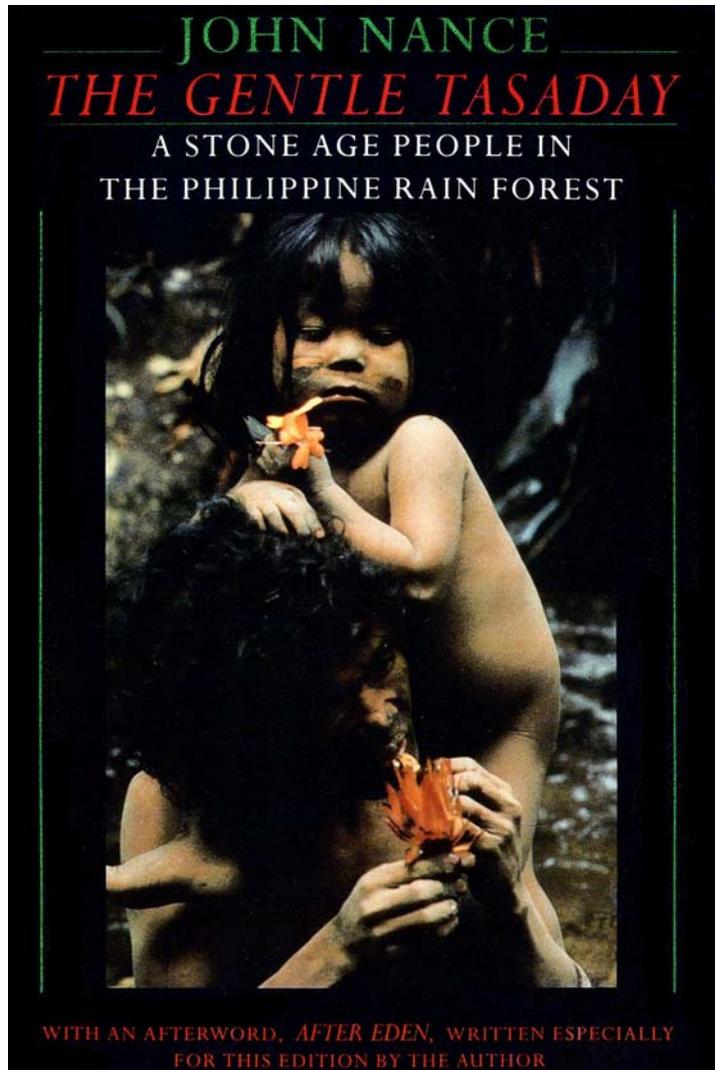


## Book of The Century



John Nance (1975). *The Gentle Tasaday. A Stone Age People In the Philippine Rain Forest.* Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. New York. NONPARELL BOOKS. David R. Godine, Publisher, Inc. Horticultural Hall Boston, MA. 1988.  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tasaday>

"The question about the Tasaday has become whether they are the "persistent hoax" some claim or what this book says they were when first encountered by modern men in 1971—a gentle people, a small group of cave dwellers in a remote Mindanao rain forest, stone tool makers and food gatherers, in fact, with no weapons and no words for enemy or war. John Nance's afterword, "After Eden," based on renewed investigation in the Philippines in 1986 and 1987, makes plain the current status and problematic future of the Tasaday" From: *Back Cover*.

### Additional Commentary

"Questioning elicited no sign of a hierarchical structure or of leadership role for any Tasaday, which made it in anthropological terms a group, not a band or bribe, both of which have such political or organizational features. Tasaday decision making apparently was based on

discussions in which men and women expressed views equally, with age and experience determining degree of influence". (p.24)

"Before meeting Dafal and acquiring pieces of cloth, one Tasaday said, they had worn only leaves. (Fox collected a specimen, which a botanist identified as a ground orchid.) The man told Elizalde that they covered their genitals in order to protect them against witches. The witches were not further identified or described. But another man said the covering was chiefly to ward off insects, leeches, thorns, and raspy vines that caused serious discomfort to the genitals."(p.24)

"The later sessions were more relaxed, but most Tasaday continued to be nervously shy and the women and infants favored the seclusion of the lean-tos. This was in sharp contrast to the intimate affections they showed each other. Younger children were constantly carried, held, nuzzled, caressed; older Tasaday spoke together warmly, touched gently, shared food and shelter with no trace of friction" (p.25)

The photographs showed breastfeeding to three or four years of life with the infant/child-mother in the nude, a common characteristic of the Tasaday. It should be noted that being comfortable and natural in the nude cannot be forced or learned behaviors, as those who claim the Tasaday to be a fraud and hoax would have us believe --jwp

"With them, too, came the questions: What is the truth about the Tasaday's nonviolence? (p.456).