

UZBEK AND INDIAN WEDDING CUSTOMS

Jumayev M.A

TCHTI Branch of SHakhrisabz

Kenjayeva Ozoda

master's student of KSU

Abstract. This article reveals the role and importance of the cultural sides of two nations wedding party. Each nation has its own customs which shows their history, nationality and some essential events. In wedding days every nation try to do their own historical traditional customs.

Key words: "Nikokh tui", "Non sindirar", morning pilaf, "Kanyadana or "donating a virgin", "mehendi", "mandapa".

While choosing printed cotton, look at the length,
While choosing a bride, look at her mother
(Uzbek proverb)

Uzbek wedding customs

Very often tourists are interested in Uzbek wedding ceremonies and customs. This article will makes it possible to learn much about the Uzbek wedding. Oriental people have always been famous for its ability to celebrate the wedding lavishly. Even in fairy tales the Uzbek wedding lasts for forty days and forty nights. In real life the Uzbek wedding is exactly celebrated two or three days. Another key feature of wedding ceremonies in Uzbekistan is this abundance of festive rituals. The Uzbek people honors the very strictly observes wedding traditions. The Uzbeks themselves call the wedding ceremony "nikokh tui." Uzbek wedding party is a very crowded and a magnificent event. For this family holiday the Uzbeks invite not only family members and close friends, but neighbors, work colleagues, distant acquaintances. They seek to share their joy with many.

Uzbek marriage traditions imply a certain sequence of events, where the very first thing is searching for a suitable bride.

Thanks to friends and acquaintances groom's parents make inquiries about their future daughter-in-law. Commonly, they take an interest in a social status of a girl, a level of upbringing and education, an ability to run the household. Beauty is welcomed,

but it is not a significant criterion. As the Uzbek proverb says: "Beautiful girl remains beautiful in ugly clothes".

Panders traditionally by an alert eye notice the level of cleanliness in the house, and they watch the ability of the selected girl to pay her addresses to the guests.

When go-betweens get a positive answer, matchmakers determine a day of fotikha tui that is the engagement. This day women, neighbors, elders and family members are invited in the house of the bride. This day a ritual "non sindirar" is hold. "Non sindirar" is literally translated as "breaking the cake." This Uzbek marriage custom means that the girl's parents are agree to give their daughter in marriage. Thus, all are announced that she is engaged. This is done in order other matchmakers know that the girl has already taken by others.

Sometimes in Uzbekistan the date of the Uzbek marriage is appointed during the engagement. Sometimes the wedding date is determined separately.

According to traditions, costs for the wedding in Uzbekistan the groom's party assumes, but up-to-date Uzbeks often plan costs by mutual arrangement. The charges are considerable, because the traditional wedding in Uzbekistan is celebrated with a particular splendor. The key point of the Uzbek wedding ceremony is going across to the man's house.

Morning pilaf

One of the principal wedding traditions in Uzbekistan is treating guests with morning pilaf. And the quantity of guests come to this ceremony can reach sometimes several hundred.

The groom's family prepares pilaf for men. This pilaf is cooked in the groom's family and then also sent with congratulations to the bride's house. It's a festive breakfast, symbolizing the fact that the engagement of young people has taken place and two families are planning to intermarry.

Nikokh-Tui – Uzbek wedding ritual

According to the custom, after the festive meal the groom, accompanied by close people goes to the bride's house. Meanwhile, the bride is in a special room, the access to which only imam (Uzbek cleric) has. Imam performs the sacrament, which is called "nikokh-tui". After it the newlyweds make promises to be friends and cleave to each other.

The ritual of bride's farewell with her parents

The farewell is also a traditional Uzbek wedding ceremony. After the ordinance "nikokh-tui" the young go to the State registry office. Before the trip to the registry office, friends of a groom dress him in sarpo that was donated by girl's parents. Sarpo are the clothes, shoes, intended for a bridegroom. After the registry office a younger set arrives at bride's house for a farewell ceremony.

