There are various ways and customs on how to treat human bodies in death. Some are buried while others are not. Even in the case of burial, there are wide differences among areas and/or times in such as burial methods, rites, grave decorations and so on.

The Himba, southwestern bantu speaking people, live in Namibia and Angola. They are pastoral people and lead nomadic life, moving their herds from place to place. This article tries to highlight the relationships between graves and the practice of living people, with showing the case of the Himba in northwestern Namibia.

In their society there is burial custom and they have developed it with getting an influence from other groups. First this article shows their burial ways, choices of its location, grave decoration and these changes. In addition this study investigates and examines the practice of living people with concerning graves, focusing on the choices of burial location, their acts in funerals and visits to graves, and rites of passage associated with visits to graves.

The result indicates two points. Firstly, the choices of burial locations are significant not only to the dead but also to the living/bereaved; in some aspects burial locations indicate the social status and power of the deceased, and help living/bereaved families when they also express social/political power and assert their rights of accessing to natural resources. Secondary, funerals and visits on graves, which associated with various rites of passage for living/bereaved, are important opportunities of indicating and confirming the connection between the ancestors and living descendants. Through those practice and process, people try to accept the death of their beloved, to reconstruct their life, and to develop their art of living.

Keywords: graves, visits to graves, rites, the Himba, pastoral people