

MARRIAGEInvestigator: Willie.DINFORMANT: Sera Wati.....DREKETI,NOCO,REWA.SUBJECT: MARRIAGE IN THE OLDEN DAYS.

In the olden days the girls mother and the boys mother are responsible for the marriage of their children, The boys mother may like the young girls characters and so she'll go to the girls mother and ask her if her son could be married to her daughter,if the young firls mother says yes then the boy's mother will go and inform her husband. The boys side will ho and see the young girl first to ask her if she is willing to marry their son. If the young girl says yes than the boys father will return to his home and call his clan informing them of the proposal that is to take place. A tabua is taken up to the girls familu for the TATAUNAKI. In the past our ancestors keeps the big tabua for the TATAUNAKI This is when the boys family comes in a traditional way to propose to the girl. When the girl had accepted the proposal the boy's side will return to their home happy. From than on the boys side will bring yams,dalo and clothes for the young girl had accepted their poposal to when she is going to be wedded. Thats what we call ,"E dau VAKANI ko YALEWA mai vei TAGENE". The boys family will bring whatever they can afford to the girl until her wedding day. Four nights after the wedding the couples relatives will bring in goods for the couple. The goods is halved. One half is for the couples house and the other half for the girls mother for the VAKAKALINISUCU. This goods are displayed on the fourth

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night and a portion of this goods us given to the girls mother.

After the fourth night the goods is taken to the irls mother and a Magiti and drums of keresone is presented in the groung for the girls mother. On this occassion the girl's side will present a tabua as the TATAUNAKI for the young bride. This is a Tataunaki asking the groom and his family to love their girl. This tabua that was given to the boys side and will be returned to the hirls family when a baby is born to the couple. This tabua will be returned as a TUKUNI NI SUCU of the baby. Relatives, friends and neighbors will come with their gifts of Mats, Kumi and Soap to the little baby. This is what we call the KANI ROQOROQO. A Magiti is prepared to celebrate the birth of the new baby and the MOCEMOCE or the BIKABIKA will start in that hourse if the boy's family agrees to it. The Bikabika will depend on the boy's side if they want the Bikabika for four nights than after the 4th nigh the Bikabika finishes and the people may go their homes but if they want those doing the Bikabika to stay for ten nights than the Bikabika will stay for that long. When peoples come to see the baby they will bring one yard long of fabric to shade their lanterns. All woemn who are doing the Bikabika at the new mothers hut will shade their lanterns with the one yard fabric as they make their way to the sleeping hut every night. The boy's relatives will hang their lanterns in the middle of the house and if any of the girls side wants that particular lantern she will go up when no one is looking and tie a string on the peice of fabric shading the lantern as a sign that the lantern has been

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claimed. That is how new mothers are looked after.

- Could you talk about how the boys mother chooses the bride ,from the same tribe or....?

_ The boy's mother can look in the tribe or in the village or to the next village to find a good wife for her son.

When the girl had accepted the poposal that it.

_ What would you look in the girl that you'll choose for your sons wife?

_ The boys mother will bear in mind that she'll want some one who could look after them when they are old. To look after the house. The boy's mother will look for an active girl who is able to work and is loving because she will have to take care of them when they get old.

_ How old is the girl when she is able to get married?

_ The boy's mother will start looking for the bride when her son is still small. She will keep an eye to the girl she think is best suited for her son and when the two are both grown ups than the boy's side will go and propose to the gir. The boy will start taking food and clothes for the young girl when she had accepted the poposal. This will start from the day the young girl a accepts the proposal to her wedding day.

_ What does the young girl do in return to the boy before the wedding?

_ When the girls family knows that the boy is bringing food for his bride to be this particular day, the girls family will cook something nice to await the youngman's arrival.

_ Who is responsible for taking the young girl's food?

_ One of the boy's parents are responsible for providing the

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-girl's clothes. One of the boy's relatives will take this food to the girl's home.

_ When is the wedding date decided?

_ The wedding date is decided after the couples consent registration. The boy's relatives are responsible for the feast for registration and it is held at the young man's place.

