FUNERAL RITUAL

The funeral service is a means of expressing our beliefs, thoughts and feelings about the death of someone loved. The funeral ritual sanctions the death of someone and highlights all his/her actions in life. The funeral rite serves as a summary of the life of the deceased.

There are various steps to understand and "assimilate" the grief and the mourning:

* Acknowledge the reality of the death (from the mind to reality);
* Move toward the pain of the loss (only now we feel pain);
* Remember the person who died (change of relationship with the deceased, as a physical presence in a memory)
* Develop a new self-identity ( development of a new self-identity)
* Search for meaning ( why we die? )
* Receive support from others

The funeral invites to focus on past relationship with the deceased, this steps is important because it closes a cycle of life of the dead person. The funeral remember that we will die, is a natural and unavoidable process.

Funeral rites and the memory monuments (war memorials) are intended to commemorate those who died and to help their loved ones to overcome the pain of death.

WAR MEMORIALS

In the First World War thousands of women, men and young was died and just as many families were affected by this tragedy. Some villages and towns in Europe were destroyed. To remember who died in WWI were built several War Memorials. Charitable care for ex-Servicemen was begun under the auspices of the Flanders Fields Memorial Poppy, internationally recognized these days as a symbol of Remembrance with its roots in the tragedy of the First World War.

**But what is a war memorial?**

A war memorial is a building, monument, statue or other edifice to celebrate a war or victory, or to commemorate those who died or were injured in a war.

The oldest war memorial in the United Kingdom is Oxford University's All Souls College itself. It was founded in 1438 with the provision that its fellows should pray for those killed in the long wars with France. The Franco-Prussian War memorial (1870–71) was the first in Europe to have rank-and-file soldiers commemorated by name so every soldier that was killed was granted a permanent resting-place as part of the terms of the Treaty of Frankfurt.

In modern times the intent of war memorials is not to glorify war, as it happened after the First World War, but to honor those who have died. During the First World War many people died at the front, and to give a tomb to cry to the families most countries erected huge mass graves and they built several memorials, but they did not do it as a solidarity act towards the community but rather as an act of propaganda for war.

But this did not happen in all countries, for example some towns in France set up pacifist war memorials. Instead of commemorating the glorious dead, these memorials denounce war with figures of grieving widows and children rather than soldiers. Apparently there is no exact equivalent form of an anti-war memorial within the UK but feelings were identical in many cases, so it can be said that most of the memorials have a reference to peace.

Usually all the memorials are constructed in public places and easily accessible to people because are done various commemorations.

Some war memorials are dedicated to a specific battle, while others are more general in nature and bear inscriptions listing various theatres of war.

Many war memorials have epitaphs relating to the unit, battle or war they commemorate.

**Example of War memorials:**

* **Tank monument**

( tank removed from military service and displayed to commemorate a battle)

* **Cemeteries** (defined dimensions and equal)
* **The Cenotaph**

The Cenotaph in Whitehall, central London, is the national War Memorial for the United Kingdom.

Originally made from wood and plaster it was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens as a temporary cenotaph for a national Peace Day Celebration and the Peace Parade held in London on 19th July 1919.

It quickly became a focal point of national grief for all those many thousands of people who had lost loved ones in the war.

The temporary structure was replaced in 1920 by a permanent structure, it was built from Portland stone. It became the location for the United Kingdom's national annual national ceremony of Remembrance each November.

* **Thankful Villages**

(city where all the men left for war returned alive, 52 “Thankful Villages” 14 “Doubly Thankful Villages”)

* **Monument to commemorate the sacrifice of all animals that died in the front**

(in central London at Brook Gate, Park Lane)

* **National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire**

(includes Armed Forces Memorial and other monument)

* **UK War Memorials Archive** ( project betweenChannel 4, the Imperial War Museum in London and the English people , includes over 60.000 memorials)
* **War Memorials Trust**