

## KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA INVENTORY ON THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

**Name of the Element: Anachu:** is a collection of pragata (impure) spaces associated with females and prohibited for Kalasha men

**Brief Description:** In the Kalasha valleys, there are certain spaces which are considered impure or pragata. These spaces include the following:

1. Bashali: the menstruation house or the maternity house however it is known where the Kalasha women stay during the time they are menstruating and while giving birth respectively. Kalasha men are not allowed to enter the Bashali, as this place is known as Anachu.
2. The place at the river sides where the women wash their hair, clothes and take bath; place for Cuibut'i is known as Anachu, therefore the place is impure (pragata) hence men do not go there.
3. When a woman dies while giving birth, she is then buried in a separate portion of the graveyard. She is buried by either the women in the Bashali or incase the women cannot dig the grave then Muslim men are requested to bury the woman and if in the scenarios where Muslim men are not even available then only Kalasha men bury the woman. After the burial, the Kalasha men have to take bath, wash the clothes and sacrifice an animal and get purified by sprinkling blood. The body is considered impure as the woman has died while she was still in the Bashali, therefore the woman is buried as soon as she dies and later the rituals are carried. This specific space in the graveyard is restricted and men do not go there as it is Anachu.
4. Chacrdupi: this is the place in the Bashali compound where new born children who die while still in the Bashali are buried.