_ Are the couple allowed to converse before they are married?

_ Old folks would watch them as they converse. They would yarn so that they may know a little about the other before marriage.

_ Who is responsible for setting the wedding date?

_ The boy's side are responsible for setting the wedding date. When it comes to the decided date the wedding takes place. The wedding is takes place at the boy's residence. The girl's side displays her TEVUTEVU first before the boys side displays his. The girl's side will prepare everything for the house because they represent the young bride bringing her belongings to her house. They will start on the grass that they will spread in the sleeping hut before they spread three or four ,four-meters long mats. Then they'll spread mats for the young girl's bedding and bring in her house furnitures even her house broom. This is prepared by the brides mother and her relatives. They will display their gift to the bride before the boys side displays theirs.

_ How is the young girl dressed?

_ The bride is dressed in Kumi and will be escorted by her two sisters to the place. This applies to the boy also. The traditional goods that is prepared for the couples wedding will be presented after the marriage ceremony. The boy's

_ will spread six table cloths and the girl's side too. The couple will eat from the same plate, eating the same piece of food and also using the same eating utensils. Two other couple will seat with the young couple on their prepared feasting table.

_ Who will will perform the TEVUTEVU first?

- The girl's side will displays their goods first in the new couples house before the man's side displays theirs. The girl's side will furnish the house first with the traditional goods that they have brought because this will be the brides house. The boy's side will display and spread the beddings for the young couple. The girls traditional goods will be below and the man's relatives TEVUTEVU is on top.

In this occassion both paties will try to out stand the other. But usually no one beats the other. This shows that both side are string handed by the amount and quality of Traditional goods they had spread for the young couple.

- How wo we know that the bride is a young girl?

- The boy's side will ask the boy if the bride is a young girl or not. Because the boy will know if his wife was a virgin or not?

- How does the boys side shows that the bride was a young girl

- On the fourth night the boys side will present a dead pig as a magiti to the girls side. The big pig is not wounded if the girl is a virgin. If there is cuts on the pigs body that shows that the girl was not a virgin .

There will be shouts and beating of Lali from the girls relatives when they see no cuts or wounds on the pig this is a sign that their girl was a virgin to her husband.

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The girls relatives bow low in shame when they see the pig wounded because this is a sign that their girl was matured before she was married.

- What happens in the couples house during the first and second night?
- We dont have anything . The couple will only haave their f first bath after the fourth night.
- Where is the spread Mats and goods taken?
- All the mats and goods presented in the ceremony is divided A portion for the girl's mother, for the boys mother, for the tribe and the rest is for the couple. The boys parents will have a say on the Mats and Goods that is giben to the couple. If they think that a part of it is to be shared to some else they'll say so if they think it is not to be shared than all that es given to the couple.
- Could you simplify on the term KALINISUCHU?
- The KALINISUCU is the Goods given to the girls mother from the boys side as a gift given to her for looking after her daughter to her wedding day. This Traditional Goods is presented to her after the fourth night. This traditional good is specially prepared for the girl's mother. Before the TEVU-TEVU they will first perform the TUVU KURO before they go in to display the goods they have brought for the brides house.
- Whoo's goods were presented to the girls side on the Registration Day?
- That goods is for the girls clan and her tribe.
- Who accepts the tabua that is presented for the youngs TATAUNAKI and who is the tabua pointing to?
- This is a touching moment when the girls father presents a tabua to the boys side for the TATAUNAKI of her daughter. As

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- he present the tabua he'll ask the boys side and the groom to love his daughter who is now theirs. They are to look to her needs. After the presentation of this tabua and the speeach the boys father will accept the tabua from the girl's father.

- What types of food is eaten on the wedding feast?

- The boys side see that the feast for the wedding is properly prepared. Pork, chicken,dalo and yams and many other is prepared for the wedding f/east. There will be yaqona drinking from the first night to the fourth night to celebrate the couples wedding.

- Is there anymore that you would like to say?

- I think that is all I know on the wedding in the olden days.

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