

Eddie Ocasio Jr

Dr. Lyndell O'Hara

HIS 114 NO

10/1/2020

The True History (Hans Staden, 1557)

Staden recalls the events of how the cannibalism ritual is preformed by the Trupinamba tribe. The events, if not recorded, could never be imaged with the limitations of our minds. The ritual preformed took place over the course of days. The ritual involved many elements such as bonding the captive, having women preform acts of sexual nature against him, feeding, drinking, and a lot of dancing and singing. It seemed as what was done to the captive were representations of what the Spaniards did to the tribes' generations prior. Example being the captive was taken and feed heavily. The captive would then be danced around, painted, given drinks, and engaged in conversations. To an extent, it is as if they were tending to the captive. Showing the captive who they were. It is not until the morning of the execution when things go from bad to worse. The captive is tied and left standing in the middle of an ear, bound, and surrounded by rocks. The captive is taunted and threatened before they are show the very weapon that would be used for the execution. During this time, guests from other tribes all join in to witness and celebrate the events taking place. Its as if all conflicts, disagreements, and arrangements are placed on hold and all tribes come together to enjoy the ritual used to avenge the death of members of their tribes killed by the explorers.

Stadens book would have been popular in Europe because what Staden shares is something people could not have imagined. The actions taken by the Trupinamba tribe is horrific to say the least. They taunted, teased, and consumed their captive in a way that was unheard of.

Europeans were drawn to this story because no one should have experienced what Staden did and be able to share it to the world. The book shed light on the tribes in Brazil that have very deep wounds caused by the explores from generations before. If it weren't for Staden, stories like these would have been myths. It is the fact that Staden accounted for these actions first had that brings to light the reality and seriousness the cannibalism ritual is to the tribes of Brazil.