

The Carter-Jenkins Center

IS A NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

**DEVOTED TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
ACROSS THE WORLD BY MEANS OF OUR EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMS FOR BOTH THE PROFESSIONALS AND THE
WORLD COMMUNITY AT LARGE.**

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**THE CARTER-JENKINS CENTER
1325 WEST FLETCHER AVENUE
TAMPA, FL 33612
USA**

The Carter-Jenkins Center
presents

Mourning and Loss

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A NATION IN MOURNING



The concept of death:

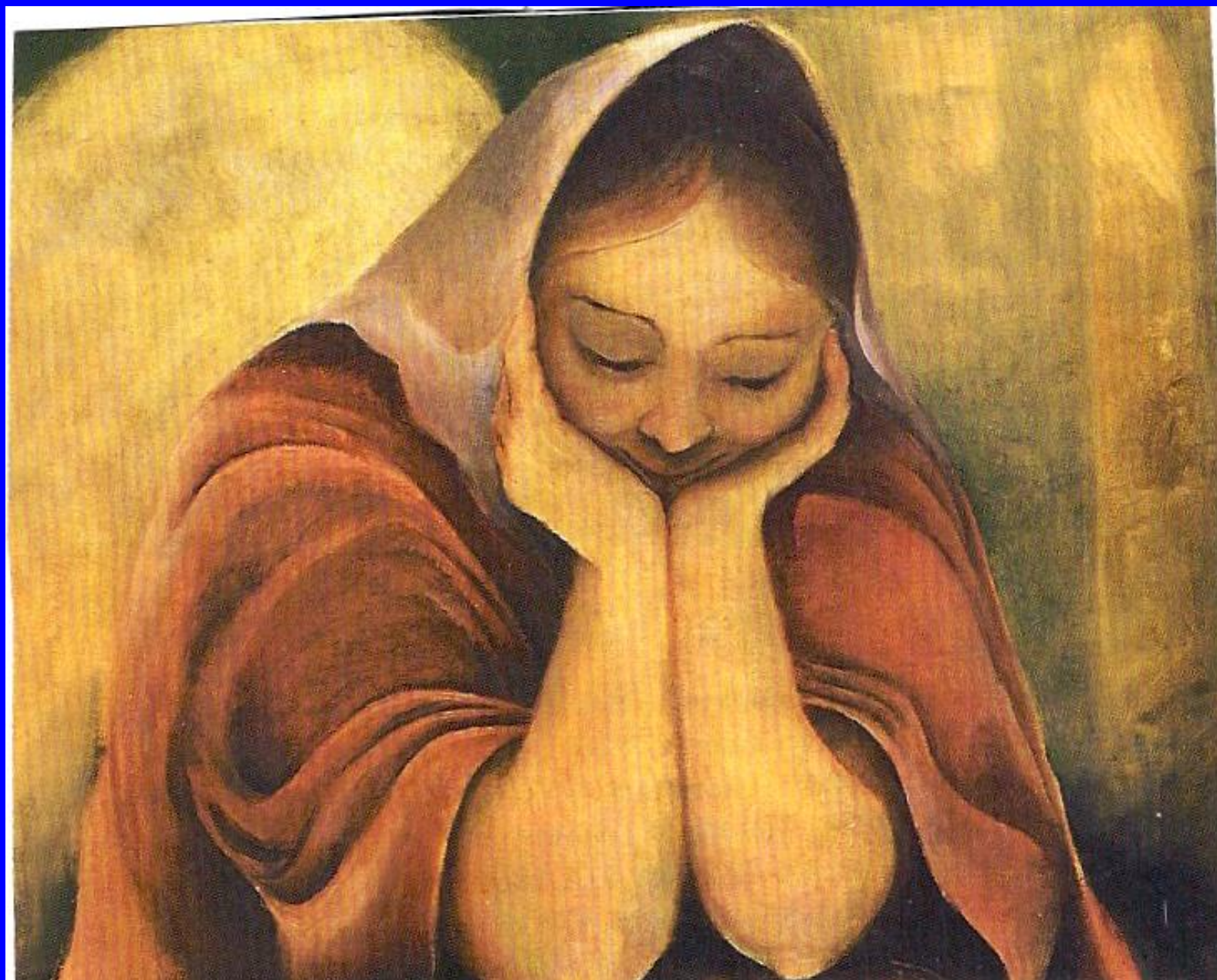
- **In Children:**
 - a) Partial
 - b) A translocation etc
- **In Adults:**
 - a) Still difficult to understand
 - b) Cessation of life for some
 - c) After life for others, role of religion, culture, etc



