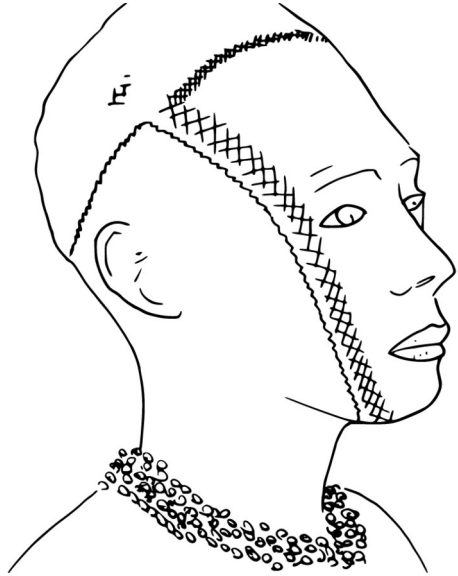


Fig.088 Illustration showing the decorated face of a native man. The decoration are the work of art of a woman and in a sense she should be the one to be proud of the design. They are very simple but can be very effective in emphasizing the mood of natives, whether they are in a festive mode or are mourning.

Humility Among the Natives of Lower Asia

Only the belt is used to carry "adzes, fish, roots, or even arrows" while the necklet is used to carry a cane knife and a sling is used to "carry children". Other ornaments have a "ceremonial" purpose. "Leaves, netting, bones, shells, seeds, bark and bamboo" are put around "the waist, the neck, the leg below the knee or the wrist" depending on the event. Together with "scars and the body paint" they boost the appearance of the native. Importantly natives make "no use of the feathers of birds" and of flowers as decorations (Radcliffe-Brown 1922). In addition every week women shave their heads "leaving only two narrow parallel lines of hair" from the crown to the "nape of the neck" (Man 1883). Also native boys and girls undergo "the operation of scarification". The operation is "repeated at intervals during childhood" until "the whole body has been scarified". A small flake of quartz is used to cover a small portion of the skin with "a number of parallel rows of short cuts". On the occasion of their "first menstrual discharge" native girls must "bathe in the sea every morning" and then are given a "flower- name". And when the relatives of a boy decide that "he is old enough" an elder makes a "series of cuts" on his back and then the boy is under certain restrictions as "to what foods he may eat" until an elder rubs him with such a food be that "turtle or boar fat or honey" (Radcliffe-Brown 1922).