

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA INVENTORY ON THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Name of the Element: Sarazari: Sarazari = Juniper branch, Second ritual of the Chowmas

Brief Description: Sarazari is the second ritual of Chowmos in Bumburet and Rumbur. In most villages of Bumburet, 'Chutayak Sarazari is celebrated on 9th December and Ghona Sarazari is celebrated on 10th December. In Chutayak Sarazari, young boys and girls participate whereas in Ghona Sarazari comparatively elder boys / girls and men / women participate but generally the entire Kalasha community participates in both. In this ritual, the participants go to a higher place in the village. This spot is usually the same each year; girls and boys under the supervision of some elders make a fire at two places. One fire is for the boys and the other is for the girls.

A small competition between the boys and girls takes place to see who succeeds in creating more smoke. Songs are sung and they make fun of each other. Before the ritual of smoke, ceremony begins by offerings and a prayer is done on both the places by an elder male member. The male member washes his hands with snow. In case when there is no snow the spring water used. Later a juniper branch is burnt and prayer is done at both the spots.

Once the prayer finishes the boys and girls make smoke and then run from house to house singing and dancing.

A small performance is done outside every house of the village. Every family offers them either fruit or food.

When the food is offered by the family then the girls take it and sing a song called, 'Kul'lani Jes'tak.' In this song they ask for different favors for the family members and the elders in the name of the 'Jes't'ak'

While the song is being sung, the woman singing the song; hits a walnut at the door's side and keeps praying. This ritual is celebrated distinctly in different valleys. In Birir, the Kalasha do not have any Sarazari, In Rumbur, Sarazari is celebrated for one day whereas in most valleys of Bumburet, it is celebrated for two days.

festival

Songs of Chowmos also start with this ritual.