Mourning and Loss in Adults

Freud had made an interesting comparison between the mourning process and melancholia in one of the so called meta-psychological papers.

The paper is entitled “Mourning and Melancholia” published in 1917. It reads as well today as the day it was published (Vol XIV, SE, p.239-58)



Mourning and Loss in Adults

- **Profound mourning is a reaction that takes place after the loss of an important object through death.**
- **It is characterized by:**
 - a) A painful frame of mind**
 - b) Loss of interest in the outside world (in so far as it does not relate to the lost object)**
 - c) Inability to accept a new love object (which would mean replacing the lost one)**

Mourning and Loss in Adults

- d) A tendency to turn away from any activity not related with thoughts of the lost one**
- e) Little interest in anything else**
- f) Generally sadness, crying, sleeplessness, loss of appetite, apathy (very similar to a severe depression)**

Mourning and Loss in Adults

- g) The disturbances of self regard (i.e., self-accusations) typical of depression are missing in mourning but not always.**
- h) Sometimes the mourner accuses himself of a variety of things that can no longer be corrected. Examples.**



Mourning and Loss in Adults

How does the work of mourning proceed?

- a) Reality testing asserts that the loved object no longer exists**
- b) It now demands that all attachments be withdrawn from that object**
- c) There are various degrees of resistances to that demand**

Mourning and Loss in Adults

- d) Extreme cases of the above lead to a “hallucinatory wishful psychosis”.**
- e) In the above reality is abandoned and the object is clung to as if were alive**
- f) Normally respect for reality gains the day**
- g) The decaathexis nevertheless CAN NOT be done all at once but only little by little**
- h) During the time of mourning the existence of the object is in fact being prolonged**

Mourning and Loss in Adults

- i) Each memory, each expectation gets reactivated before the libido gets detached from it**
- j) Some special memories, events etc may have to be gone through many times before the deca-thesis takes place**
- k) By the time mourning work is completed the ego is free and ready to recathect new objects**

Mourning and Loss in Adults

- l) Freud remarked that in mourning the world has become poor while in melancholia it is the ego itself (morally reproachable, vilified, bad person)**

- m) Normal mourning may turn pathological in cases characterized by severe ambivalence in the relationship**

- n) Interminable reproaches of one's bad behavior towards the object dominates the picture**

Mourning and Loss in Adults

Other factors influencing type of mourning.

How much warning?

- a) Was death unexpected, sudden, an accident?
- b) Was death the result of a prolonged illness?
- c) Was it suicide (special problems mourning)
- c) Pain involved, damage to the brain?
- d) How old was the person that died?
- e) Was it a child?
- f) Occasionally death means liberation....



