


Title:	The life of Kumamu	Level: higher
---------------	--------------------	----------------------

Text:	<p>Yukiko told us of the unusual life of Kumamu, who are living goddesses in Nepal. Young girls are taken from their homes with the consent of their parents to start a new life in a temple, where they remain until reaching puberty.</p> <p>The most recent new Kumari of Kathmandu was annointed by Hindu priests on Thursday and taken to a palace in the historic center of the Nepali capital. At midnight, Hindu priests will perform an animal sacrifice involving over 100 animals which the new Kumari will attend as part of her initiation as a "living goddess". She is supposed not to cry at the sight of the animal slaughter. The practice was linked to royalty, though it has continued since the end of the monarchy in 2008.</p> <p>It is a solitary life in the temple without other peers and has drawn criticism from human rights groups and the Kumamu themselves who have experienced difficulty reintegrating into society after their term finished.</p> <p>Interestingly, outgoing Kumamu leave 'by the side door' as opposed to with a fanfare of celebration.</p>
Discussion:	Would you want your child to become a Kumamu? Explain your reasoning.
Words and usage:	<p>Annoint</p> <p>This verb means to give someone holy status. Another verb with which it rhymes, appoint, means to give someone responsibility, and may be used for heads or senior positions in organisations, business related or otherwise.</p>
Resources:	<p>https://translate.weblio.jp</p> <p>Oxford Dictionaries. http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com</p> <p>The British Council website. https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org</p>
Practice idea:	Make a case for or against continuing this practice in the modern world.
Listening link:	<p>The life of Kumamu - audio</p> 
Quiz Me! Conversation card:	<p>Card number D2 below is from the NEW Flashback! pack 1, available from March 2018 at englishbooks.jp, Amazon and Rakuten</p> 