Funeral rites

A ritual is an activity at the base of the human life which express its most important events like birthdays or weddings. The funeral ritual is a type of ritual used to express the feelings of people about the death of somebody loved. The human being, since his appearance, celebrates the death of somebody loved: the death is the finish line of human life. The celebration of the death belongs to all cultures in the world because the death is one of the foundations of religions of all people. It conveys the mourn of a community of people; people need to remember the person who died, because religions presents the matter of the afterlife.

War memorials

In the past’s wars, the most part of soldiers’ families couldn’t celebrate a real funeral because the body of the soldiers didn’t come back in their country. Although they didn’t allow to celebrate a real funeral, war memorials were built. A war memorial is something used to remember a particular war, a battle victory or who died in war. This type of monument has ancient origins: the oldest in the United Kingdom is the All Souls College which commemorates the Hundred Year’s war. But the original meaning of the war memorial was to exalt the war. It was used as a message to recruit people, indeed it was a political strategy to move people to the enrollment favoring the broadening of the army’s troops of a nation. After the first world war, the memorials had a change: indeed on lots of them, in British towns and villages or in other countries, were written the names of the local soldiers who died in the name of their country. In addition pacifist memorials were built for the first time after the tragic event. So for the first time people’s concept of the war was changed, people didn’t like that their relatives’ death was abused by the government to involve people to the recruitment. An important example of war memorial is the Cenotaph. The Cenotaph is the national (United Kingdom) War Memorial which consists in an empty tomb situated in Whitehall in London. Its function is to represent all the soldiers who died in the first world war in the name of the United Kingdom. There are lots of types of war memorials with different forms: statues, buildings, squares, fountains, gardens or even tanks. War memorials weren’t built only for people who served in wars: indeed there are also war memorials dedicated to animals. People can’t forget that before the modern conflicts, like the second world war, there was a large participation of animals that executed lots of different tasks for soldiers: donkeys and horses were used to transport heavy artillery before the birth of tanks, horses were still used to carry out fast attacks to the enemy, dogs were used to support troops.