

## **What Is a Rite of Passage -**

marked passage from boyhood to manhood

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**National Geographic did a study on “juvenile delinquent elephants”.**

**They were separated from the herd to relocate and repopulate. These teens disrupted the ecosystem by destroying the environment and fighting constantly.**

**They had to be reunited with adult male bulls, who would tame them and keep them in their place before a family could be established.**

**Sound familiar?**

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Sociologists have identified three phases that constitute a proper rite of passage: separation, transition, and re-incorporation.

**Separation:** During this phase an initiate is separated in some way from his former life. In the case of the Mandan tribe, the young man was isolated from the village in a hut for three days. In other tribes, boys’ heads were shaved and they were ritually bathed and/or tattooed. In a more modern example, when a man has just enlisted in the military, he is sent away to boot camp. His former possessions are put aside, his head is shaved, and he is given a uniform to wear. During the separation phase, part of the old self is extinguished as the initiate prepares to create a new identity.

**Transition:** During this phase, the initiate is between worlds-no longer part of his old life but not yet fully inducted into his new one. He is taught the knowledge needed to become a full-fledged member of that group. And he is called upon to pass tests that show he is ready for the leap. In tribal societies, the elders would impart to the initiate what it meant to be a man and how the boy was to conduct himself once he had become one. The initiate would then participate in ritual ceremonies which often involved pain and endurance. In the case of the new soldier, he is yelled at, prodded, exercised, and disciplined to prepare him to receive a rank and title.

**Re-incorporation.** In this phase, the initiate, having passed the tests necessary and proving himself worthy, is re-introduced into his community, which recognizes and honors his new status within the group. For tribal societies, this meant a village-wide feast and celebration. The boy would now be recognized by all tribe members as a man and allowed to participate in the activities and responsibilities that status conferred. For the soldier, his boot camp experience would come to an end and both his superiors and his family would join in a ceremony to recognize his new status as a full-fledged member of the military.

During the all phases of the process, the men who have gone through the ritual themselves guide the young initiate on his journey. By controlling the rite of passage, the men decide when a boy becomes a man.

FROM HAMLET –

William Shakespeare's words speak across generations and cultures. In this scene, Polonius gives a bit of fatherly advice to his son Laertes before he heads off to France. While all the advice is good, the best doesn't come until the end- "To thine own self be true." Be a man of honor and integrity. Live life in a way that allows you to look at yourself in the mirror and not be ashamed.

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1. Bungee jumping is for wusses... at least compared to the men who live in Vanuatu, a small island nation in the middle of the South Pacific. Here the men take place in a yearly harvest ritual called Land Diving.

Around April or May, villages will build crude wooden towers reaching heights of 100 feet or more. After the tower is completed, a few men will volunteer to scale it. The men then tie a vine first on a platform on the tower and then around their ankles. Summoning all the courage they have, the men dive from the platform headfirst. The divers reach speeds of 45 miles an hour as they plummet to the ground.

The goal of the jump is to land close enough to the ground that the diver's shoulders touch the ground. Any miscalculation on the length of the vine means either serious injury or death.

Land diving among the Vanuatus goes back nearly 15 centuries

2. Australian Aborigines hold a teen down next to a fire and circumsize him then he has to eat the leftover flesh.

**3. Hamar Cow Jumping – an entire herd**

**4. The Ancient Spartan Helot Killing**

**5. Satere-Mawe Bullet Ant Glove – bitten for 10 minutes and pain lasts 24 hours**

**6. Maasai Warrior Passage**

They drink a mixture of milk, cow's blood, and alcohol and eat piles and piles of meat. After the festivities, boys who are of age (12-16) are ready to be circumcised.

**7. Mandan Hook Hanging – piercing to suspend the body**

ceremonial bloodletting from the nose. boys undergo severe beatings and lashings. The purpose is to toughen up the boys and to prepare them to live as warriors.

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Bar mitzpha - coming of age –

According to [Jewish law](#), when a [Jewish](#) boy is 13 years old, he becomes accountable for his actions and becomes a bar mitzvah.

BOYS to MEN – book bret stephenson

A guide to restoring the successful models used by ancient cultures the world over to raise adolescent boys - • Explains the negative effects of Western youth culture and how it can be transformed

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JUDGES 2:10 - The people had remained true to the Lord throughout Joshua's lifetime, and as long afterward as the old men of his generation were still living—those who had seen the mighty miracles the Lord had done for Israel.

<sup>10</sup> But finally all that generation died; and the next generation did not worship Jehovah as their God and did not care about the mighty miracles he had done for Israel.

[1 Corinthians 13:11](#) When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.  
[Luke 2:52](#) And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

[1 Samuel 2:26](#) Now the boy Samuel was growing in stature and in favor both with the LORD and with men

[Hebrews 6:1](#) Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation

[1 Timothy 4:12](#) Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

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### **What values should a man have?**

- 1. provide and protect (women, children, the weak)**
- 2. responsible work ethic**
- 3. Always learn from older men / respect elders**
- 4. learn to lead and follow everyday.**
- 5. lives in community, not isolation / accountable to others**
- 6. Integrity – true to your self / conviction for what's right**