



NIKI PALEG

CUTTING FINGERS TRADITION

FROM DANI TRIBE, PAPUA

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HISTORY

This ritual has existed since ancient times. It appears because the Dani tribe considers cutting the finger a must for every Dani tribe family as a form of honor and love for relatives who died. And also because of obedience from this tribe to a culture that existed before.



MEANING

01

A symbol of grief and rewards for the beloved family that died.

02

A symbol harmony, unity, and strength in a family.



Source : kompas.com

The Dani tribe considered family relationships the main part because it is a basic arrangement important to their community system.



"WENE OPAKIMA DAPULIK WELAIKAREK MEKEHASIK"

If we merged the shape and length of fingers, it means that have unity and strength to lighten the burden of all the work.



Source : Kompas.com

WHY DO THEY CHOOSE FINGERS TO CUT?

The reason why fingers are chosen as a grief symbol by the Dani tribe is that they said that fingers represent the family. Nevertheless, every finger's size, shape, and width length are not the same. But it is considered a unity that fulfills each other as equivalence in life. So, if a part is gone, togetherness and strength will disappear.

HOW DOES THE DANI TRIBE IMPLEMENT THIS TRADITION?

Cutting their fingers can be done using sharp things like a knife, machete, or axe. Another effort can be done by tying their fingers with a rope until they don't feel anything, then cutting.



KNIFE



MACHETE



AXE

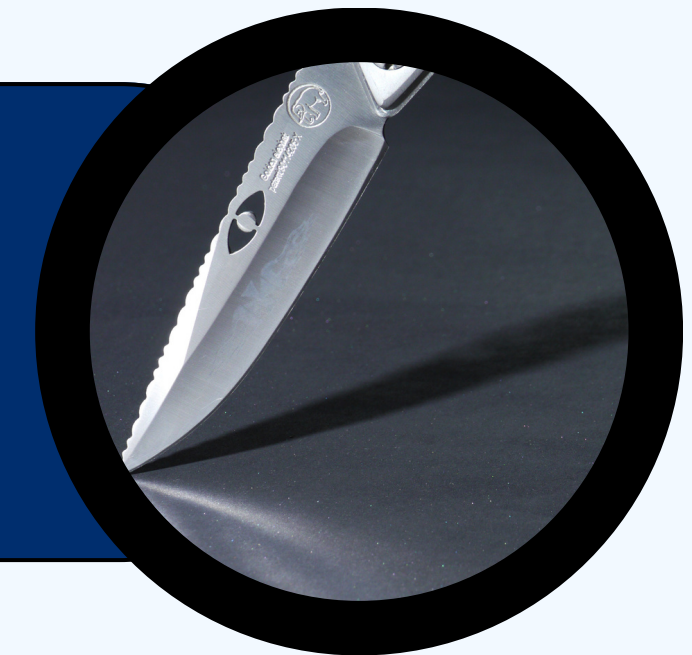


ROPE

THERE IS A DIFFERENT BETWEEN WOMEN AND MAN TO DO THIS TRADITION

WOMEN

Usually, this tradition is done by women because women describe their deep feelings for people they love, like mothers, husbands, or children. They will cut their fingers with sharp things.



MAN

Man has their way of signing their mourning and their sense of loyalty. The mourning man will be slicing their earlobe using a sharp bamboo blade. At the end of the tradition, the man will take a mud bath as a sign that alive human will die and go back to the ground. But, The man also does as women did.



REFERENCES

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THANK YOU

