

All ritualistic behaviours, as well as the magic and the religious ones, give the human individual the possibility to live in that *open world*, as Mircea Eliade called it in his writings about the sacred, a world of perfect equilibrium. At the level of the eating activity, it is obvious that all rituals, gestures, objects and words one operates acquire their true meaning only if they are related to this transcendent reality. This is so because Man has always been a cultured being, and everything around him has had a justification at the level of knowledge; his gestures, his actions, in their great majority, have very complex cultural references. Consequently, meals, ritual sacrifices, as well as dances, etc. are fully motivated from a cultural point of view. These cultural motivations are based, though, on powerful mythologic motivations, that is, on religious ones. The participation in the eating activity will be seen as part of a system that has as an ultimate goal the repeating of Cosmogony, being part of the large series of *initiation scenarios* (M. Eliade's formula). To eat from certain ailments, to perform certain necessary gestures, entails for one who wants to transcend his human condition, an assumption of his condition, since the passage towards a super-human condition cannot be realized but by accepting a complex system of conditioning.