

They were a handsome race, akin to the people of the Canaries, with their skin color varying from yellowish to red. Both men and women were tall and healthy looking. The most remarkable thing about them was that, despite the fact that they did not wear a stitch of clothing on their bodies, they did not appear lascivious or wanton. Most of them were young, under thirty years of age. Their hair, short and coarse, was cut and combed forward at the front but grew in the back like ponytails, and they painted their bodies with various colors—black, white, red, and ochre. The contrast between them and us—with our lice-ridden hair, unkempt beards, and unwashed bodies—was so striking that neither party knew what to make of the other, where they had come from, whether they were friends or enemies, or whether they were even human or merely a new type of ape.