

Superstition and Deism in Baloch Nation

Social Sciences

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Abstract

Baloch nation has unique superstitions which are being followed by the nation since their emergence. Baloch civilization, customs and culture seems to be much impressed from the ancient civilizations. Baloch is also one of the ancient nations who accepted the impact of religions and deism in several period of time in past history. If we study the ancient era of religions, it is disclosed that “in ancient history, the several believes of people were not declared as Religion, and used to be called as “old mores”. In any society or nation, deism or superstitions emerge when they people cross the limits of their custom and tradition and create another civilization. When culture turns into civilization, culture and civilization get separated from each other. Baloch nation has several deisms and superstitions in every sphere of life. In daily life, in happiness and sorrows, in all occasions. of death and birth, wedding or mourn, they have unique superstition a. In this article all the superstitions and believes in baloch culture are being discussed.

Key words: Baloch, superstition, believes, swastika

Introduction

Baloch as a Nation is living in current Balochistan, Iran, Middle East and in many other countries due to the several reasons of living there. As psychological point of view, Baloch is religiously liberalist and of secular mentality. What are the reasons of being religiously liberalist and secular? Their different believes of deism in several era of history or which deism they were inspired on? Studies show that the Baloch has been the preacher of fire

or sometimes it is found out that they have been the follower of Babul deism. Or some time the ancient Egyptian deism. It shows their religiously liberalism that they have been found following different deism and different time of periods.

If we study the ancient Egyptian civilization, we find that there is much deism which were adopted by the ancient Egyptian Monarchs, were followed for a long period on concerned area despite their regime has come to an end. The study of ancient civilization, religions and several deism has made easy to know the travel of people in different religions and how the nations accepted the impact of those religions and deisms in their daily life.

Baloch is also one of the ancient nations who accepted the impact of religions and deism in several period of time in past history. If we study the ancient era of religions, it is disclosed that “ in ancient history, the several believes of people were not declared as Religion, and used to be called as “ old mores” the word “old” itself shoes its savageness and less importance, so the Jews, Christians and Muslims would declared them as superstition on the other end the hunters of Australia and indies which are inhabitants of America are much complicated in their mythology and their believes for their religion are as strong as rock (**Bray, ?**).

This ideology shows that man has worshiped a thing or another from the very initial stage. He is found worshiping an unseen thing believing that it is an huge power to be worshiped. Or the man himself decided that whole system is being controlled by the same power. So he decided to worship such powers who have power to do good or bad.

In any society or nation, deism or superstitions emerge when they people cross the limits of their customs and tradition and create another civilization. When culture turns into civilization, culture and civilization get separated from each other. “Civilization is the societal setup which develops the cultural excogitation. Generally four elements good economical condition, political discipline, ethical tradition & inquisitively of education and art these elements strengthen the civilization and control the fear in society and people struggle for the betterment of their lives in peaceful atmosphere.

There are some elements which may or may not be harmful for civilization. They may be beneficial as well as hurdle. First factor may be the Territory environment may also be a factor of effecting the civilization. The cold weather and intensive snowfall may also bind the life on a specific place of land. Or a sudden earthquake may also destroy a unique civilization by its cruel shudders destroying thousands of lives.

The second factor may be the geographical conditions where the people living in hot zone may be effected by it. And there is always famine due to the less interest in daily work and also shortage of rains which is an essential

element for life. The land may be the reason of rich minerals, the sea may be the reason of correspondence for people, the coast may be the centre of international trade. And if any state or city situated in centre of international trade routes, this may be conducive for prosperity of its civilization (**Jalal puri, 2010**).

Such factors combine and make a civilization but every civilization has its own code of conduct which is adopted in daily life of that specific civilization. And those code of conduct which are followed as thought to be their religion or the deism for that civilization. And those deism can be studied which were practiced by the several people living in concerned civilization. As everything is thought to be having soul, so people have been found worshiping nature, lands, sky, animals and humans as once moon also found to be worshiped.

In folk stories the moon has been represented like a brave man who could overcome the women and women found worshiping the moon deeply.

Yellow circle was thought to be the measurement of time. It was believed that it controls the weather. And also creates rain and snow. Old people would consider the sun as the king of sky. And it is not known that how the moon was replaced with sun. The sun gave the concept of cultivation. And man got much satisfied from the sun because of its qualities and the worship of sun was started (**Pakistan ka saqafati encycleopida**).

In Baloch tribes, there is one superstition about the water and fire which is being followed from their forefathers. Fire and water is thought to be very sacred. And the balochs would try to know the fact and truth through fire and water and this may be the influence of the people who were worshiping fire and water. The preachers of fire also used to worship it in very ancient days immense value to the fire and water (**Bray, ?**).

