Religious Ritual

I. Ritual and Meaning

Communication without information.
Reaffirmation through predictability

Rituals communicate status change.

Holy Orders

II. Ritual as Scared Underwriting of Ideology

Ultimate Sacred Postulates
The most sacred beliefs that define the essential basis of an ideology

Ritual as ground of sanctity
Participation transforms nonconformity into hypocrisy

III. Ritual as Influence

Technology Rituals
Divination, fertility of crops, protection

Therapy and Anti-therapy

Salvation
Spirit possession, mystical experience, becoming a shaman or prophet

Egypt and Mummy

Manipulation and Petition

Magic: Law of Similarity and Law of Contagion
Shoshone love magic
Worship

IV. Ritual and Social Unity

*Participation is a religious act and an act of loyalty to the values communicated by the ritual.*

Pilgrimage as reenactment