

## Summary

### *„Rituale und Menschenwürde“*

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The article deals with the relationship between rituals and dignity of man. The theme is brought about by a series of scandals amidst the Bundeswehr (German Army) which were discussed in the German society during the last months. Young soldiers invited their comrades to special kinds of rituals which evoked feelings of shame and aversion. Some of these disgusting rituals may infringe the dignity of soldiers. Any attempt of legitimation of these rituals is wrong because an army is the mirror of the state's values. As the actual concepts of the theory of rituals show, one has to distinguish between 'bad' rituals which humiliate men and others which are helpful, e.g. traditional Christian rituals. Religious rituals like baptism or last supper try to encourage men to realize their human potentials. Secular rituals of initiation, e.g. if a soldier gets promoted, which force him to eat or to drink non-edible substances, which force him to show his naked backside and to tolerate strikes, has to be prosecuted and punished. They infringe not only the victim's dignity but although that of the comrades which are witnesses, participants or leaders of the ritual.