

thus kept her husband's body in her hut till it dried up of itself, and she kissed it and offered it food every day, as though it were living. Many similar cases are reported from elsewhere. Hut preservation is common in the very lowest races. More frequently, however, owing to the obvious discomfort of living in too close proximity to a dead body, the corpse at this stage of thought is exposed openly in a tree or on a platform or under some other circumstances where no harm can come to it. Among the Australians and Andaman Islanders, who, like the Negritoes of New Guinea, preserve for us a very early type of human customs, the corpse is often exposed on a rough raised scaffold. Some of the Polynesian and Melanesian peoples follow the same practice. The Dyaks and Kyans expose their dead in trees. "But it is in America," says Mr. Herbert Spencer, "that exposure on raised stages is commonest. The Dakotahs adopt this method; at one time it was the practice of the Iriquois; Catlin, describing the Mandans as having scaffolds on which 'their *dead live* as they term it,' remarks that they are thus kept out of the way of wolves and dogs; and Schoolcraft says the same of the Chippewas." Generally speaking, at the lowest grades of culture, savages preserve the actual bodies of their dead above ground, either in the home itself, or in close proximity to it. We shall recur later on to this singular practice.

A slight variant on this method, peculiar to a very maritime race, is that described by Mr. H. O. Forbes among the natives of Timurlaut:

"The dead body is placed in a portion of a *prau* fitted to the length of the individual, or within strips of *gaba-gaba*, or stems of the sago-palm pinned together. If it is a person of some consequence, such as an *Orang Kaya*, an ornate and decorated *prau*-shaped coffin is specially made. This is then enveloped in calico, and placed either on the top of a rock by the margin of the sea at a short distance from the village, or on a high pile-platform erected on the