

# While and i related it to my

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BUSTER**

While reading the Body Ritual among the Nacirema I thought to myself, "I don't understand any of it!" After reading it a total of 7 times, I was finally able to focus on the bigger picture and grasp it in great detail.

The concept of the story I may not understand however; different cultures do different things. I took the reading and I related it to my everyday ritual to get a better understanding of it. What I came up with was that when I awake in the morning and prepare for my day, I do in a certain order, as most Americans do. This would be considered our ritual and just as strange as the Nacirema culture ritual seems to us, our ritual maybe weird to them. Reading it was such an eye opener for me, because it made me realize that not everyone does things the same or even close to it. In the reading the Nacirema's are shown to have to fascination with the mouth. They believe that keeping their mouths clean and visiting the "holy mouth men" regularly is a way for them to maintain relationships with people.

Their "mouth men" visits are similar to our trips to the dentist. They have temples, or a latispo, in every community to assist all of the people. Their concept of it all is the exact concept that us Americans have, the difference is the language. "Mouth men" is what we call the dentist, "latispo" is what we call the Orthodontist or dentist as well, and the "shrine" is what we call bathroom.

Although this reading did not change my personal views and cultures, it did make me realize that every culture has their own tradition that they live by. The more I think about it other's traditions relates to ours, but is just not done the same. As other cultures paint their bodies with tribal patterns, we paint

our faces with makeup. People instantly see the tribal painting and think that's weird, not realizing that we do the same thing. This reading allowed me to better understand another culture and understand how similar we all are. Just because one culture does something different than another does or has a different name of something, besides what we call it, does not make one weird or any less.