

Tibetan Culture

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Spirituality

- Many people are dedicated to Tibetan Buddhism
- Customs take place in everyday life
- A buddhism where ritualistic actions are more common and engrained
- Dalai Lama



Rituals (Spirituality)



Marriage Traditions

Overview

- Monogamy and polyandry are most common (polygyny not as common)
- Buddhist marriages are seen as non-religious
- Husband controls property and money
- Divorce is fairly easy; a long time ago the children would be split up between divorced parents based on gender

Marriage Traditions



Khatag

Proposal

- Girls will have their hair braided and wear a colourful apron as a sign that they are available for marriage
- Groom's parents typically seek a wife for their son from the same social position
- If it is decided by an astrologist that the two are a good match, a matchmaker will go to the woman's house to formally propose to her
- Only the woman's maternal uncle has the right to approve the marriage

Marriage Traditions

Engagement

- Engagement ceremony held by woman's family
- Members of the man's family present a khatag to each member of the woman's family
- Man and woman sign a formal engagement and a banquet is held to celebrate

Marriage Traditions

Before the Wedding

- The engagement and the wedding can happen on the same day, usually not
- Man's family pick the wedding day
- Before the wedding day, groom's family has clothing and a hair piece sent for the bride to wear
- Decorated arrows are brought to the bride's house on the wedding day
- When the bride and her bridal party arrive at the wedding, an arrow will be put onto her back and a jade put onto her head



Marriage Traditions

Wedding

- Group sings loudly as they walk, led by an astrologist, followed by the bride and bridesmaid, ending with the groom and groomsmen
- Upon arrival at the groom's home, the bride stomps on the ground with barley and tea leaves
- Groom gives bride a khatag and the two sit in the living room to receive wishes and gifts

Marriage Traditions

After the Wedding

- The newly wed couple goes to their room and lamas are there to bless them
- Family celebrate downstairs
- Wedding ceremonies usually last 2-3 days

Rites Of Passage (Birth and Death)

- To make the baby pure they spread zamba of the forehead of the child
- Also to keep the ghost away soot on the nose of a one month old baby
- Sky Burial- Normal people
- Water Burial- for the poor, widows and widowers
- Fire Burials- For Lamas
- Ground Burial- for the those who died of sickness, and those who were executed as criminals

Rites Of Passage (Women)

- The rites of passage for woman starts with the way that they wear their hair
- Under twelve- 2 braids
- Thirteen to fourteen - 3 braids
- Fifteen to sixteen - 5 braids
- Seventeen and over they wear dozens of braids
- They come of age at 17

Rites of Passage (Women) part 2

- Coming of age at 17
- Ritual happens on the second day of the new year on the Tibetan calendar
- Ritual is called Dai Tou and it is the marriage to the blue sky

- Girl will get her hair and makeup done by a professional
- Will dress up in colourful ornaments
- At the coming of age ritual gifts are given
- The girl and her close relatives will go pray to buddha
- A dinner is prepared
- Coming of age allows the girl to
 - Bring a boyfriend home
 - Can get married or stay home if she chooses

Gender Roles/Family Structure

- Gender roles are not very strict; roles are often reversed
- Both mother and father work with the animals
- Men do mostly heavy work outside and often give up marriage to help their sisters take care of children
- Women do more “household work”
- Teenagers go on the internet and use cell phones
- Young adults go to parties/clubs and drink beer
- Typical family of 14; mother and father, 1 son, 3 daughters, the oldest daughter’s husband and their 5 children, the mother’s brother and the father’s cousin (a visiting monk)

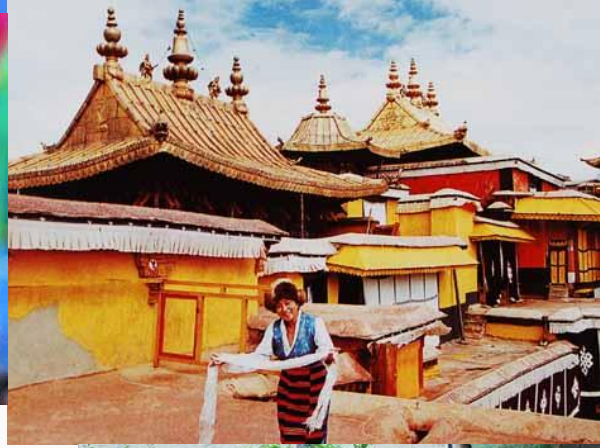
Gender Roles/Family structure



Birth Ceremony

- 2 banners hung when a baby is born
- Birth celebration takes place 3 or 4 days after the birth
- People come from all over to take part in the birth ceremony
- Nobody outside of the family or monks can touch the baby until a month after birth
- Named by a lama or senior member of the village, sometimes by parents

Fashion/Clothing



- Ornaments- colourful earrings or plastrans at the waist
- Hada- pure white scarf that is seen as a symbol of respect
- Bangdain- worn by married woman is a colourful apron
- Caps- Fur/wool/felt that can show status
- Boots- knee high cotton threaded leather
- Robes-loose fitting robe with no buttons held together with a band around the waist



Literature

- Been seen since the 7th century and became a written language in the 13th century
- Has its own language culture customs legends
- Most folklore and stories are passed down orally
- If you wanted to study tibetan literature it could be difficult do to the fact that little of tibetan literature has been translated into english
- Most if not all literature is connected to buddhism and there is little secular literature

Music (Intro)



Music



How's it Sound



Music Fusion



Damaru Drum



Rattle Drum



Performance

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