

Interesting wedding Related Traditions and Customs

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Hindu Tradition:

Brides and grooms, who follow the Hindu tradition, consult an astrologist before choosing their wedding date. The astrologist examines the horoscope of each and determines the most appropriate date and time of day for the wedding.

Amish Tradition:

Traditionally, Amish weddings are scheduled for mid-week following the harvest season. The entire community is invited to participate. The invitations are hand delivered through personal visits. No special wedding attire is worn. The bride and the groom as well as their guests wear their Sunday best.

African American

Jumping the Broom:

Typically the family places the broom on the ground, and the bride and groom jump over it together to symbolize the beginning of making a home together.

The broom can then decorate a place of honor in their home.

Rather than African, this is an African-American tradition that has its roots in slavery times when slaves were not legally permitted to marry.

Jumping the broom, is a custom that has its roots in Africa yet took on a deeper meaning when during the days of slavery in the USA, African American couples jumped a broom as a public announcement and a statement of their love and commitment. In fact when a man and woman jumped over a broom, they pronounced their entrance into matrimony. Today, African-American couples tend to include this custom in their wedding ceremony.

Cowry shells:

Some African-American brides wear Cowry shell necklaces, and or decorate their attire with Cowry shell because Cowry shells are believed to encourage fertility.

A note of interest: Cowrie shells were once used as money. Today they are used for purification and as a symbol of beauty and power.

Tasting the Four Elements:

A less known and less practiced African American wedding tradition, require that the bride and groom taste: lemon as representing the sour, vinegar as representing the bitter, cayenne pepper as representing the hot, and honey as representing the sweet and delicious times of marriage. This ritual dramatizes the "traditional" promise to love "for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health."

Latin

Lazo – Lasso

A lazo (lasso), is a large rosary, a ribbon or a decorated cord that is symbolically draped around the necks or shoulders of the bride and the groom, groom first. It is placed in a horizontal figure eight (infinity) while they are kneeling at the altar, to affirm their union and their commitment to always be together side-by-side. The lazo is associated with a wedding prayer and takes place during the ceremony, after the bride and groom have exchanged their vows. Optionally, the lazo may be tied around their wrists.

The couple wears the lasso throughout the remainder of the service.

At the end of the ceremony, the lazo is removed and is given to the Bride as a keepsake.

Though not a Latin country, a wedding ceremony in New Zealand features the Infinity Loops (Lasso) placed around the necks of the bride and the groom, to symbolize their never-ending love.

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Latin Continues

Arras - Thirteen gold coins

The groom gives the bride thirteen gold coins blessed by the priest. The 13 coins represent the Christ and his 12 apostles. The Arras is given to the bride as a symbol of the unquestionable trust and confidence the groom has in her. Most often, he presents them in an ornate box, a silver or gold jewelry box, or on a silver or gold gift tray. Doing so, he also pledges to be a good provider and to support and care for his bride as she becomes his wife. By accepting the arras coins, the bride pronounces her unconditional trust and confidence in her groom. These coins become a part of their family heirloom.

Celtic

Hand fasting Wedding Ceremony

Hand fasting is a Celtic wedding ceremony rituals. It involves tying the hands of the bride and groom together to symbolize their coming together and remaining tied to each other

Celtic Oath Stone Ceremony

The bride and the groom put their hands on, or hold a stone during their vows to symbolize that the vows are forever set in stone.

Greek

Wedding Crowns

This is an ancient Greek custom. The bride and groom wear a pair of crowns that is bound together by ribbons. The crowns symbolize the bride and groom as royalty and that they will be bound together forever in their new family. In an Orthodox service, the priest will say a special prayer wishing the newlyweds God's blessings in their new married life. The priest now leads the crowned couple three times around the altar, having the bride and groom take their first steps as a married couple.

After that, the bride and groom take turns drinking from the same wine glass three times.

More Greek Wedding Rituals

The bride carries a lump of sugar in her glove, signifying a wish for a sweet life. During the reception, dancers circle the bride. Guests throw money at the bride, and break dishes for good luck. As they leave, the guests get a packages of an odd number of almond candies covered in white chocolate. This may be where giving Jordan almond as favors comes from.

Jewish

The Jewish Groom:

It is customary that on the Shabbat morning before the wedding, the groom is honored by being called up to the reading of the Torah in the synagogue or temple. After he recites the last blessing, members of the congregation throw candies and raisins at him to wish him a sweet life with his wife.

Fasting by Jewish Bride and Groom:

Tradition calls for the bride and groom to fast on the day of their wedding, until after the ceremony. Though the reason given is so they purify their souls, the actual benefit is that though they may be nervous, neither will suffer a queasy stomach.

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Jewish Continues

Witnesses:

One of the most essential elements of the legal aspect of a Jewish wedding is the presence of witnesses. Proper witnesses are needed to observe the signing of all documents and contracts, the actual ceremony when the groom places the ring on his bride's finger and recites the prescribed statement, and when the bride and groom now Mr., and Mrs. enter the celebration - reception.

Breaking a Glass in Jewish Weddings:

This custom puzzles many who seek explanation. One though not the only interpretation given, is that the smashing of the glass is irrevocable and permanent. So too should the marriage be. As the bride and groom bond together, the glass should be the last thing to break, between them.

The Ketuba dates back to the year 80 B.C.E.

