kn·own·able

Ownership of Knowledge: Beyond Intellectual Property,
MIT Press, 2023.

Chapter 7 by
James Leach

KNOWLEDGE AND ITS OWNERSHIP CAN BE A RELATIONSHIP:

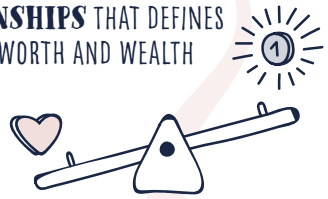
We must SHIFT OUR PRECONCEPTIONS TO RESPOND TO ISSUES OF **POWER & VALUE**

REITE PEOPLE:
IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA,
THE RAI COAST OF MADANG PROVINCE

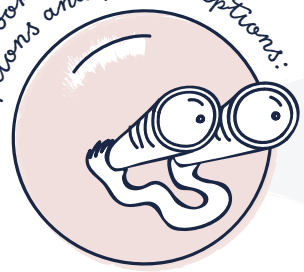


REITE UNDERSTANDING of knowledge:

IT IS THE RECOGNITION OF **RELATIONSHIPS** THAT DEFINES A PERSON'S WORTH AND WEALTH



We need to look beyond our assumptions and preconceptions.



WHAT **IS** KNOWLEDGE AND OWNERSHIP?



WHO HAS **POWER?**

WHAT HAS **VALUE?**

KASTOM:
SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS ALLOW THE RIGHTS OF *performing knowledge*



THE IDEA OF **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

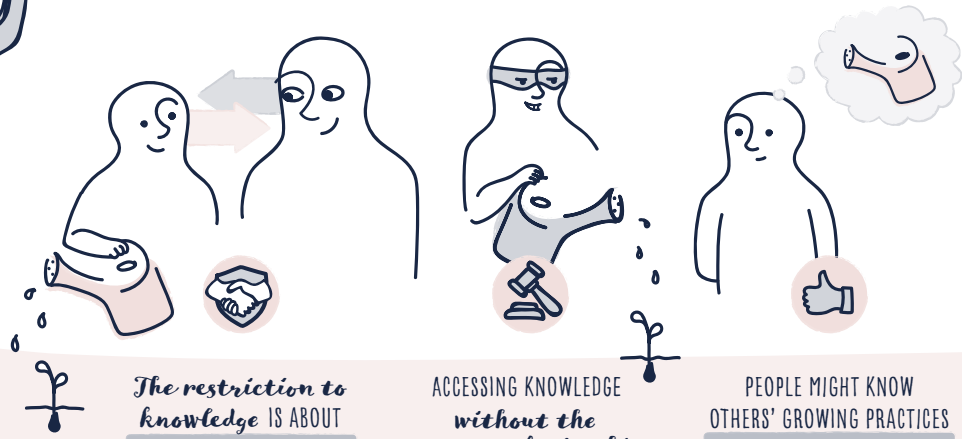


DOES NOT SERVE OR PROTECT **KASTOM**

You grow others by feeding them. This requires knowledge

And you transform them by SHARING **KNOWLEDGE & CAPACITIES**

For which you get ongoing recognition



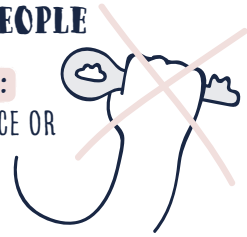
The restriction to knowledge IS ABOUT **PROTECTING ACCESS TO RELATIONSHIPS**

ACCESSING KNOWLEDGE *without the correct relationships* IS A TABOO AND CAN **RESULT IN PENALTIES**

PEOPLE MIGHT KNOW OTHERS' GROWING PRACTICES BUT **DO NOT ENACT** THEM *out of respect*

AMONG REITE PEOPLE

KNOWLEDGE IS NOT:
AN ECONOMIC RESOURCE OR OBJECT OF PROPERTY



BUT KNOWLEDGE IS:
A RESOURCE, REFERENCING, ESTABLISHING, OR TRANSFORMING RELATIONSHIPS …



… THROUGH:

SOCIAL RELATIONSHIP
For example, a nephew learns to tend to taro and the respective rites from his uncle



SPIRITS/DEITY/ANCESTORS

PAYMENT
knowledge comes with the obligation to give back to the one who has introduced the new knower

© Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

Curious? Read more here, it's open access:
doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/14648.003.0014