Doug Mills / AP

War Casualty

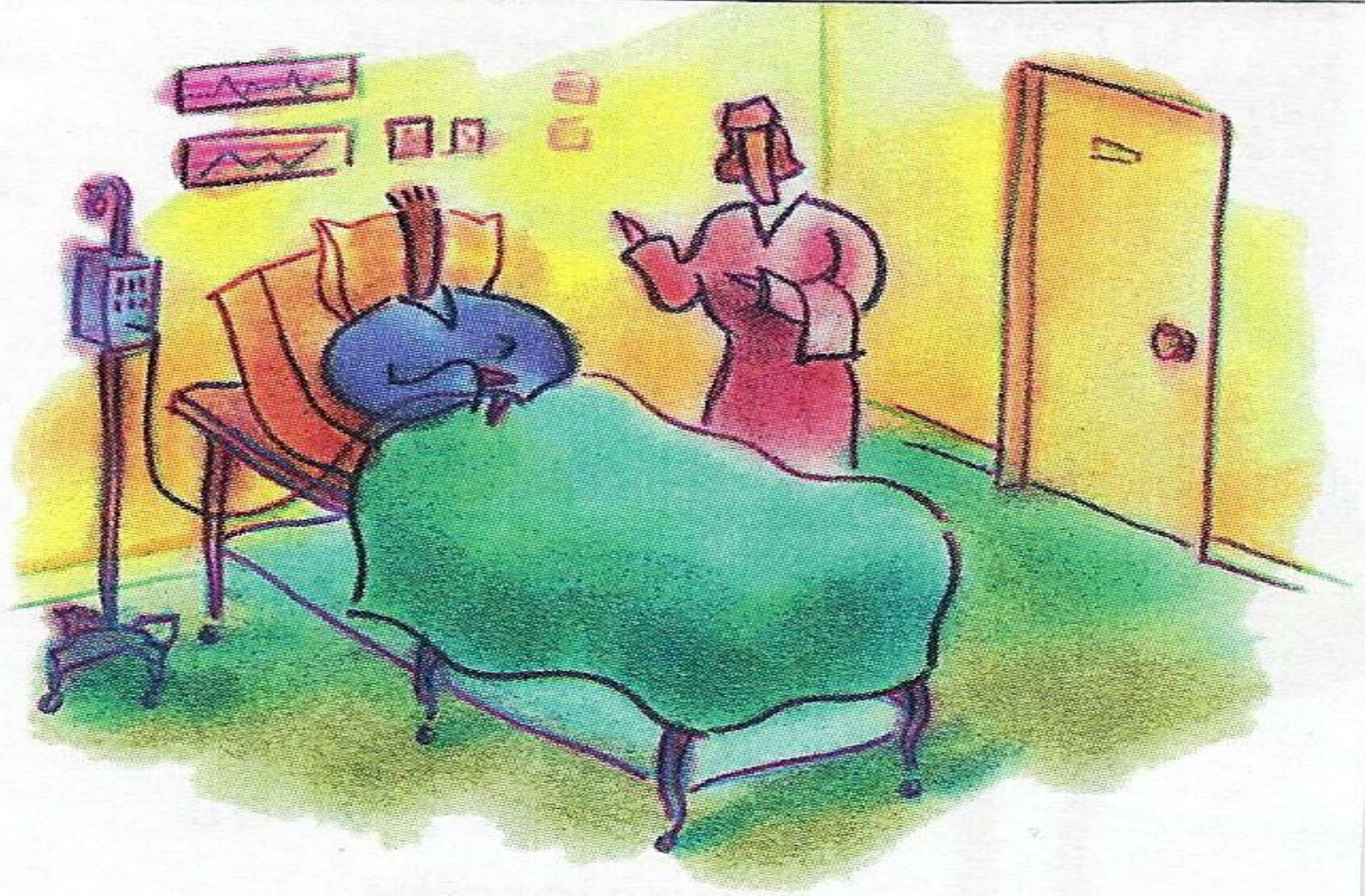


Accident

(next)



