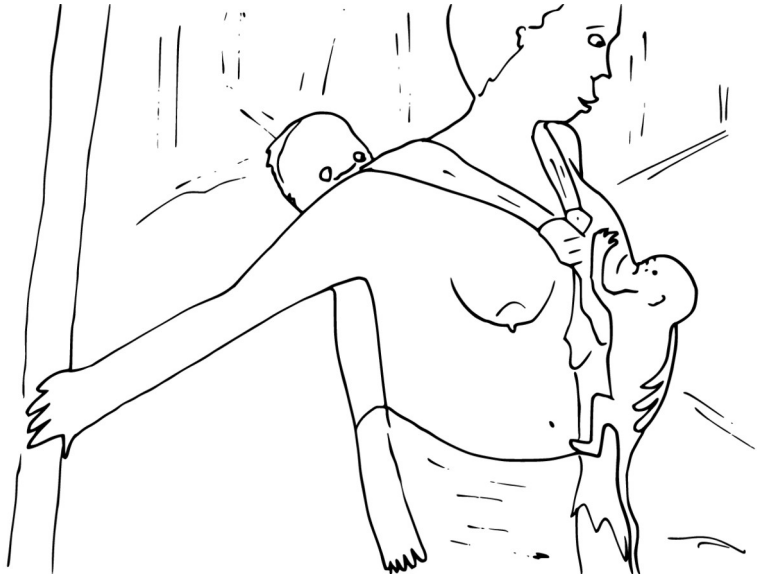


Fig.100 Illustration showing a native woman carrying a child in her back while holding a baby monkey in the front. The latter is actually breast fed by the woman who took pity upon finding this monkey without the mother. She might not be consistent in feeding the monkey since the milk is precious to the baby but an act of compassion is anyway displayed.

Respect Among the Natives of Lower Asia

Natives do not burn certain kinds of wood as the smell "is believed to frighten away turtles" and certain trees are not cut for fear to "become blind". And while a piece of creeper protects them from sharks some leaves keeps away "the spirits of the sea", bee's wax keeps away "the spirits of the forest" and fire keeps both away. Also when natives feast on a dugong they do not leave the camp for fear that the spirits "may smell them" and turtles are killed on their back with the head "pointing towards the open sea". (Radcliffe-Brown 1922). But native children have fun "tying a fine string to the leg of a toad or tree-lizard" and "unless their elders interfere" the game ends with "the death of the unfortunate captive" (Man 1883). Nonetheless natives do not kill a spider or "a type of beetle", "two kinds of fish, a certain mollusk" and a "particular bird" not to anger " the northeastern monsoon". Also the cicada is considered its child and early in the morning and late in the evening natives "have to be silent" not to infuriate it. And upon seeing dogs for the first time natives "lay down" with them learning to "pet them like little girls" and suckle the puppies "with their own children". But when the dogs grow they are "kept hungry" so that they can "sniff out" wild pigs. Beside this a species of monitor lizard that "roams with ease under the sea, on the ground, and in the towering trees is revered "as an ancestor" (Mukerjee 2003).