

Fig.093 Illustration showing a native young woman undergoing an initiation ritual. Having to stay silted and avoiding to eat certain kind of food, this woman will develop the consciousness and the gratefulness needed to enter adulthood and become an active member of her band ready to contribute to it with also new children.

Laws Among the Natives of Lower Asia

A native widow or widower has "priority in picking a spouse". Also during the latter part of the period of pregnancy and right after a birth the mother "may not eat full-grown pig, Paradoxtirus, turtle, dugong, the fish komar, monitor lizard, honey and yams" (Mukerjee 2003). But generally among the natives there is not any such thing "as the punishment of crime". Also cases of theft "seem to have been rare". It is the aggrieved person who can "take vengeance upon the thief" but without however killing or seriously wounding as that leads to the "vengeance of the relatives and friends" of the thief. Adultery is regarded "as a form of theft" but if a native man is punishes his wife too severely "it would be an occasion for a quarrel with her relatives". In fact the most aggraviated natives can do is to vent their anger "in violent words". There are also a number of "anti-social" actions such as laziness for which a native entirely lose "the esteem" of others but also "lack of respect to others and particularly to elders, meanness or niggardliness, and bad temper". Natives are considered bad if they "refuse" to marry or "undergo the privations connected with the initiation ceremonies". There are also prohibitions such as "burning bees'-wax or killing a cicada" but even then the punishment is "supernatural" one and it strikes every one like a storm (Radcliffe-Brown 1922).