Taboo Scenarios: How to Think About the Unthinkable

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Cambria, Denison, Victor, Tanner

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Taboo Speaking
Main Points

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1. What is Taboo?

2. Different types of Taboo

3. How to avoid awkwardness of Taboo
What Is Taboo?

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- Mary Douglas
- "Taboo" originates from Polynesian language
- "Religious restriction"
- "Prohibited" or "Forbidden" in Tongan language
Why is there Taboo?

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- Makes conversation awkward; friends can become enemies
- Reveals history of societies
- Taboo can be considered consequence of a culture's economic and ecological conditions
- Once functioned to support status hierarchies
History of Taboo

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• Prevalent since ancient times

• Multiple punishments for taboo

• Has since expanded into many topics

• Remains most noticeable with the topic of sex
Forms of Taboo

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• Universal forms of taboo are cannibalism, group murder, and incest
  - exceptions in some cultures

• Why has taboo withstood the test of time?

• What will be taboo in the future?

• This is unknown to us, but it is certain it will never go away
Sex

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- One of most taboo and awkward subjects
- Intimate and personal
- Not a comfortable subject
- Difficult to disclose these facts about ourselves