“Body Ritual Among the Nacirema”

1. What is the author’s stated purpose in the article?
2. According to Horace Miner, where do the Nacirema live?
3. What two things is their culture hero, Notgnihsaw, known for?
4. What are the two main things that the Nacirema devote their time to?
5. Describe the “shrines” that every Nacirema household has.
6. Why can the rites of the shrine only be discussed with small children?
7. What are the “charms and magical potions” used for?
8. Explain the font that contains “holy water”. What is its purpose?
9. Why are the Nacirema so fascinated with ritual cleansing of the mouth?
10. Miner describes a “ritual ablution of the mouth for children” that supposedly improves them morally. What is this?
11. Describe the daily mouth ritual.
12. What is a holy-mouth-man?
13. Why do Nacirema men participate in the rite of “scraping and lacerating the surface of the face with a sharp instrument”?
14. Describe the latipso temple. Who are the vestal maidens who wear distinctive costume and headdress?
15. What is the significance of the temple guardians refusing entrance to clients who can’t pay?
16. How is a client at the temple made uncomfortable after entering?
17. What are the “magic wands” that are inserted into the supplicants’ mouths?
18. What does a “listener” do in order to magically make people well?
19. What are the ritual fasts that make fat people thin?