

Culture:

endocannibalism- subdivision of learned, or customary, cannibalism- done on member of own tribe

~social and ritual in cultures across the globe

~spiritual or ritualistic reason: by eating loved one they absorb the good qualities of that person

, ~all is done out of respect for the deceased and holds a large value for religious reasons

(Malaysia, Amazon, and Ecuador)

~a tribe from Papua, New Guinea practiced this religious ceremony until the 1960 when it started to have detrimental health results. They ate the tissue and brains of deceased loved one

~the Aztecs practiced endocannibalism, exocannibalism, and survival cannibalism. For their culture, they believed it brought a balance between the world and cosmos-- done to appease the gods and was seen as a holy act that if not performed would be very bad with relations to the gods

~not only a spiritual act but cannibalism has been used by many cultures in history in order for (tribal) power, murder, and aggression. This was a way to assert dominance over others

~the chief of an African tribe would eat the previous chiefs' hearts-- this too would assert dominance and show a place of power

~symbols such as wine and bread are used in Christian religions to represent the body and blood of Christ. Christians were accused of cannibalism

~the language surrounding endocannibalism could be considered the ritualistic chants and prayers before consuming the dead. Also, different body parts symbolize different "powers" the recipient is taking in: flesh=immortality, bones and ashes= mourning the loss

~some cultures ground up bone and the ashes of the loved ones and put it in their food or drink

Symbols

Values

Language: depends what tribe they're part of, or where they live (not necessary to include in presentation?)

Norms:

Laws

Tribes that practice the culture:

- **The Fore people:** These Papua New Guinea natives practice a strictly codified endocannibalism in their funeral rites, where women and children play a large role.
- **The Wari':** This Amazon tribe uses cannibalism during funeral rites to transform their ancestors into spirits. A spirit may take on animal form to provide food to an ancestor's descendants.

- **The Junkun tribe:** The chief of these native West Africans consumes the hearts of his predecessors in order to create a place for himself outside of normalized society.

Exocannibalism vs Endocannibalism:

Exocannibalism refers to eating the flesh of those outside of one's own social group. Generally speaking, exocannibalism is associated with victory and domination. For example, the Maori tradition of cannibalism takes this form. Maori warriors would eat the flesh of their fallen foes as an ultimate symbol of superiority. The basic message was, "I am bigger, badder, and stronger than you, because I am alive and you are dead. I am eating, and you are the one being eaten."

Endocannibalism is a ritual, not a bloodfest. In one moderately widespread ritual, the bodies of family members are buried and allowed to decompose for some time. The remains are then exhumed, and the bones are scraped clean of any remaining flesh. These bones are then ground into a powder (sometimes after first being burned) that is then mixed with water and drunk.

Citations:

Cultural Anthropology. (2011). Retrieved September 9, 2014, from [curiosity.discover.com](http://curiosity.discover.com)

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