

English translation:

Another Turkish tradition is sherbet¹ ... umm, we have this thing, this tradition. One day, you see, they set the date. And that day, umm... the boy's side brings along families that are worthy of them; the families could be from their side, 10 families or 20 families. They go to drink sherbet with everyone else. The girl also invites her side of the family. I mean, they gather at this event, they all sit together umm... they discuss the sherbet matter of the boy and the girl. They pick two representatives, and these representatives talk to one another. After they talk about these matters, they drink sherbet. And sherbet is, umm... one of our Turkish traditions, I mean, since this boy and this girl are getting married with the intention of initiating that they be as sweet as the sherbet to each other, everybody drinks sherbet. And after sherbet, they congratulate each other; the boy's side of the family congratulates the girl's side of the family, and they congratulate the boy and the girl too. And then, you see, they are engaged.

You see, they bring clothing to the girl, umm... for this sherbet... At the sherbet they show it; they exchange clothing; they exchange rings; the boy also receives clothing. And then, umm... now that they are engaged, umm... they set a date with their parents, and on that day -- who knows, maybe [in] a month or two, but according to our old traditions an engaged girl would remain engaged for about a year. They would have the engagement, and then in between the engagement and the wedding would be a year later. I mean, this is what I know from my childhood. At the time, umm... after a year, umm... they would have the wedding. But now there is no need to, umm... to wait for that long, umm... after a month or two, umm... they set the date for the wedding. To the wedding, umm... At the wedding both the boy's and the girl's sides attend the wedding, and then the boy's side has their wedding according to our traditions; they, umm... go and take the bride, umm... from the girl's side of the family. Meanwhile on the boy's side the boy's friends and relatives gather, and with a drum and horn they do the wedding nicely. But for these weddings to count in Islam, none of the things that are forbidden in Islam should be included in the wedding. Umm... I mean, what is forbidden for us by Islam? For instance, alcohol is forbidden, umm... for instance, the meat in the wedding cannot include pork -- this is forbidden by Islam. I mean pork is forbidden and alcohol is forbidden to all Muslims. I mean, indeed, the alcohol is not only forbidden in Islam, but is forbidden in all religions. Because what does alcohol do to mankind? Alcohol takes mankind to calamity and harm. Umm... because after the alcohol affects the human brain, after it gets into a person's blood, you see it distorts the mind, distorts the thinking. Then they can say unexpected things to each other. Therefore alcohol is forbidden by all religions... Some people may break this law and can drink, but by all religions alcohol is forbidden. You see, it is a part of our tradition to have our weddings without the forbidden things like alcohol. This is one of our many great traditions.

¹ Sherbet is a soft drink of sweetened fruit juice. The gathering at which people come together and drink sherbet is also called sherbet. In the text both meanings are used.

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