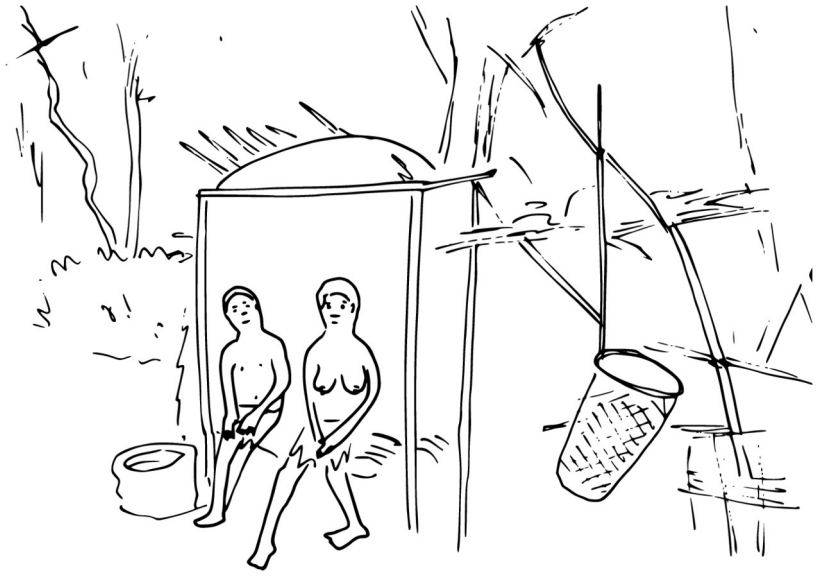


Fig.099 Illustration showing a native couple. Their hut is simple yet it can be effective to protect them from the rain thanks to their thatched roofs. Nonetheless natives are exposed to all types of weather and are accustomed to live periods in which the monsoon rains can be rather powerful.

Exposure Among the Natives of Lower Asia

Natives live in local groups that have access to "a number of recognized camping places". Some of these places have been "in use for many centuries" and throughout the greater part of every year natives are "found living together at one or other of these" places. But one of the chief factors determining the choice of the site is "the existence of a supply of fresh water". Either way natives are "profoundly affected by the alternation of the seasons". Cyclonic storms sometimes are "so violent as to tear every leaf from the trees" and even "uproot the jungle for miles" making it "impassable for years to come" and "destroying some of the native hunting grounds". In these rare occasions the lives of the natives are in danger because of "falling trees" and "falling trees" is in fact the name they give to cyclones. Even if they escape "the danger of death or injury" natives still experience the extreme discomfort of being "unable or afraid to go out hunting" and have to do "without food until it is over". Moreover a storm can destroy "their huts, canoes, and other property and thus cause loss that has to be made up by toil". This is why natives will avoid to put their camp "under high trees" for fear of the danger of "falling branches in a storm". They prefer a situation where there is "an open space surrounded with forest so that they are sheltered from the wind" like on a hill (Radcliffe-Brown 1922).