“Mostly people who were the followers of fire worshipers were nomadic and they would also worship goddess and the preachers of fire and goddess would thought it to be very holy (**Shahwani, 1978**).

These were they deisms which were before the concept of fire preachers. And after that, the emergence of fire preachers takes place. There is no any authentic information regarding their emergence. The old Greece authors consider them to be emerged in between 600 to 1000 BC. And some authors argue that they are of 300 years before Sikandar. However, there is no genuine record regarding their history, but the concept of them to be after 700 BC looks accurate in light of historical evaluation of religions. That’s is , that ZARTASHT born in a warrior family which was of old Persian king family. ZARTASHT means the owner of the camels. It shows that he belonged to a nomadic family. And this kid was tried to be killed many times (**Bray, ?**).

The word ZARTASHT was name of a person who born in a worrier family which was the Old Persian king family. Who, in the age of 30 started to find out the answers of religious questions which were confusing him in many ways. He met with an angle several times on sea side and the angle told him about the God “AHUR AFARDA”. He was given several massages from the god through the angle.

The most important occasion and turn in ZARTASHT’s life was the day when he succeeded to make one of his relative a part of his own religion. And also another important turn when he started convincing the king WASHTASIP about his religion. Although he passed many years of his life in king levee. He was also sent to king prison due to some conspiracy but he succeeded to convince the king about his religion. According to many references, he got succeeded when he did the treatment of the favourite Horse, and then the whole his government became his follower.

In a war, ZARTASHT city was attacked and rival solder attacked 70 years old messenger who was busy in worshipping fire, and killed him (**Baloch, 1999**).

The believers of this religion were found free in selection of good or bad. And every one would be responsible for the consequences in life after the death. Therefore, a long complete code of conduct is expected for the people of this religion. Mostly the ethics and worshipping of these people circulate the elements like fire, water and air. And those things which may destroy or make dirty would thought to be hatred. The there would be dire consequences in hell for those who destroy these elements and will be punished severely. And the elements, fire, water and air is continuously discussed in the lives of the people of this religion. Some of the ways of worshipping of this religion are as follows;



- The main point of their worshipping is consists of prayers for following right path and to avoid sinful acts.
- In this modern era, the wood Is burnt in fire places whereas it was used to be burnt by the people of this religion. And this wood is almost used for burning by the people who worship fire.
- People of this religion would conduct programs for enjoyment on newly born babies in their homes.
- They would wear dresses all time expect on the time of bath.
- Every person of this (ZARTASHT) religion would unite his west with a rope made of 72 threads which would represent their sub races of their religion.

- The most sacred thing in whole religion would thought to be the fire, water soil and air.
- In the case of death, corpse is washed with water, a clean suite is wore and corpse is taken out of the home with moaning people. Then the corpse is taken in near a dry well and the suite is taken out and kept so that the birds. May attack on it. They attack on the corpse and start taking meat from it. Afer some time when the bones get dry due to the temperature of sun, they are thrown in that well.

These were the some superstition of this religion and in the light of these superstitions; superstitions in Baloch nation will be discussed.

The ancient Iranian religions have put an impact on all the religions lying on this territory. Balochs have accepted some of the impacts from ZARTASHT religion and even the religions before it and they also the Islamic impacts. But in Balochistan in 18th, 19th and 20th century, English machinery tried its level best in preaching of Christianity. In Hinduism, people believe in sub tribes and people belonging to low slandered category left their religion and accepted Christianity and some people from the same group (who left Hinduism and accepted Christianity) came to Balochistan and settled here.

Therefore, we can easily say that the Balochs have accepted the impact from ancient Egyptian, Zartasht, and Indian religions in customs and tradition of their religion. Here are some superstitions and deism which are practiced by Balochs which may help the readers to know the baloch customs and traditions which resemble with the other religion customs and traditions.

- Superstition in Baloch nation starts from the birth of a child. When a child is born in a Baloch home, soon ~~after~~ the birth a sign  is made with red or blue colour on all walls of the room which is called "RAHK" in balochi terminology and it means the protection. In some baloch tribes this sign is made with some changes as  this custom is only practiced by women and this sigh is also called "SWASTIKA" which was present in ancient Iraq. This is the religious or national sing of Arias which came in subcontinent. This sign has very much importance in baloch customs and some women mark this sign on their faces in order to increase their beauty. But in the digging for Mehrgahr civilization, this sigh has also been discovered and it is called SWASTIKA. Indeed, it is the national or religious sign of Baloch which has been adopted by many nations.

