

Fig.096 Illustration showing a native woman married to a colonizer. Throughout the centuries natives have developed customs to integrate one another in the limited space their territory offers. With the arrival of colonizers their natural way of living has been abrupt. The latter just took the best for themselves without thinking of the consequences.

Hospitality Among the Natives of Lower Asia

Among the natives friendly relations are kept alive by "the intermarriage of members of different groups" and "by the adoption of children from one group to another". These customs prevent the two groups from "becoming entirely unfriendly to one another". Especially during "the fine months of the year" single persons and families pay a visit to another camp "staying a few days or weeks". Importantly during periodical meeting "as many as three hundred" natives gather for purposes of festivity. And when two relatives or friends "who have been separated from one another for a few weeks or longer" they sit "one on the lap of the other" with their arms "around each other's necks" and weep for several minutes "till they are tired". When they part they lift "the hand of the other" towards their mouths and "gently" blow. Also for centuries natives have been accustomed to see "light-skinned men visit their shores in ships". They call them "Lau" regarding them as visitors from "the world of spirits" (Radcliffe-Brown 1922). Even so when a ship approaches they "light a fire to signal it is safe to land" dancing with joy over the presents they receive and sitting "on the laps of the visitors". It was only after being "emasculated by some imported disease" and their territory was colonized by these visitors and lost that natives are never again to be found peaceable (Mukerjee 2003).