

Significance of Marriage in Pashtun Tribal Society: Rituals and Customs

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Abstract:

Marriage has been one of the very ancient social practice that shape family, and society at larger level. The study of different cultures and societies show that marriage rites, customs and norms have been different in different parts of the world. Pashtun tribal society has its subjective significance for perpetuating marriage as custom and social practice. This paper shows that the central essence of marriage in the Pashtun tribal society to perpetuate an extended family structure which can only be possible with giving birth to as many sons as possible. The patriarchal notions of social organizations give birth to all the customs and rituals which are further stemmed in the economic and religious rationalism to bride price, customs and rituals of marriage.

Key Words: Pashtun, Marriage, Patriarchy, Polygamy, Tribalism.