Terrorism



Prolonged Illness

Mourning and Loss in Adults

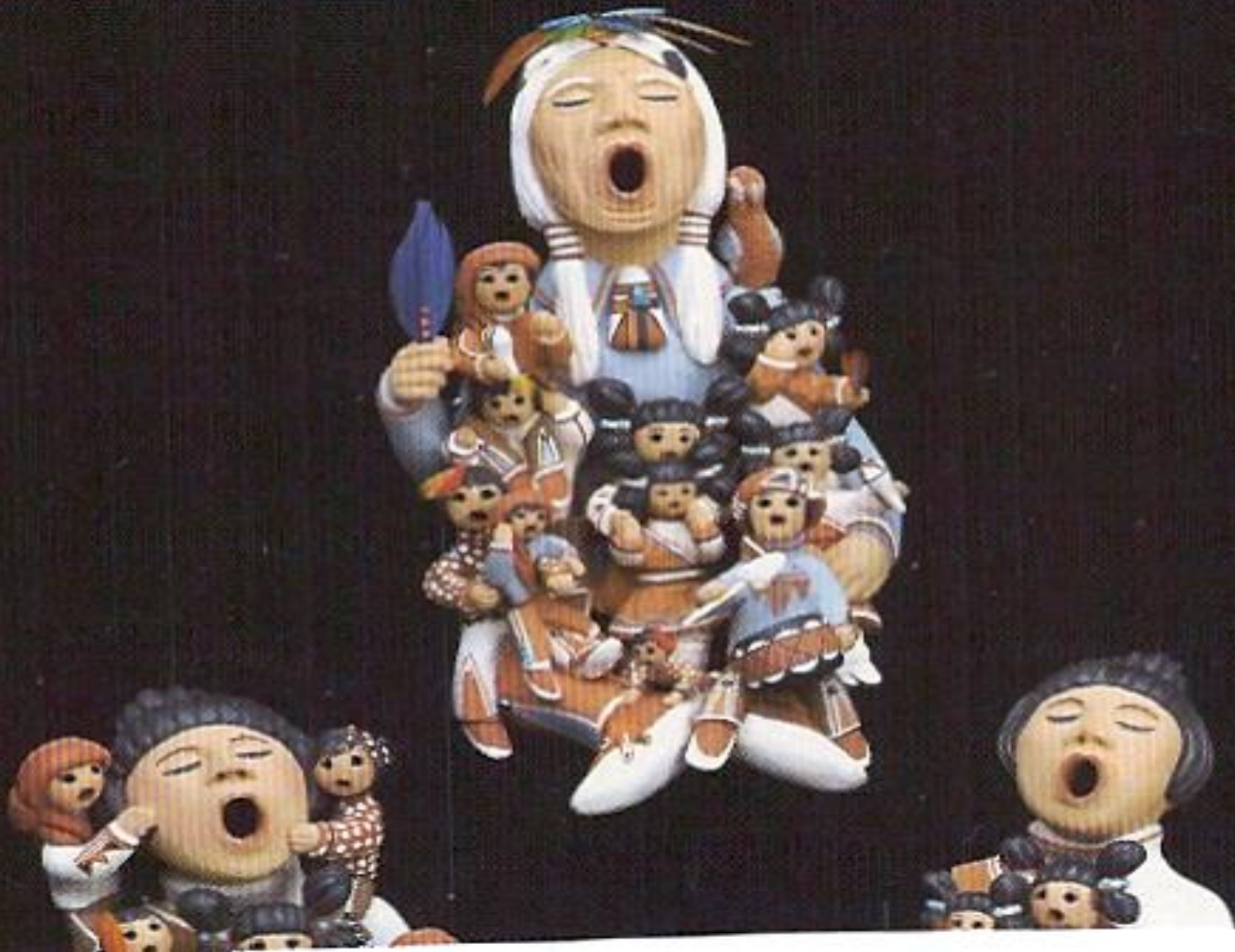
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Suicide





Criers

(next)



Palestinians Mourning (next)



Israeli woman mourns her husband (next²⁹)



Mourning royalty in England ³⁰ **(next)**

Other considerations affecting mourning

- a) Viewing the cadaver, other rituals, candles etc
- b) Fear of the dead
- c) The dead sees all, knows all (hence fear)
- d) Prescribed periods of mourning
- e) Wearing black clothing , ties etc
- f) Visiting the graveyard:
 - To pray, take flowers, talk, take food, way of expressing one's love, keeping in touch, etc

