

THE SIGNATURE OF SEX-STRIKE

ON (hard/loud signals)	↔	OFF (soft/weak signals)
Seclusion/eclipse/menstruation	↔	Emergence
Thunderstorm	↔	Calm
Cacophony	↔	Harmony
Rebellion	↔	Surrender
Waxing moon	↔	Waning moon
Night	↔	Day
Death	↔	Life
Other world	↔	This world
Incestuous intimacy	↔	Marriage
Wet	↔	Dry
Bleeding/raw	↔	Cooked
Non-available (taboo)	↔	Available
Hunger/being eaten	↔	Feasting (on <i>cooked</i> food)
Animal mask or identity	↔	Human identity
Gender inversion	↔	Biological sex

- Signals of same polarity reinforce one another
- Signals of opposite polarity cancel each other out
- Loudest possible OFF ideally alternates with loudest possible ON

This is defined as the time-resistant syntax of ritual and myth. It is expected to be universal. Any counterexample – such as the ideal of cooking during seclusion, or gender inversion during marriage – would falsify the model.

Testing the model

Examine each of the following combinations. Should it happen or not? (Remember, we are dealing with *ritual signals*, not ordinary physical or social events). Check your choices against available ethnographic data.

Seclusion and cooking	Incest and human identity
Seclusion and incest	Incest and thunder
Seclusion and sunshine	Incest and death
Seclusion and waxing moon	Death and cooking
Seclusion and animal mask	Death and seclusion
Rebellion and cooking	Surrender and animal mask
Rebellion and gender inversion	Surrender and biological sex
Incest and hunger	Thunder and waning moon
Animal mask and taboo	Thunder and availability
Animal mask and rebellion	Thunder and cooking