Thus, she says goodbye to her parents and siblings. A girl is escorted with songs and all go to a restaurant for a wedding.

Parents traditionally, but symbolically deplore the girl, thus wishing her a happy family life. Seeing a girl, her family sends along with her a dowry.

Uzbek traditional weddings are held noisy and merrily. The number of invited guests often exceeds 300-400 people. The feast is accompanied by national songs and dances. Tables are crammed with traditional Uzbek treats.

The other tradition of the wedding ceremony in Uzbekistan is a honey treat between newlyweds. In order the family life is sweet, a groom tastes honey and gives it to his bride. Thereafter, a pair should look in the mirror and see each other in it. Also during the marriage in Uzbekistan a newly-fledged husband presents gifts to his wife. Most often, the Uzbeks give sweethearts watches and bracelets.

After the ending of the Uzbek marriage, newlyweds go to the groom's house. They are met at the bridegroom's house with karnays and urnays (musical instruments). After the bride's aunt changes the girl's dress, a bride prepares to meet the bridegroom.

Indian Marriages

Marriage is one of the oldest human institutions and this is as true in Indian culture as anywhere else. In India marriage, called "Kanyadana or "donating a virgin", is thought of as the greatest sacrifice that a father can make and for the groom as an obligation to perpetuate his bloodline. Many people believe that a marriage is still binding after death. In early times girls were thought to be ready for marriage after puberty and later even children could be married. Divorce and remarriage were not always possible. By Medieval times Marriage was compulsory for girls, who very often married between the ages of eight and nine. Among those able to afford it, polygamy was common and rulers would often have one wife from their own region and other minor wives from other areas. Now, divorce and remarriage is possible and non-Muslim Indian men can only have one wife. Although are many regional variations, some features of the Indian wedding ceremony are similar throughout the country. In general weddings are very complicated events and involve long negotiations about dowry payments prior to the event. After this has been decided a day is chosen by asking an astrologer to find a lucky day. Preparations begin early because a marriage is not only one of the highlights a person's life, but a large and complex social gathering to organize. The night before, the bride, her friends and female relatives gather together for a party called a "mehendi", where they paint each other's hands and feet with Henna and dance and listen to music. Her guests often give the bride advice about married life and tease

her about her future husband. Weddings are traditionally held at the bride's home or in a temple, but parks, hotels and marriage halls are becoming increasingly popular. On the day a wedding altar or "mandapa" is built and covered in flowers. All of the wedding ceremony will be held in the altar. The clothing a couple wear on their wedding day varies between regions and ethnic groups. Women most commonly wear a sari. The bride wears a lot of jewelry as this symbolizes the prosperity she will bring to her new family. In the South wearing flowers is common. The groom wears traditional costume or a suit. Turbans are also popular headgear. The ceremony begins with a mixture of tumeric, sandalwood paste and oils being applied to the couples face and arms. In the past this was done to the whole body, but now it is only symbolic, with only a little being rubbed on. Then they are showered in flowers. After this they perform the rituals that will make them man and wife. First they garland each other and then take seven symbolic steps together representing seven gifts and seven promises.

Finally they say the vows and then they are legally married. The bride's father or guardian takes her hands and puts them in her husband's giving her to him. Now she is no longer a member of her father's family, but a member of her husband's. They then touch the feet of their elders for luck. After the wedding ceremony, the couple go to the groom's house. The bride should be careful to enter the house right foot first for luck. In the evening and late into the night the families and their guests celebrate with dancing, music and food.

LIST OF RESOURCES

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3. Marital rape is not in fact recognized as a specific criminal offence in Uzbekistan. Social Institutions and Gender Index (2012)

4. Uzbekistan country profile', http://www.genderindex.org/country/uzbekistan#_ef27 (accessed 20 September 2012).

5. From interview with representatives of the Women's Committee. Mahalla committees are local government bodies for the residents of small neighbourhoods.