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**Consuming Grief:
Compassionate Cannibalism in an Amazonian Society**

Focusing on the Wari' people, this examines the process of coping with the loss of loved ones. The western ideal of burying the dead is not followed in the Wari' culture, in fact the opposite is the more preferred option. It is considered wrong for two reasons. First, it is shameful for the dead. Second, and more important, the dead are still part of the world if they are buried, whereas, when they are cannibalized they do not have any connection to the world. This is why the possessions of the dead are also destroyed, and any spot associated with them is changed.

Cannibalism is thought of as a way of mourning, and the ritual often reflects that. Just as in the western ideology of burying the dead is different than burying garbage, the Wari' ideology of cannibalizing the dead is different from cannibalism in general. It is true that they hunt and see the dietary benefits of eating meat, but in the ritual of eating the dead, the Cannibalism of the dead is often not beneficial, and at times, is harmful to their nutrition. The flesh of the dead is not cooked until it is rotten and, when bones are eaten, it is not consumed until the dead have been dead for a while.

Cannibalism of enemies is different, and does not have the same respect of cannibalizing within the group. In this way, enemies are thought of as animals. The main similarity in the thoughts between Wari' and western ideals is the idea of the dead that we bury are respected in their cannibalism in the same respect of western burial.