**Summary and Understanding of the Nacirema**

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| Miner’s description | Translation |
| **Each Nacirema family shares a family shrine as part of their practice to maintain the state of their bodies.  In the shrine, there is a built-in chest of “many charms and magical potions”. These charms and potions are not easy to come by, obtained from two different practioners and require “substantial gifts” before they are given.  The Nacirema do “rite(s) of ablution” every day”. This involves bowing before the charm-box and use of “holy waters”.** | **Each American family shares a bathroom to maintain personal hygiene.  In their bathroom, there is a chest with prescriptions and medicines. Medicines have to be obtained from the pharmacist using a doctor’s prescription. Medicines can be costly.  The American washes up every day. They lower their face to the sink (located below the medicine chest) and use clean tap water.** |
| **The Nacirema have “private mouth-rite(s)” which involve putting hog hairs into their mouths – a process Miner describes as “revolting”.  They also pay regular visits to a “holy-mouth-man” in order to protect their teeth despite the pain involved in every visit, and that their teeth continue to decay anyway.** | **The American brushes his or her teeth.    He or she also visits a dentist regularly, even though dental treatment may hurt and does not completely stop decay.** |
| **Nacirema men appear to cause hurt to their faces daily.  Nacirema women have been observed to “bake their heads in small ovens” “four times during each lunar month”.** | **American men shave their faces daily.   American women get their hair done four times a month.** |
| **There is an “imposing temple” (*laptiso*) where the very sick go. Despite the “harsh” ceremonies involved and the cost of a “rich gift”, Nacirema adults are willing to undergo these ceremonies even though there is no guarantee of a cure.** | **The very sick people receive medical treatment in a hospital. Although treatment can be uncomfortable and expensive, American adults still seek medical treatment although it does not guarantee a cure.** |
| The Nacirema also have a “listener”. He or she helps exorcise devils from the heads of those who have been bewitched by letting their patient talk of the difficulties he or she has faced. | American people may visit a psychiatrist/counselor who listens his/her client speak about the problems he/she faces. |
| The Nacirema seem to be opposed to their bodies – fat people are made thinner through “ritual fasts” while thin people are made fatter through “ceremonial feasts”. | American people are not satisfied with their body shapes. They may eat a lot or fast in order to get their desired body shape. |
| In Nacirema culture, reproduction is a very secret process and “magical materials” are used to prevent pregnancy. | In American culture, reproduction is a personal decision and contraceptives are used. |