

## International Conversation Cafe

Lifestyle Topic: Ceremonies and Rituals

Ceremonies and rituals are used to celebrate and signal a change or accomplishment. Rituals usually have to do with the prescribed order of a religious ceremony. "At the communion service, the bread was given before the wine."

Sometimes the word ritual is used in a general sense of something done in the same way each day. "My household chores have become a morning ritual."

Ceremonies are a formal act performed as prescribed by ritual or custom such as a wedding ceremony or a Japanese tea ceremony. Sometimes the word is used in a general sense as something that is commonly practiced, like handshake.

Read through all the discussion questions. Then let each person choose which question they would like to answer.

### Discussion Thoughts

*Are there rituals associated with birth? Describe them.*

*Are there rituals that mark a change from youth to adulthood?*

*What ceremonies are related to being in school or graduation?*

*Describe a wedding ceremony in your country. Are there any rituals that happen upon engagement?*

*Tell about a time you skipped a ceremony. What happened?*

### Other quotes and thoughts...

A graduation ceremony is an event where the commencement speaker tells thousands of students dressed in identical caps and gowns that 'individuality' is the key to success.

~ Robert Orben

*What do you like about graduation ceremonies? What do you dislike?*

There are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea. ~Henry James

*What are some ceremonies or rituals you participate in nearly every day? Why are they important to you?*

Hearing Mass is the ceremony I most favor during my travels. Church is the only place where someone speaks to me and I do not have to answer back. ~ Charles de Gaul

*What are some of your most favorite religious ceremonies? Why do you like them? What are some ceremonies you felt were meaningless.*