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# KNOWLEDGE OF PHYSIOLOGY

THE NATURE OF THE *NERVOUS* AND *CIRCULATORY SYSTEMS* IS GENERALLY QUITE UNKNOWN. NO DISTINCTION IS MADE BETWEEN VEINS, ARTERIES AND NERVES. *INTERNAL ORGANS* SUCH AS THE HEART, STOMACH AND LIVER TEND TO BE REGARDED AS SEATS OF EMOTIONS RATHER THAN OF VITAL PROCESSES.

FROM THE OBSERVATION THAT LOSS OF BLOOD RESULTS IN WEAKNESS AND ULTIMATELY IN DEATH, THE CONCLUSION USUALLY FOLLOWS THAT BLOOD IS THE ESSENCE OF LIFE. BUT OTHER SPECIAL PARTS OF THE BODY - THE FAT, HEART, LIVER OR PLACENTA - MAY BE CONSIDERED AS THE SEAT OF THE SOUL-SUBSTANCE AND THEREFORE OF SECRET POWERS WHICH MAY BE ABSORBED BY EATING THEM. SOMETIMES THE UTERUS IS REGARDED AS A LIVING CREATURE.

*NATURAL PROCESSES* ARE SELDOM UNDERSTOOD. IN PARTS OF AUSTRALIA AND MELANESIA, THERE IS COMPLETE IGNORANCE OF PHYSICAL PATERNITY; NO CAUSAL RELATION IS RECOGNIZED BETWEEN SEXUAL INTERCOURSE AND PREGNANCY, WHICH IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE ENTRY OF A SPIRIT-CHILD INTO A WOMAN'S BODY.

IN THE CONCEPT OF BIRTH AND DEATH PROCESSES, THERE IS CLOSE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THOSE OF PLANT, ANIMAL AND HUMAN LIFE. AT A SLIGHTLY HIGHER CULTURE LEVEL, WHERE THE MALE PRINCIPLE IS RECOGNIZED, THIS ASSOCIATION OF IDEAS EXPRESSES ITSELF IN THE USE OF THE SYMBOL OF MALE FERTILITY FOR MAGICALLY PROMOTING THE LIFE-PROCESS OF NATURE.