

Fig.089 Illustration showing two native men hugging one another in silence and for several minutes. This is their reaction after not seeing each other for a period of time. It is not a custom but a sincere manifestation of having missed each other. Despite this, natives from different tribes are willing to exchange children in order to improve their education.

Affection Among the Natives of Lower Asia

A native baby is named "some time before it is born". In child-birth the mother is "assisted by the matrons of the camp" and the after-birth is "buried in the jungle". The infant is then washed and after a few days is given "a coating of clay". Childless men wear the sling for carrying children and women visit a spot with "a large number of stones" She then stands on a stone believing that "one of the baby souls will "enter her body". Generally children are "never punished" and they are "seven or eight" they are adopted by a married couple belonging to another. The parents of these children visit them at "frequent intervals". When of age the adopted children "may marry" the children of their foster-parents. Prior to that they are required to help both their parents and their foster-parents (Radcliffe-Brown 1922). If a kid dies the father digs a grave "in the center of his hut" and three months later exhumes the remains to wash them. The mother then paint and decorate the skull and then "wear this precious memento about her neck". Out of the bones she crafts necklaces "for giving to friends". At the end of the mourning period everyone "start to cry" and the women chant while the father and mother perform a dance known as "the shedding of tears". After the parents have retired their friends continue "the melancholy song and dance" (Mukerjee 2003).