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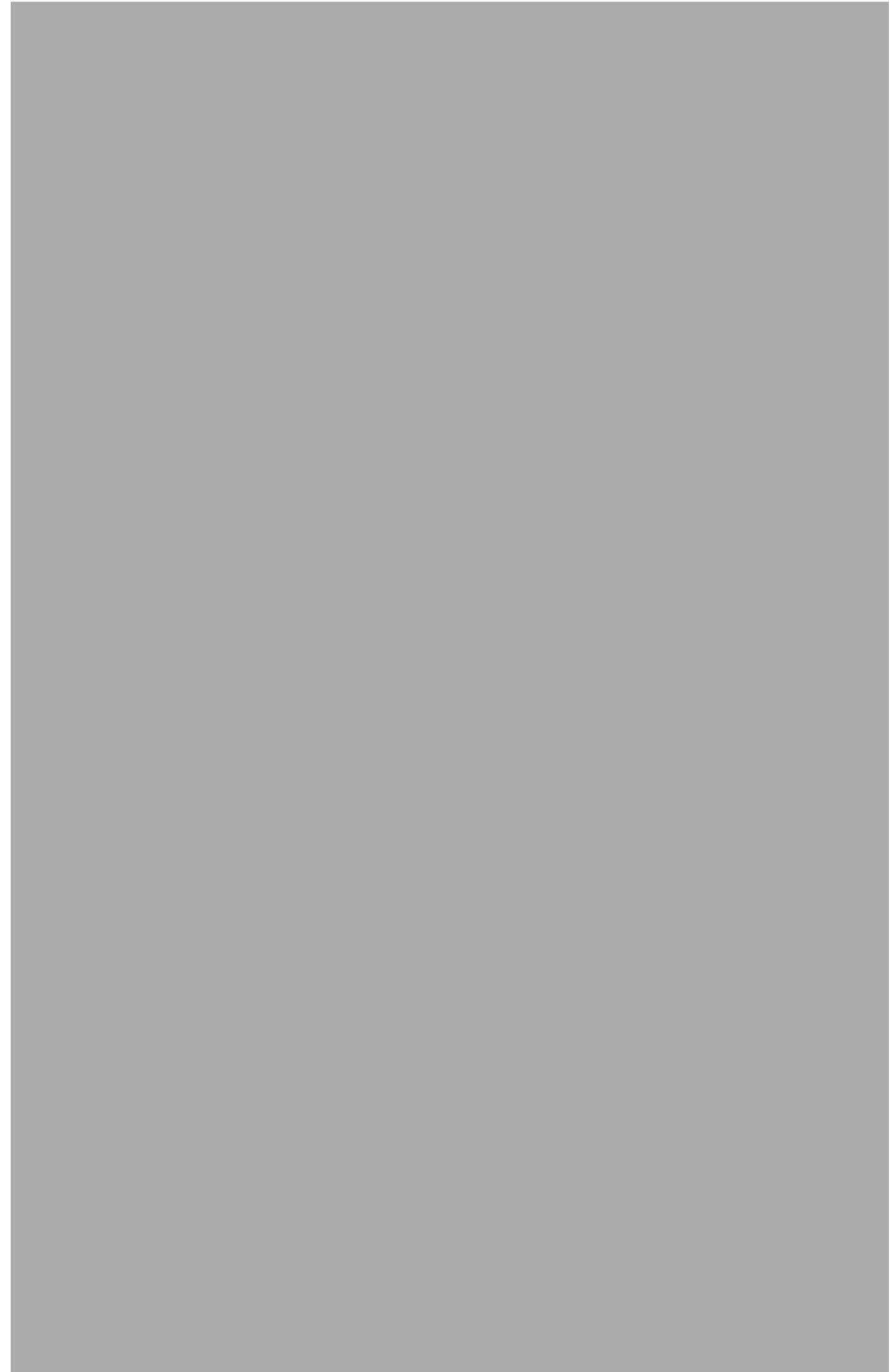
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weakly or deformed were killed by their parents or “exposed” to the elements and left to die. Girls were often the most common victims.

