

A Critical Analysis of the popular misconceptions about the cultural practice of "Dra'wai"
د "دراوی" په حقله دیو خو عمومی تپرونو تنقیدی جاج

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Abstract:

The study of Pashtun's culture witnesses an overarching diversity. There are different cultural zones that further make the sub-cultures. Like other patriarchal societies, Pashtun traditional society is also characterized as misogynist and anti-women. This paper is going to unpack an interesting dimension of the cultural practice called "Dra'wai" synonymous to "Courtship" in terms of spirit and practice. The cultural zone sprouted in the historical Zhob valley (Northern Balochistan) possesses distinct values which allow meet-ups of the men and women (above the age of adolescence). "Dra'wai" which literally denotes the "Space of meeting" has been recorded as one of the vital social practice that has kindled the creation of distinct cultural and folkloric features in this part of the province. This practice has long been recorded in the annals of orientalist, who totally misjudged the practice and tag it as a binary to the code of Pashtunwali. The Pashtun writers who did not know or ever practice "Dra'wai" have also confused it with some sort of other cultural practices and spaces. This paper is going to unpack the popular misconceptions that are spread from time to time regarding "Dar'wai". The paper also tends to explain what "Dra'wai" actually was and what not.

Key words: Pashtunwali, subculture, courtship, folklore, space, patriarchy,