

TOPIC: MARRIAGE

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SUBJECT: MARRIAGE IN THE OLDEN DAYS

- When a young man wants a bride in the olden days, he will know himself, the girl wouldn't know and she will just live a free life, not knowing what is happening, in her parents home.

The boy and his relatives will get in touch with the girl's parents, and the girls parents to their daughter. If the girl has agreed to the proposal the boy and his relatives will return to their home to prepare. for the VAKABI (REGISTRATION). On the decided date the couple will go down for registration and when their return the both sides and the couple will have a small feast together. So the wedding date will than be decided and both sides will do their uttermost best to over throw the other party in the wedding ceremony. Mats etc. will be made and prepared by both sides for the wedding.

The bride and the groom will be dressed traditionally for the wedding. On this same day too the both sides will present their TEVUTEVU (mats, beddings etc). This mats etc. presented

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here are mainly for the new couple. The new couple will be seated on prepared mats for the wedding feast and they be lying on the presented TEVUTEVU mats for the following nights. The gifts of mats, masi etc. presented in the TEVUTEVU is for the couple. It won't be divided again to others. This presented mats, masi etc. is arranged for the couples bed. From the first night the boy or the groom will try to have sex with his wife. The couple will be sleeping on this particular arranged bed for four nights. After the fourth night cows or pigs will be killed for a feast. In the olden days before a marriage takes place, Girls and Boys will be seated in a house on the opposite sides of the house. Girls will be given an orange and the boy's side will also be given an orange. One of the boys will than take the orange and throw it on the girls side, the girl who catches the orange from the other side will be the young man's bride.

- What is the bride to be usually called when the boy's side has already gone to see her?
- To us their are called, "Those who are to Cook Rourou",
- If the girl or the boy doesn't like the girl or the boy she is to marry.
- That mainly depends on the boy, if the girl doesn't want to be married, than sorry, never mind what she is going to be forced to marry the boy. In here only the boy's say will be

heard.

- What is the magiti prepared when the girl has agreed to the proposal?

That magiti is called the VAKADONU - NI - GUSU (the girls approval).

This particular magiti is prepared from the young man's home and is taken to the girls home. This could be a whole cow killed and roasted or a whole roasted pig, with dalo, yams etc. When the girl has agreed to the proposal the VAKADONU-NI-GUSU will be taken to her home.

From this time too the boy's side will be bringing food to the girls side every week.

- Who all goes for the couple's REGISTRATION?

The young man who is to be married and his mother-in-law will go down together. A magiti is also prepared when the couple and the girls mother returns. The wedding ceremony, feasting etc. will all take place at the young man's residence and the young man is required to be strong handed on his wedding.

- What is the DOLA-NI-KATUBA (opening of the door)?

On the first night the girls mother would go up to her daughter and ask her if, her husband is the first man to have sex with her. If she says yes, there is got to be a sign on the beddings in the morning. When the girls side have seen this, they will shout with joy in the house, and beat

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to go further they will marry their daughter to another village. Before a wedding takes place the brides cousins etc. and the grooms cousins etc. will be taken to a house a young man would throw an orange to where the girls are sitting the girl who catches the orange will be the next one to be married. When this happens the girls parents will be looking after their daughter closely so that no other boy will have the chance of deceiving the girl.

Masi and Salusalu are the traditional wedding costume worn by both of them for the wedding.

I think that is all for the Marriage Ceremony.