Mourning and Loss in Adults

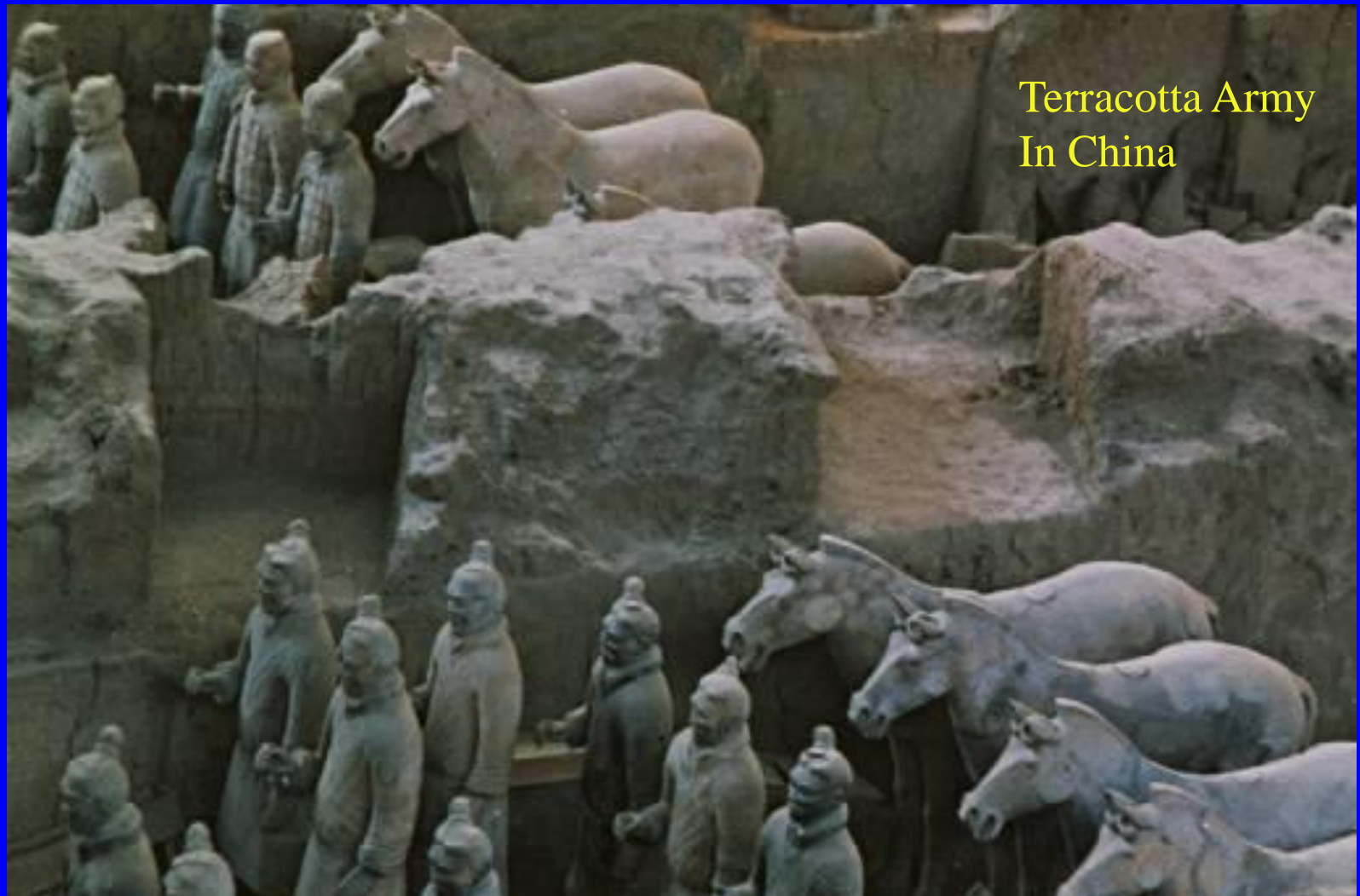
**Other considerations affecting
mourning:**

g) The pharaohs' culture in Egypt



Mourning and Loss in Adults

Other considerations affecting mourning:



Terracotta Army
In China

Mourning and Loss in Adults

Other considerations affecting
mourning:

g) The pharaohs' culture in Egypt



Egyptian
Canopic Jars

Mourning and Loss in Adults

Other considerations affecting
mourning:

g) The
pharaohs'
culture in
Egypt



Funeral Barque

Mourning and Loss in Adults

Other considerations affecting mourning:

h) Death of a twin among yorubas (Congo)

The End
Thank you for your interest

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