

The popular Misconceptions about Pashtunwali

Barkat Shah Kakar (Lecturer, Department of Pashto, University of Balochistan, Quetta)

Abstract:

This paper is intended to discuss and articulate the popular misconceptions about the Pashtun code of life, "Pashtunwali" commonly known as "The way of Pashtuns". The established perspective is generated through the narratives and accounts of the orientalist and local Pashtun writers with substantial limitation of the historical and cultural process that ultimately describe Pashtunwali as a derivative of the Islam. The paper also narrates the limitations in the approach of the orientalist that lack the casual link of the cultural relativism. It strongly concludes with some of the suggestions and future action points for the scholars and researchers to understand and articulate Pashtunwali in totality.

Key words: Misconceptions, Pashtunwali, code of life, Islam, orientalist.