

1 次の英文の内容を80～100字の日本語に要約せよ。句読点も字数に数える。

Our early ancestors had little conception of the difference between human beings and the animal creation. To them all that had life was animated by a spirit, and the form of the enclosing body made little difference. Primitive man saw nothing impossible in the story that his tribe was descended from a beast or a bird; the lady
5 in the fairy-tale who married a bear or a snake was doing nothing particularly improbable. As knowledge advanced, these animal husbands became enchanted men who regained their true shape at last, but this is a later modification to suit later ideas. The conception of “lower animals” is a modern notion based on the gradual
10 recognition of the essential difference between man and the other inhabitants of this world. Early man saw them as creatures endowed with special gifts and obeying their own laws; often they appeared to him not less but more intelligent than himself. Our fairy-tales, with their helpful animals, talking-birds and wise reptiles, are fossilized remains of a period when animals took equal place with man and were sometimes messengers or servants of the hidden gods. So today it may be seen that
15 a great many of our superstitions about birds and animals are based on their supposed wisdom or magical powers rather than their inferiority in the scheme of things.

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