



CHILD SACRIFICE

You may remember having seen a 2018 article in the *National Geographic* that detailed the findings of mass child sacrifice in the ancient South American empire known as Chimú. The sacrifice of children has been well documented in the Aztec, Inca, and Mayan cultures. While on a medical trip to Central America, I had the opportunity to climb to the top of one of the ancient temple mounds where these executions were carried out. And yes, children were sacrificed in Carthage, Sicily, Sardinia and Malta. In Turkey the remains of ritually sacrificed young people have been found from the Bronze Age (3100 to 2800 BC). In the writings of the Old Testament, we find God's prophets condemning the sacrificing of children to idols (Ezekiel 23:39 & II Kings 17:14-17). There is enough anthropological and archeological research to be fairly certain that over the last 5,000 years many 'advanced' cultures all over the globe have sacrificed their children.

Why would parents sacrifice their children? Scientists believe that the ritual plays an important role in the development of complex societies through social stratification and control of populations by elite social classes (1 & 2). Some of this 'stabilization' is augmented by the beliefs of those hoping to gain success, comfort and financial security. World views that combine these gains with child sacrifice are hierarchical and totalitarian in nature and at the same time secular and humanistic. These systems value one life over another. The life that is not valued might be one of a different race, a different sex, disabled, too old or too young or a different religion. However it presents, it is the perceived beneficial effect that taking (sacrificing) this life will have on the social stratification that one is trying to protect that causes one not to value the life in question. In our own lifetime we have witnessed the marginalization of women, the enslavement of the black race, the slaughter of Jews by the Nazis, genocide in several countries, the push for the acceptance of physician assisted suicide, child trafficking occurring in every country including the US, and currently the demand for more killing of the unborn. Why? In every case throughout history, it is to protect the advantage or privilege of those in control.

Some advocates for abortion (child sacrifice) claim that the developing baby is not a person. But basic science, and our own human experience, informs us that baby humans begin in the womb of the female parent as a separate and distinct human being. They are totally dependent on their mother to provide care and protection. That dependency does not end at birth, but continues until the child reaches an age to survive on its own. Over the past decades we humans have sacrificed millions of our children. The reasons have been varied and difficult, but what has been missing was an underlying understanding that this is what we were doing. Less than 1% of abortions are done because of rape, and less than 10% are due to health problems with the baby or mother. 86% of abortions are because the child would be an inconvenience or interfere with the life that the woman wants to pursue (3). According to the CDC 18% (almost 1 in 5) of all pregnancies in the US end in induced abortion (4).

We label our child sacrifice with terms like "health care" and "removal of the products of conception," and for 50 years our judicial system said it was all "legal." If something is "legal" it is assumed to be moral and the right thing to do. We have finally awakened to the fact that what is called legal may not be moral or right.

Consider this: If the greatest love is to lay down your life for another, the opposite is laying down another's life for yourself. May we strive for the greatest love.

1. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/mass-child-human-animal-sacrifice-peru-chimu-science>
2. <https://www.nature.com/articles/nature17159>
3. https://abort73.com/abortion_facts/us_abortion_statistics/
4. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/ss/ss7009a1.htm>



2022 NH EATS LOCAL MONTH KICKS OFF

Nearly 100 businesses and organizations around the state are gearing up for 2022 NH Eats Local Month, coordinated by the NH Food Alliance, throughout the month of August. This year's celebration of farms and food in New Hampshire is centered around the Live Free + Eat Local Challenge. Granite Staters can eat at or from five New Hampshire farms or other food businesses throughout the month of August for a chance to win a delicious local prize.

Granite Staters who participate in the Challenge will write the name and location of each farm or food business on their Live Free + Eat Local Challenge submission form and submit it to the NH Food Alliance by August 31. For more information and to download submission forms visit www.nhfoodalliance.org.



NH Community Seafood in Portsmouth with the previous General Manager, Andrea Tomlinson. Photo | Katie Goodall Ink + Light Creative.



Eric Anderson | Photo

BOW FINANCES IN GOOD SHAPE

Finance Director Geoff Ruggles gave his preliminary report in July for the fiscal year ending June 30. Revenues were \$525,000 over estimates and expenses were \$641,000 less than was budgeted to spend.