

FRAZER

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(24)

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My dear Spencer

On thinking the matter over I have decided not to expand my notes on totemism into an article for a magazine, but to print them as they stand in the Journal of the Anthropol. Institute at the end of your paper. As the view of totemism put forward in these notes was entirely suggested by your facts (a suspicion of it never having crossed my mind before), I think I ought not to anticipate you in stating the general conclusion which you had drawn from the same facts before me. It will be honour enough for me to be allowed to publish my views simultaneously

with yours.

I enclose my paper for you to glance over if you find time. If you find anything in it to object to, please let me know and I will see if I can alter it. I will ^{or modify} omit the argument I drew from the supposed fact of the totem animals not eating each other.

With regard to my old theory of the totem containing the soul or part of the life of the man, I incline to think that though it does not hold true of your tribes at present, it may have done so in the past. If the object of totemism is to control and direct the various departments of nature, it might be thought that this could be best effected by each group of men and women having portions of their life deposited in the totems. This would supply a sympathetic link between the men and the totems and

thereby give them power over the latter. The traditions and customs of your tribes in regard to their Churingas and Nurtunjas seem to me to point back to a system of this sort.

Yours very truly

J. G. Frazer