

Die Körper- und Wesensauffassung bei den brasilianischen Canela-Indianern

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Abstract. The "Body- and Entity-Concept" of the northeastern Brazilian Canela-Indians is interpreted on the base of various field-stays in an emic manner. It results that the Body- and Entityunderstanding of this tribal society is based on the unity of the human being. This unity in situations like dream, weakness, shame and anger however is threatened. The definite break-up of the unity means death. With several cultural practices, like collective logrâce- and songrituals, the danger of the definite break-up can be turned off. The Body- and Entityconcept of the Canela- Indians is incorporated in a special philosophical orientation-system. Therein the fundamental categories "happiness" and "sadness" offer adequate orientation and instruction for acting in the world. Happiness – that means strength, health, life...; sadness in contrary means weakness, sickness, death. Collective logrâce- and songrituals are conducive to happiness, prevent sadness and so they warrant the unity of the human being.

1 Fragestellung und Methode

Mit diesem Beitrag wird ein weiteres Ergebnis¹ des von der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft geförderten interdisziplinären Forschungsprojektes zwischen Ethnologie



Abb. 1. Mehrmals wöchentlich finden Gesangsrituale auf dem Gemeinschaftsplatz statt.

¹ Siehe Dieckert und Mehringer 1989–1991; Mehringer und Dieckert 1991.