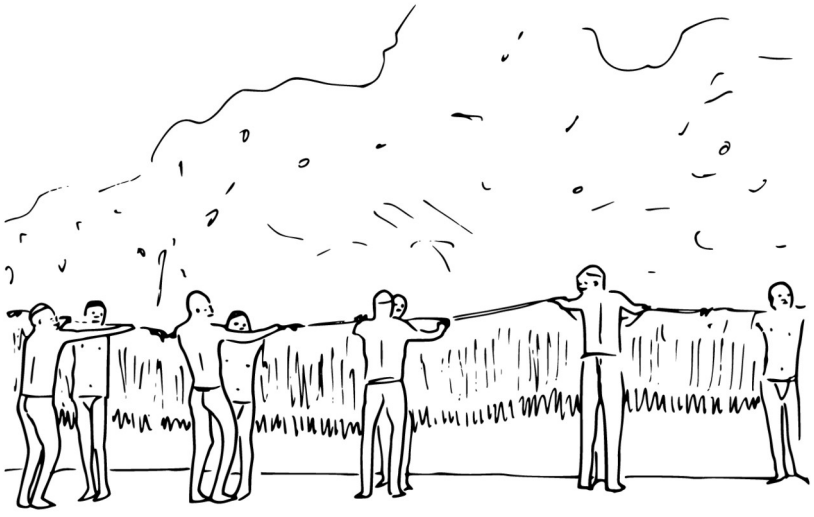


Fig.087 Illustration showing two different bands of natives doing a peace ceremony. Feudal type of disputes can occur between the various bands but there is nonetheless nothing of the war of annihilation carried out by modern nations. It is actually women who seek to bring peace between two bands without protracting these feuds unnecessarily.

Conflict-resolution Among the Natives of Lower Asia

When out of temper natives use mild terms like "You long-head!", "You long nose!", "You sunken-eyed one!", "You skin and bone!" and it is not uncommon to destroy "canoes and other articles" which will give them "several weeks' employment" to repair or replace. These outbreaks are looked upon as "temporary" and no one opposes them (Man 1883). In the rare event a native kills someone "he would have to reside alone in the forest" without touching "a bow or arrow" nor food and would have to wear the "plumes of a particular wood" for a full year. Only then "female emissaries" are dispatched to discuss matters with "the women of the enemy tribe" (Mukerjee 2003). In fact real quarrels are more likely to occur at "the meetings of different local groups". The hosts might think that they had been "shabbily treated in the matter of presents" or the guests might complain that "they were not well enough entertained" and "a feud between the two groups" may result. Even so the whole art of fighting is "to come upon your enemies by surprise, kill one or two of them and then retreat". Usually after "one or two such fights" peace is negotiated by women and a special ceremony takes place in which the hostile tribes gives in turn "a good shaking" and then sit down to "weep together" and then spend a few days "hunting and dancing" and exchanging presents (Radcliffe-Brown 1922).