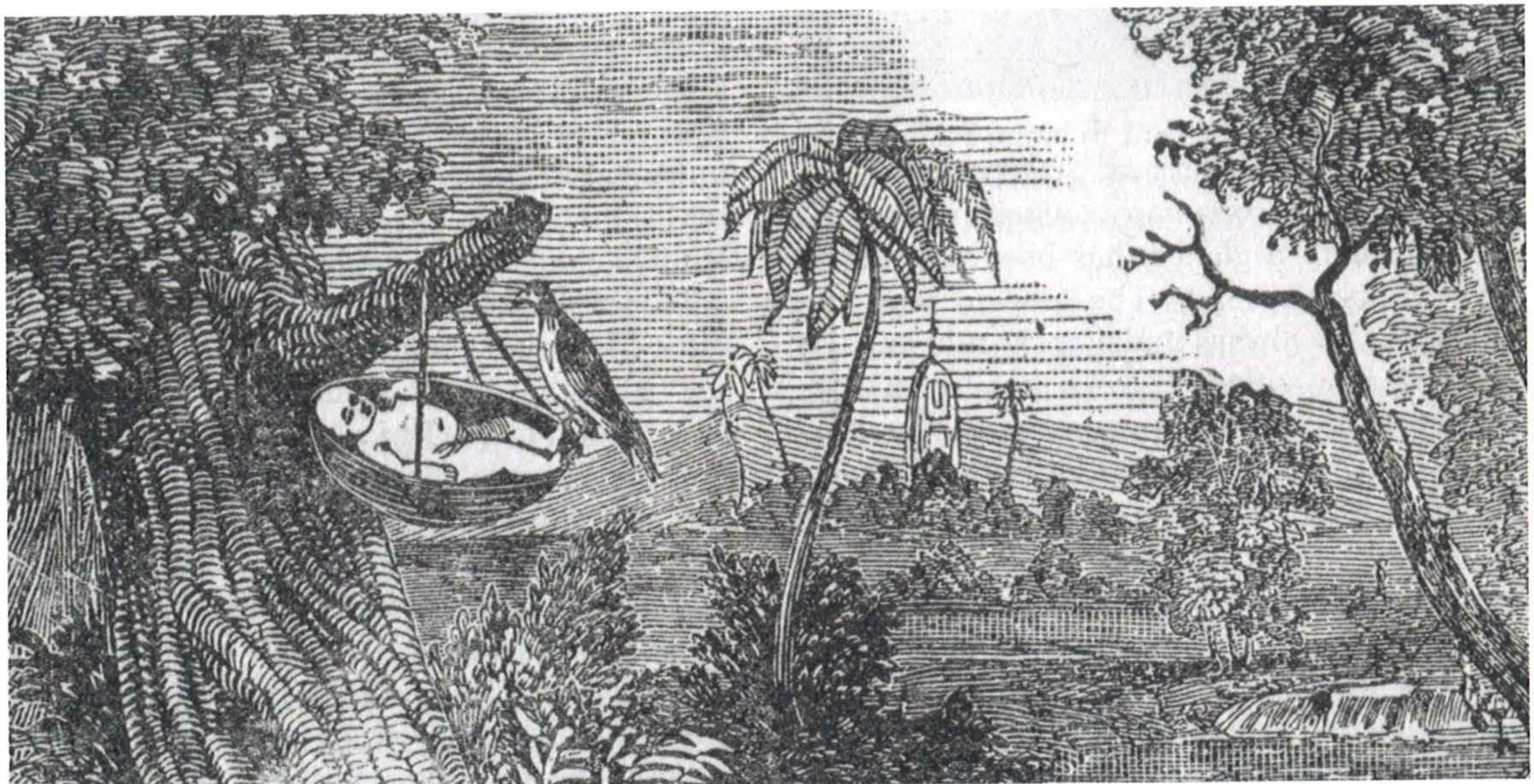


EXPOSING CHILDREN

The Art of Infanticide

“Know that I am still in Alexandria,” wrote a Greek husband to his pregnant wife in the year 1 BC. “If you are delivered of child [before I come home], if it is a boy keep it, if a girl, discard it.” The excerpt below from Britannica’s 3rd Edition (1788–97) makes plain that infanticide was common throughout the ancient world. In ancient Greece, Rome, India, and China, children who were unwanted or deemed

“Infant Exposure to Vultures,” an 1884 book illustration depicting this historically common method of child abandonment and infanticide.



“Infant Exposure to Vultures” image, courtesy Center for Study of the Life and Work of William Carey, D.D. (1761-1834), William Carey University, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, USA