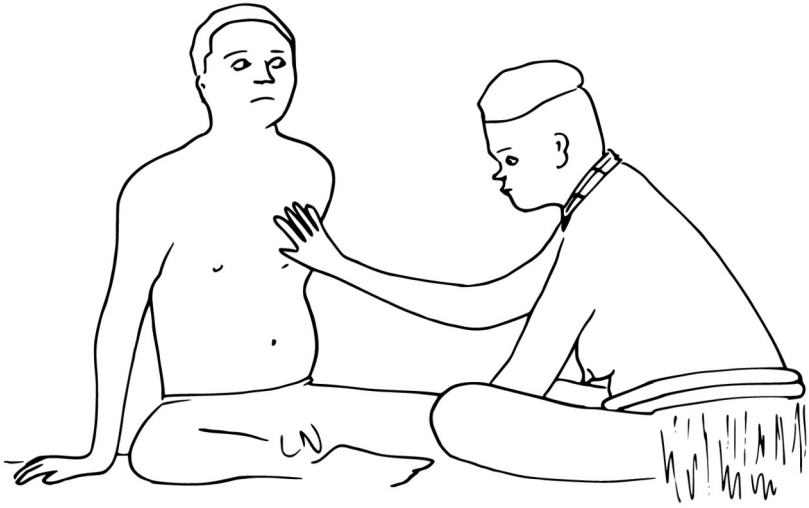


Fig.082 Illustration showing a native woman greeting her husband after some days apart. Natives are very physical, hugging each other in a constant manifestation of affection. The hot hours of the afternoon can be spent just hugging one another while resting with nothing of the sexual obsession characteristic of neolithic societies.

Sexuality Among the Natives of Lower Asia

During the wedding ceremony the groom is "dragged" to the bride's presence and torches are lit to "allow everyone to witness their embarrassment" and to shower them with presents required for "setting up a household". For a few days the couple is "too bashful even to look at each other". The marriage is "complete" only when a baby arrives. When a man returns after an absence, the wife wife "hangs" round his neck sobbing as if her heart would "break with joy at their reunion". Also adultery is uncommon and can result in "violent retribution" (Mukerjee 2003). In fact a family is constituted by a "permanent union" between one man and one woman. By marriage a man acquires the "sole right to sexual congress" with the woman who becomes his wife but at the same time it is his to "avoid sexual relations with other women". Before marriage however promiscuous intercourse between the sexes is the rule and "no harm is thought of it". The love affairs of boys and girls are "carried on in secret" but the older members of the camp are "fully aware of all that goes on". After a time a boy "forms an attachment" with some girl and a marriage between them "results from their love affair. Later the married man may not have any "close dealings" with the wife of a man younger than himself (Radcliffe-Brown 1922).