

Re: Need help with cite

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- *From:* "Tom McDonald" <kiltmac@xxxxxxxxxx>
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On Mar 4, 12:09 pm, "George Dance" <georgedanc...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Can anyone help me track down who first presented this theory about the origins of primitive trade? I read it years ago, but have long since forgotten the author – IIRC it was Leon Louw, but I'm really not sure – and no longer have access to the original source.

In prehistoric times, rival tribes trading with each other did not speak at all, or even meet. Tribe A simply left goods in a designated spot; Tribe B would come along and, if they liked the goods, take them and leave goods of their own; if Tribe A liked that, the trades would continue. Most of the tribespeople didn't even know there was trading going on, due to lack of free speech; the official spokesmen (the priests) spread the lie that the gods had provided. (Meaning that everyone got to witness the power of the gods first-hand.)

I'd be curious about this theory, too. It seems wrong to me, not least because it is attempting to attribute behavior to people that does not appear, or not that clearly, in the archaeological record. It would seem to require the groups be either historic, or at least proto-historic for that kind of data to be available.

How can we know that groups who traded with each other didn't speak to each other if we don't have a written record?

And how can we know that 'official spokesmen' attributed the largess to the gods?

I'll be curious as to what you find.

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