

The Dyaks of the hills burn their dead, and have other Hindu customs; but practically their religion is only a debased kind of spirit worship. With regard to the people themselves, there were two sets; those on the hills, who resembled our Highlanders; and those of the plains, whose tribes are very much larger in number, and go to sea as pirates, which the hill-tribes do not. The people of these islands were at one time completely locked up, as it were, by the Malays, who infest every spot round the coast, and have established resorts in every convenient place. It is only the large tribes, such as the Sarebas, Sakaraens, and Dyaks, who go boldly out to sea, that can compete with them. After a time, these got to be masters, and often force the Malays to steer their boats. The hill tribes are many, but very much smaller in numbers than the sea-Dyaks; both living under their own chiefs or Orang Koya, which in Africa would be called kings.

The sea-Dyaks are very powerful. The chief never decides himself in capital crimes, but calls a council of the elders, and consults them as to the judgment or punishment to be inflicted. The land-Dyaks are much harsher in features than the sea-Dyaks, who are more like the Malays. Like many other uncivilized nations, they have legends of a better and loftier origin, something like the story of Coelus and Terra. Some will tell you their ancestor was a spirit from above; others, that theirs was a spirit from the water. There is a fish which is taken in their rivers called a "puttin", which they would on no account touch, under the idea that if they did they would be eating their relations. The tradition respecting it, that a solitary old man went