



# From Boys to Men: Spiritual Rites of Passage in an Indulgent Age

*Bret Stephenson*

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## **From Boys to Men: Spiritual Rites of Passage in an Indulgent Age** Bret Stephenson

A guide to restoring the successful models used by ancient cultures the world over to raise adolescent boys

- Explains the negative effects of Western youth culture and how it can be transformed
- Offers instructions for integrating basic rites of passage into modern family life and youth programs

For tens of thousands of years all across the globe, societies have been coping with raising adolescents. Why is it then that native cultures never had the need for juvenile halls, residential treatment centers, mood-altering drugs, or boot camps? How did they avoid the high incidence of teen violence America is experiencing, and how did they prevent their youth from relying on drugs and alcohol, the use of which has become so prevalent in Western society?

In *From Boys to Men*, Bret Stephenson shows readers that older cultures didn't magically avoid adolescence; instead they developed successful rituals and rites of passage for sculpting teen boys into healthy young men. From Aleutian Eskimos to Polynesian Islanders, from tribal Africans to Australian Aborigines, each culture found archetypal ways to initiate their boys into the adult community. Stephenson explains the basics of rites of passage and offers insight into how to reintroduce these successful practices and traditional understandings into modern family life and programs for youth. He discusses the damaging effects of our youth culture and the negative teen products that are fueled by corporate America and reveals how we can counteract these negative forces by using meaningful rites of passage to create a society with happy and healthy adolescent boys.

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