

Fig.083 Illustration showing two native women in a creek where stones emerg from the water. For natives these stones represent children and if a woman is unable to have one, she spend her time in these rocky places in the hope of getting pregnant. As in other hunter-gatherer societies getting pregnant is more an occurrence and not the result of a sexual encounter.

Personal-freedom Among the Natives of Lower Asia

While "teen flirtation" is tolerated, suspected couples may be painted with "red oxide" and "white clay" so that after meeting at night a glance on the following morning "suffice to betray them". The couple would thus be embarrassed into "breaking up" or "get married". Similarly a native girl found pregnant would be "sure to result in a wedding" (Man 1883). Also marriage is forbidden "between near consanguinei". Generally speaking, native women express a "strong contempt at the idea of marrying a man younger than themselves" although widows are likely to select a man who is "an unmarried younger brother" or a relative of the deceased". And when the parents of a young perceive that he has "formed an attachment with a girl" they take it upon them to "arrange a marriage" through a third person. Avoiding to speak to the girl's parents they "send presents to each other" (Radcliffe-Brown 1922). Usually a native man from a "turtle-hunting group" would marry a woman from the "pig-hunting group" in the opposite corner of the island, and vice versa. And even when her native man is "held hostage" by the European colonizers the woman "make herself useful as a guide" to the keeper of the so-called "home" in order to "ensure her husband’s well-being" (Mukerjee 2003).