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ASSIGNMENT 3

From the Chinese New Year’s celebrations to Eid for the Muslims , every culture has its own unique practices. But not all of these are that respected. With some being laughed or disgusted at, there’s no doubt that these practices distinguish their people from the rest. Acts that an observer may see as extremism could be what unites the people in question.

With two views to this debate, the first is the outside world’s image of them, and the opinions and perspectives are often negative. With parents throwing their babies from a height of 50 feet to people living with dead bodies, the deeper one delves into these cultures the more outrageous they get. The question being why, could it be a lack of education? This in turn would make sense if it weren't for Spain. A country respected throughout the world for its cultures and development has questionable practices to say the least. This being making a priest jump over infants wearing a devil's outfit. As absurd as it may sound it's popular to this day to the point that it's considered a tourist attraction. Their claims being that it makes the babies more confident and braver and though it may do so, there are always anomalies. The negatives overweighing the positives. Seeing something so haunting at an age so naive could traumatize any child and though one may argue that memory at that age isn’t as potent and long-term, there have been cases of certain childhood experiences shaping a person's personality, outlook of the world and character.

From mental trauma to physical, the risk of injury is something that can't be ignored. For instance, if the priest was to mistime his jump and land on the infant, the injuries could be fatal as at that age a child is so fragile. The indian practice of throwing babies adds to this as the risk of the people below missing the baby could be detrimental to the child's physical health. To add to this is the women from African tribes wearing large metal rings on their necks as a standard of beauty, it’s proven to be incredibly painful and severely damaging to their windpipes often causing breathing problems due to the pressure of the rings. Sleeping could be ever so challenging as though it may help posture, it definitely makes comfort feel like a dream. The worst part being that the cultures inflict these practices at a young age. The African tribes starting from the age of five with the Indians and Spanish focusing on infants are just a few of the several examples of how young naive minds are forced into these cultures and habits. At a time when these innocent children can't decide for themselves is when they're manipulated.

But as with everything, this is just one view, an outsider’s perspective. The reality is what the locals go through and live by. The most one can do is guess what they see and imagine what they feel. Though these estimations may not be accurate, they are possibilities. A reason why these practices are followed to this day could be to avoid being the odd one out. Be it peer pressure or emotional manipulation, as horrid as the acts may sound no one wants to be an outcast. The feeling of being left out could be the driving force behind this. Hope is another major influence in most cultures, that feeling of joy one gets to forget reality is often what sways most people from the right decision. Hope that they’ll get lucky, hope that they'll be rewarded in the afterlife ,on the topic of religion, religious influence is often a standpoint for these choices and practices. The fear of disobeying your religion to then face the consequences frightens many. To add to this is an identity crisis, everyone these days is working towards being unique, being known for who they themselves are instead of being just another speck of sand on the beach. These cultures are what individualizes these people, making them different from the rest and often making them feel special in a way.

With both sides of the argument being weighted, the debate is intense. Does their freedom of rights allow such inhumane acts to exist? Or is this just a veil of deception to hide their true intentions? Questions that can only be answered in due time. While opinions may vary, its safe to say both parties are incredibly vocal on this topic and that no matter who one sides with, a strong opposition is guaranteed. Despite the majority disagreeing with the acts, they're followed whole-heartedly as everyone has their own perception of what's right and what’s wrong