

DEATH.

Sefanaia

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Title: THE DEATH OF A MAN.

- When a man in the village has died the relatives of the dead man will have to send the message across to them and let them know. The relatives who lived in the same village will have to prepare everything about the funeral. They will have to collect mats, masi, tabua and the magiti for the funeral. Also in here may be some relatives from different place will come and may be some of his friends or his working mates and they will all come to attend the funeral. All these they will have to bring along their Reguregu like the tabua (whale tooth) and present it to the relatives of the man who had just died.
- What is Reguregu ?
- In here all the tabua, mats, masi brought by the people during funeral is called the Reguregu. Also the meaning of Reguregu is that it is their last gift to person who had just died. During the funeral there are two groups, one is the relatives of the father and one is the relatives of the mother so both sides have to attend the funeral. But from the mothers side which is very important because when the mothers relatives arrived then they can buried the body otherwise they have to wait for them.
- What is the first to be done when somebody died ?
- When somebody died firstly the fathers relatives will have to lay down mats plenty of it so that when the dead been brought to the house they have to put it on top of the mats which had

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- been layed down by the father's relatives. So when the mother's relatives arrived then they can go and prepare the hole for the dead body.
- During the funeral is there any place have been prepared for those who come to the funeral ?
- During the funeral the relatives and the people of the village will have to prepare the food and the place to rest for those who came. Also this food is meant to anybody who come to the funeral they have to eat and rest. For the funeral the relatives always have to killed two big cows and a big basket of magiti so that the people who came can use it. If the person died in the evening the funeral will atke place on the next day. This time the oId ladies will come the thouse of the dead body and in here they will have to sing the church songs until the next morning. This people who come and sing the church songs, when they finished on the next day the relatives of the dead man will have to presented a tabua and showed their vowed of thanks to them. After this then the people will have to wait for the mother's relatives to come and give their last gift to the dead man.
- Who always prepare the cemetery ?
- When the mother's relatives arrived it means that they can go and prepare the hole for the dead body. For those who did this is only from the father side. Also these people are the ones to decorate the cemeteyr with the mats and masi. So when thye reached the cemetery they will put down the coffin and they will to wait for the Reverend to do his prayer for the funeral.

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- After the funeral is ~~any~~there anythign else ?
- After the funeral and everybody will have to come back to the place of the dead man. From here then they have to listen to the relatives of the dead man what else to be done next. If the relatives of the dead man have much courage then they will have to tell the people that they to wait for the Burua of their brother who had just died. In here the relatives of the dead man will have to kill another cow and some dalo together with the mats, masi tabua all this things will to be shared between the people who came to the funeral or to those who take part in the funeral. This food are uncooked ones then they give it to each one who provide something to the funeral. So that is what is meant by the Burua.
- How is the magiti given to the people ?
- In here the relatives will have to see the amount of people who came and they will shared the magiti according to the amount of people who came. But only the most things are given to the relatives of the dead man. According to the rest of the people they have to share equally. Only the biggest amount is given to the relatives of the dead man.
- Can you explain about the Yau ?
- The tabua, mats, masi which the people brought are called the Yau. When the Yau had been given to the people then the relatives will have to prepare the Ulu.

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- What is the meaning of the Ulu ?
- The meaning of the Ulu that is done after the Burua, is that the relatives of the dead man will have to prepare the food for the people to eat. Also this is done mainly because the relatives have great thanks to the people who came and use their time in the funeraã. After the funeral when the people are returning to the village to those who carried the coffin will have bring a green Uci leaf back with them. This leaf is to be used as to washed their body with because they had been touching the soil in the cemeterylike in the olden days they believed that returning from the cemetery the ghoast of the dead man can follow you. So from here the people use the Uci leaf so that no ghoast can follow them back to the village.
- Can you explain me more about the Burua ?
- When somebody died after four nights then the relatives of it the dead man will have to prepare the Burua. Also in here there are taboos given to the relatives of the dead man. This taboos are mainly like you does not have to drink grog or beer or you does not have to smoke until the hundred nights. On the hundred nights the relatives of the dead man will have to collect drums of kerosene, tins of biscuit bundle of new clothes and many other things which they can bring.

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- Also on the hundred nights the relatives of the dead man will bring their tabua and the yau, in here they will remove their black clothes and their taboos which they had been taking. All those things will be given to the mother's relatives to showed them that it is after the hundred night now they can dressed in any kind now and also they can allowed themselves to their tabbos. So after the hundred nights and everythingg have finished it means that people can go back to their places.
 - Do they alwasy do this before ?
 - In the olden days our ancestors alwasy remember this by Placing a stick on the proper place and they will continue until there are hundred sticks . But some they always put the sticks according to number of Sundays they come across. It is like that in the olden days.
 - What about if the chief died ?
 - In here there are so many different things. Firstly nobody have to cry or roaming around in the village. In here there alwasy be a special people who will guard the chief's dead body. These people are called as the Bati. Also this peopel will give orders to those who attend the funeral. So all the people in the funeral should listen to the Bati or otherwise they will be punished. So if the Bati says no sound they means there shoudl no sounds at all, or if they say you people from up there sit down so everybody have to sit down. So during the death of the chief everybody should listen to the Bati.
- Thank you.