

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA INVENTORY ON THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Name of the Element: Ishtikhek: Literal translation :- praising someone Narration of histories and achievements of individuals through the art of rhetoric

Brief Description: Frequently carried out during funerals, ceremonies, and communal gatherings during festivals (except Chawmos), Ishtikhek is a vital elements highlighting the art of rhetoric and a transference of oral histories of the Kalasha community as a lived heritage. It incorporates a narration of life histories of individuals – their clans, and their achievements. Ishtikhek is normally carried out by Qazi's and village elders (mostly male but exceptionally females – females normally narrate an elegy known as Bashikhek through song). A sequential narration of events usually starts from pointing out the individuals' first ancestor, when the ancestor decided to settle in the area and where he decided to build altars. This is followed by a narration of the birth of the ancestors' sons and the subsequent formation of clans till a kinship lineage is traced up until the individual being talked about. How the ancestor defended frontiers and helped in giving rights to particular community members is highlighted. Although frequently carried out during funerals, ishtikhek is also narrated at the time of sunapindi - the time of giving dowry to daughters