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"The mother's Brother in South Africa"

- claimed that this case applied to many other patrilineal societies around the world (general law)

son belongs to father's clan + inherits property and status from father

Salient Characteristics of their behavior:

1. Throughout his life the uncle is expected to display particular care and attention towards his sister's son.
2. Thus, if his sister's son fell sick, the maternal uncle would readily sacrifice on his behalf.
3. Despite the kindness on the uncle's part, however, the nephew was permitted many liberties at his expense. Such indeed was the uncle's indulgent good humour that the nephew could even steal his dinner without incurring his wrath.
4. In the same spirit, the nephew could with impunity even steal the sacrifice prepared in honour of the spirits by his uncle. Surprisingly this otherwise sacrilegious act was readily condoned.
5. Finally, on his uncle's death, the nephew inherited some of his property and might even claim his widow!

Is this a survival from the stage of matrilineal society? ⇒ NO!

\* equivalence of siblings: in societies where kinship is an important structuring principle, siblings are expected to present a united front to the world

\* In patrilineal societies, father-son relations are fraught with tensions