

# rites and symbols of initiation

20/3/2015

6/12/2014

## The Mysteries of Birth and Rebirth

by Mircea ELIADE

### CONTENTS

I	Initiation Mysteries in Primitive Religions	25
II	The Initiatory Ordeals	52
III	Initiation Mysteries in Primitive Religions	79
IV	Initiation Mysteries in Primitive Religions	105
V	Initiation Mysteries in Primitive Religions	133
VI	Initiation Mysteries in Primitive Religions	163

#### I Initiation Mysteries in Primitive Religions 25

Page 18 <sup>2<sup>nd</sup> para</sup> “The term initiation in the most general sense denotes a body of rites and oral teachings whose purpose is to produce a decisive alteration in the religious and social status of the person to be initiated. In philosophical terms, initiation is equivalent to a basic change in existential condition; the novice emerges from his ordeal endowed with a totally different being from that which he possessed before the initiation; he has become *another*. .....”

Page 30 <sup>3<sup>rd</sup> way</sup> <sub>down page</sub> “*Baiamai*. A couple represents the mythical ancestors, and a group of **twelve human figures** stands for the young men who were with Baiamai on his first camp. ...”

Page 33 <sup>3<sup>rd</sup> down</sup> “covered with branches. For **ten or twelve minutes** the boys are roasted at the fire. ....”

Page 34 <sup>4<sup>th</sup> para</sup> “The meaning of the first part of the ceremony, the separation of the **neophytes** from their mothers, seems quite clear. What we have is a break, sometimes a violent break, with the world of childhood — .....”

Page 43 <sup>3<sup>rd</sup> way</sup> <sub>down page</sub> “..... Among the Narrinyieri, the novices are taken to the bush in the middle of the night, after which they **neither eat nor sleep for three days**. ...”

#### II The Initiatory Ordeals 52

Page 54 <sup>1<sup>st</sup> para</sup> <sub>3<sup>rd</sup> down</sub> “..... A similar situation is found outside of Australia: the divine beings who play a part in the initiation ceremonies are usually imagined as in the form of beasts of prey — **lions and leopards** (initiatory animals *par excellence*) in Africa, **Jaguars** in South America, **crocodiles** and marine monsters in Oceania. ...”

Page 55 <sup>1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> lines</sup> “..... the operators are dressed in lion skins and leopard skins; they incarnate the divinities in animal form who in mythical times first performed initiatory murder

Page 68 <sup>last line</sup> “..... goat's blood, ....”

<b>III</b>	<b>Initiation Mysteries in Primitive Religions</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>IV</b>	<b>Initiation Mysteries in Primitive Religions</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>V</b>	<b>Initiation Mysteries in Primitive Religions</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>VI</b>	<b>Initiation Mysteries in Primitive Religions</b>	<b>163</b>