The first thing usually done by the groom upon arrival, is the completion, signing and witnessing of the Ketubah. The Ketubah is a marriage contract usually inscribed in Hebrew.

You may call this contract an ancient pre-nuptial agreement since it details not only the husband's obligations to his wife concerning food, clothing, shelter and pleasure, it also creates a lien on all his property to pay her a sum of money and support, should he divorce her.

The document is signed by the groom and witnessed by two people. It has the standing of a legally binding agreement, that is enforceable by secular law in many countries.

Chuppah:

The actual Jewish wedding ceremony is conducted under a Chuppah or canopy.

The chuppah, is either a prayer shawl, or a decorated square of cloth held up by four poles, symbolizes the new home being created by the couple. It is customary for the bride and groom to honor four of their best friends and - or siblings to hold the poles during the ceremony.

The bride and groom stand under the chuppah during the ceremony, with the bride to the right of the groom.

The Rabbi conducts the actual wedding ceremony including the bride and the groom sipping blessed wine and the ceremony of groom breaking a glass under the chuppah.

General

The Unity Candle Wedding Ceremony

The unity candle set includes a pillar candle and two tapers.

Just before the wedding ceremony, the bride's mother lights a taper and so does the groom's mother. After the couple has exchanged wedding vows, the bride picks up the taper her mother lit and the groom picks up the taper his mother lit.

Together, they light the pillar candle creating one flame, to signify their union.

The Family Unity Candle Wedding Ceremony

If only one or two children are involved, they should be given their own tapers and join the bride and groom in lighting the pillar candle creating one flame, to signify their being united as a family. However, if more than two children are involved, they should receive their own tapers but rather than light the pillar candle, light their tapers from the flame, to signify that love and warmth united them as a family with the bride and the groom.

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General Continues



A bride's wedding tradition Poem by Nily Glaser Copyrights 2010

A wedding tradition for hundreds of years,
Observed for generations in lands far and near.
Give the bride for her wedding day:
Something old to have and to hold,
Something new as a blessing from you,
Something to borrow till tomorrow,
Something pretty all in blue to wish a marriage strong as glue,
And for good luck and fortune too, a sixpence coin for her left shoe.
A hankie to wipe her happy tears, will serve her well throughout the years.

The Sand Wedding Ceremony

A wedding sand ceremony is very popular in beach communities where sand is abundant. Colored sand is placed in two containers one color for the bride and one for the groom. They pour the sand into a third, keepsake clear vase like container to symbolize the coming together of their lives. If either or both have children, they too should have containers of colored sand to pour into the keepsake container, to symbolize their becoming one united family. Sand packets of various colors are available for purchase, or you can color sand with food coloring. If you do, give each participant a different color.

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General Continues

The knot

The bride holds one end of a cord and the groom the other end and together they tie a knot to symbolize that their newly entwined lives will remain tied together. In a Family Wedding each of the children adds a knot. Many couples place this knot with other wedding memorabilia in a shadow box.

After the couple has exchanged wedding vows, the bride picks up the taper her mother lit and the groom picks up the taper his mother lit. Together, they light the pillar candle creating one flame, to signify their union.

The Rose Ceremony

Add an elegant touch to your wedding ceremony with roses. Present a rose to the mother of the bride and to the mother of the groom as by having their children marry, they too become one family.

In this ceremony, either the bride and groom, together, present a rose to each mother, or the groom presents the bride's mother with a rose and the bride presents the groom's mother with one to signify that they are one family.

The Wine Ceremony

Wine is an integral part of the wedding ceremony of many traditions. To make the wine symbolic of the new union, the groom pours red wine into a glass and the bride pours white wine. The bride and the groom take a sip of the mixed, now pink wine.

Wine or rather **grapes, the fruit of the vine theme weddings** are gaining popularity.

Breaking Bread Ceremony

The bride and groom tear off pieces of bread, and feed each other to symbolize that they will always care for, and sustain each other. Sometimes the bread is also shared with family members to symbolize their future as an extended family.

Garland Ceremony or Lei Ceremony

In Indian weddings ceremonies, the bride and groom exchange garlands of flowers. This represents a proposal by the bride and acceptance by the groom. It also represents their new unity, blessed by nature.

In typical Hawaiian weddings, the bride and groom exchange leis. Sometimes, the families also exchange leis with the bride and groom. The lei exchange represents love and respect for the bride and groom and the unity of the new family created by their marriage.

Candles of Honor Lighting Ceremony

A Candle Lighting Ceremony during the reception is a wonderful way to honor special people as well as a lovely photo opportunity. Place as many candles as the number of individuals, couples or families you wish to honor, call them each to light a candle (taper, votive or pillar are appropriate. The candles can be white, ivory or alternating your wedding colors). If you choose pillar candles, you may personalize them and after the ceremony give the honorees their personalized candles as keepsake wedding mementos.

The Bride and groom may choose the format of their ceremony. For example, they may choose to:

- Set the ceremony to music whereby an individual and descriptive song for each person, couple or family is chosen and is played as they walk up to light their candle.
- The bride and - or groom may call up each person or group with a special rhyme.
- Have the master of ceremonies announces each honoree(s), and while they make their way to the light their candle, the bride or the groom express the significance of the relationship between him or her and the honoree(s).
- The honorees may either just light the candle, or add to the festivities with a toast, advice or best wishes for the newlyweds.

Interesting Traditions and Customs Included In Our wedding