

## 4.3-8

### Banisteriopsis Vine

- From Amazon Basin (long-distance trade)
- Used there as a hallucinogen (only when mixed with *Psychotria viridis*, which was a local plant)
- When used alone, was used as a medicine

### Marquet et al 2012

- An attempt to explain why the mummies were made the way they were
  - Their argument (which is considered how NOT to think about deathways):
    - Mummification emerged when population grew, and aridity increased
    - They believe these two things together would create a larger number of naturally mummified bodies lying around
    - Cultural innovations more likely when population was growing (lead to mummification)
  - Problems with their argument:
    - Association, not causation (just because the climate changed, that doesn't mean that would cause a change in burial practices)
    - All cultures under all conditions "invent"
    - Why would bodies be lying around at all? Why not cremation or burial as an innovation?
    - Why mummify artificially if nature is already doing it?
    - Why did the Chinchorro stop the practice?
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## Moche Deathways

### Moche

- State level society with social classes
- AD 200-600
- Very different from the Chinchorro society
- Left behind fantastic art, pottery, fine-line drawings, and frescos
  - Their art depicted the world around them in realistic ways
  - Show scenes of activity and life in Moche society
- Capital site of Moche
  - Had a Pyramid of the Sun and a Pyramid of the Moon
  - Pyramid of the Sun (Huaca del Sol)
    - Mudbrick terrace
    - Massive
  - Pyramid of the Moon (Huaca de la Luna)
    - 3 connected terrace platforms built into a hill
    - On top: complex of decorated rooms, plazas, and burials

- o Other platform centers
  - Sipan
  - Pañanarca
  - San Jose de Moro
  - Cao Viejo (El Brujo)

#### Moche Deathways

- Very strong conventions
- Very consistent across space and time
- Variability in treatments correlate with social status differences
  - o Body always extended on back (for all social classes)
  - o Body always contained in something
    - Low status – wrapped in shroud, or a mat or ceramic egg if a little higher status
    - High status – an actual coffin or even buried in a crypt
  - o Always had something put under their head
  - o Something always covering the face
    - Pottery if poor
    - Gold if rich
  - o Something in the hand
  - o Grave good related to social role or occupation
    - Men would be buried holding fishing hooks, for example
    - Women would be buried holding weaving tools, for example
- Social status was expressed in:
  - o Quantity/quality of grave goods
  - o Grave location
    - Commoners would be buried below their house floor, while elites would be buried underneath public buildings
    - **Boot tombs** – a burial chamber in the rough shape of a boot; elites were buried here
    - Real elite were buried in crypts, or chambers in platforms
  - o Depth of grave
    - The deeper you were buried, the higher your status

#### First Breakthrough in Moche Studies (1970s)

- Chris Donnan's thematic approach
  - o He found that there were a small set (9-12) of themes expressed in fine-line pottery
  - o These themes depicted in whole or in part (abbreviated) on each vessel
    - Tule Boat Theme (changed stylistically between vessels due to different artists, but you can see similar characters and events)
    - Bean Runner Theme (mythological meaning unknown)

- Burial Theme (shows burial in a coffin; coffin being lowered into a burial chamber by two iconic Moche figures: Old Wrinkle Face and Iguana; also shows body being pecked by birds, which could show sacrifice; important burials may have been accompanied by sacrifice)
- Presentation (Sacrifice) Theme (shows someone having their throat cut, and shows different priests)

#### Second Breakthrough in Moche Studies (1990s)

- Excavation reveals that what is shown in Moche art actually happened
- The Presentation theme records sacrifices that actually happened
- Burial 1 at Sipan
  - Shows the Warrior Priest actually buried in clothes found on a buried man

#### Three Major Burials in Sipan

- Lord of Sipan
  - Very elaborate burial chambers of mud bricks
  - Burial chamber
  - Sacrifices buried around him (both human and animal)
  - Spectacular coffin
  - Immense amount of gold
- Old Lord
  - Lots of gold
  - Simpler than the Lord of Sipan
  - Less human sacrifices

#### Aspects of Moche Burials

- Murals as backdrops for burials
- Sometimes human bones were incorporated into the art
- Moche elite were buried with gold craft items
  - Earrings, necklaces, etc.
  - Rich had gold face coverings, like gold “eyes” and “nose” that were placed on the person’s real eyes and nose
- The “Decapitator”
  - A Moche god that is depicted ubiquitously on burial art

#### Huaca de la Luna Sacrifices

- 70 adult males warriors
- Tortured and dismembered
- Sacrificed
- Usually were thrown down the pyramid to the plaza below, and were left however they landed
- Usually pecked by vultures, which explains the birds pecking in burial art