

4:3 THE LIFE CYCLE

A. INTRODUCTION

- 1. Events in Historical Context**
[Evolution = pseudohistorical]
- 2. Cyclical Processes [Cf. Life Cycle of American Family]**
Rites of Passage by Arnold van Gennep

B. BIRTH RITES

- 1. Admitting New Members**
- 2. Three Phases [as with other rites]**
 - a. Separation**
 - b. Transition**
 - c. Incorporation**
 - 1. Identity**
 - 2. Social Status**

C. INITIATION RITES

- 1. Separation**
- 2. Transition**
 - a. Religions Maturity**
 - b. Legal Maturity**
[Margaret Mead “Coming of Age in Samoa”]
- 3. Incorporation**

D. MATING AND MARRIAGE RITES

1. Mating

- a. Biological Process of Sexual Relations**
- b. Mating/Marriage Primarily in Judeo-Christian-Muslim Cultures**

2. Marriage

- a. Social Status Assigning New Roles**
- b. Functions as:**
 - 1) Alliance**
 - 2) Announcement**
 - 3) Adjustment**

[A. R. Radcliffe-Brown “Andaman Islanders”]

3. Three Phases

- a. Separation**
- b. Transition**
- c. Incorporation**

E. DEATH RITES [FUNERAL RITUALS]

1. Five Stages of Terminal Illness

- a. Denial**
- b. Anger**
- c. Bargaining**
- d. Depression**
- e. Acceptance**

2. Functions of Rites

- a. Disposal of body and preparation of spirit**
- b. Channel grief and comfort/support for living**
- c. Restore balance in social relations**
- d. Explanation for death**

3. Three Phases

- a. Separation**
- b. Transition**
- c. Incorporation**

F. SUMMARY