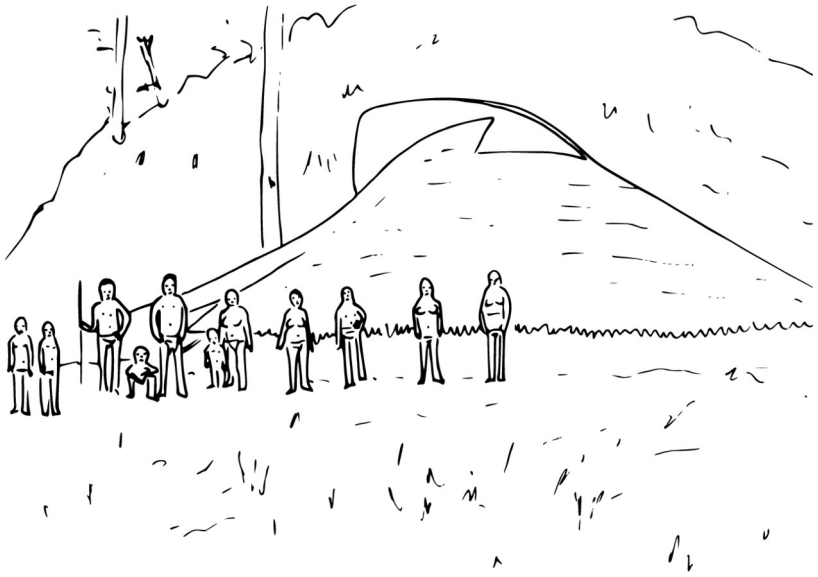


Fig.085 Illustration showing a band of natives standing in front of a communal hut. Even inside these large huts the division of the band in nuclear families is emphasised. Each family gets a space and an individual fire for cooking but still in the center a space is kept for communal type of events such as the evening dancing.

Family-bonding Among the Natives of Lower Asia

They are scattered in "independent" communities of "thirty to fifty persons". Neighbouring communities meet together for a few days and join in "feasting and dancing". A camp is made of eight huts ranged round a central "dancing ground" and all of them facing "inwards". Each hut is occupied by a family group, consisting of "a man and his wife with their children and dependants". Each family has its "own fireplace" on which a fire is kept "continually alight". There is also a "communal cooking place" near the bachelors' hut. The dancing ground is "swept clean" and dances are kept every night with "little heaps of resin" providing light. On one end there is a "sounding-board" upon which a man beats time with his foot. Thos who intend to dance sit or stand round the edge of while individual singers stand at the sounding-board with a chorus of women marking time by "clapping" thier hands on the hollow formed by their thighs. As soon as the chorus begins the dancers begin to dance. The step of each dancer is the same and all the dancers "harmoniously" cooperate and "act in unity". Each singer repeats a song "several times". Singing and dancing are kept up sometimes for "five or six hours". In case natives erect a "communal hut" to live together under the same roof "each family has a special portion of the hut marked off for its special use" (Radcliffe-Brown 1922).