

Somewhere around 6500 BC.

Everything was fine. Five men clad in animal skins around loin walked through long grass, looking for food. One of them was feeling weak and uneasy to follow his companions for the hunt. Unwillingly he drudged behind while his fellow mates boisterously searched for food (Fig. 1). “Shhh! look there. A pair of dodos.” All men instantly dived their heads inside the grass and hastily made their way towards the hunt. “Thunk! Thunk! Thunk! Thunk! Thunk!” Amidst the sound of arrows being shot towards the target, emerged an unexpected loud shriek. The drudging man fell on the ground with a thud. Others watched him helplessly as his



Fig. 1: One of the prehistoric hunters fallen on ground while his fellow mates hunting a dodo



Fig. 2: Evidence of trepanning from prehistoric times

body went into jerks and his mouth frothed. They helped him back to their native cave once he revived back.

Later that evening, the clan of prehistoric men gathered to enjoy the food that they had collected that day. After the feast was over, the man whose body had undergone abnormal movements was laid on the ground. One old, wise member of the clan meticulously drilled a hole in his head using his instruments of flintstone and bowstring (Fig. 2). This was the treatment of epilepsy by trepanning (also known as trephining or trephination) in the Stone Age!