In Baloch society, when a married woman gets pregnant, so the women take TAWEEZ (quranic verses) for her so that she and her baby save from any kind of difficulties and dangers. She visits several saints and desires for a baby boy. Birth of a boy is liked not only in baloch but also in other nations. In case a married woman does not give any birth, so they apply several techniques for that woman to be pregnant.

1. When a woman does not gets pregnant for a long time after her marriage, she contacts to a Dai who gives her many kind of treatment where the husband and his family is not informed about this treatment.
2. Another method, women goes to a Mulla(a religious person) for DAHM, or to any saint and promises for charity in case she gives birth to a baby.
3. When a woman gets pregnant, she applies several methods to save her baby from death in belly. Or the mother may be affected by JIN (sprite). And when she gets pregnant, then term GOBADI is used for her which means to be weighty. Woman then starts eating sour and bitter things and ADAIR word is used for it which means DHUROR in brahui.
4. In these days women eat soil and mostly liked these days.
5. If a pregnant women generates milk in her breasts before the seventh month of her pregnancy, then it is thought to be dangerous and generally mother or her baby may be in danger of death.
6. At the time of delivery, after the delivery pains, a woman is done makeup and unmarried girls are not allowed come near the pregnant women so that the pain may not increase.

If any danger is felt, the a old man takes an hair of his bread and dips in water and this water is given to the pregnant woman.

7. After the birth, the mother and baby are kept in a room and the sign mentioned above is marked in walls of the room which is called RAHK in Brahui and SWASTIKA in sansakrat, the other important is the part called “NAAF” of child which is cut and buried in a place which is save from any animal, because if it is eaten by any dog or cat, this may affect the child (**Albalochi, 2009**).

In baloch society, a superstition which is called NAZAR BAND in Brahui is thought to be important element. The elders claim that the world is divided into four parts, one part is finished by diseases and the rest three parts are

finished by the said superstition called NAZAR. Therefore, several techniques are used to avoid NAZAR (**Jalal Puri, 2010**).

NAZAD BAD is also an element of superstition. Its superstition theory is as old as Babul deisms. To be on safe side, all beautiful things are marked so that the beauty may not be felt. Children are not allowed to see at the moon on 14th day of the month. As the moon fully shines and the children may get ill due to it.

In marriage ceremony, several superstitions are followed in Baloch society which is going on generation to generation. Such superstitions are found everywhere in daily life like death, marriage, birth and other occasions.

At marriages, Baloch people have several superstitions, the selection of wedding day is done with much care and avoiding specific days and those days are thought to be unfavorable for the couple. When the wedding suits of the couple are made, are kept very away from the fire. The widows are not allowed to put HINA on the hands of bride and groom. It is thought that the widow woman impact may not affect the couple. In days of wedding couple are not left alone and it is thought that JINS(sprites) may come to them (**Ahmed, ?**).

Balochs once had a superstition that to bury the female corpse with her ornaments but this is not followed any more. The dead bodies are not buried in night times. The place where the corpse is given bath, a candle is lit, and in died person is seen in dream; charity is done to avoid it in future.

In baloch civilization, when someone is comets a crime, they punish him after certain process which is part of superstition. In baloch tribes, a fire is made and the accused one is told to walk on the burning fire, if he burns, is declared guilty (**Jawad, 2011**).

Balochs have several superstitions in animals. Fox, snake, owl voice of dog at night, hen sounding at sun set is thought to be dangerous. Balochs have firm believe on DAHM, Similarly, when any one gets ill, he/she is taken to religious person, or saint. Many people dance near the ill person, and during dancing he does in coma and then tells wither the patient can gets well through this process or not.the women go to PEER and they set some program that if they get baby boy, they will cut baby head hair on same place with some charity. And same is done if a baby boy borns (**Bray, ?**).¹²

Balochs have superstition that in evening time, salt is not given to anyone that they blessing may finish for the said home. They never call the person who starts any journey. One comb is not used by two brothers because it is thought that they may get separate. While baking bread, if a piece of flour sets separate, it predicts for a guest. If burning fire producing several voices due to its gasses in it, it is thought that someone is backbiting about the family (**Durrani, 1982**).

Conclusion

In any society or nation, deism or superstitions emerge when they people cross the limits of their custom and tradition and create another civilization. Same the Baloch nation has unique superstitions which are being followed by the nation since their emergence. The customs and culture of Baloch seems to be much impressed from the ancient civilizations. If we study the ancient era of religions, it is disclosed that “in ancient history, the several believes of people were not declared as Religion, and used to be called as “old mores. Like other nations Baloch nation has several deisms and superstitions in every sphere of life.

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