CultureTalk India Video Transcripts: http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu Muslim Birth and Death Observances

Births में normal, जैसाणिंगित होती है...hospital में birth होती है। और काफ़ी हम्रामा होता है, कुछ लोग functions करतण्हैं। नाम रखनण्या बच्चण्या functions कियणजातण्हैं। और... नाम रखनण्या functions कियणजातण्हैं। उसका रिश्तद्वार काणी gifts वग़ैरह लण्कर आतण्हें, सब कुछ, मतलब आना-जाना दोस्तों का, रिश्तद्वारों का, लगा रहता है, बहुत खुशी मनाई जाती है। और काफ़ी functions कियणजातण्हें। और अख़ीका, हमारण्यहाँ, मुसलमानों में एक चीज़ होती है, अख़ीका, वह कुछ लोग बाद में करतण्हें, कुछ लोग उसी वक़्त कर लक्षण्हें, कि भई बच्चा पैदा हुआ है तो उसका कुछ सदख़ा दणदम्ना, कुछ charity करतण्हें उसका नाम सण तो, कोई lamb या गोश्त या कोई... कोई भी हलाल जानवर, चिकन नहीं मतलब... goat, या. बड़ी -- buffalo वग़ैरह, कुछ भी मतलब, ज़यादातर बकरी होती है, बकरा या बकरी, उस को हलाल करतण्हें, जैसण्कुरबानी पण्चह sacrifice... वह किया जाता है, तो ऐसा. और गरीबों में बाँट दक्षण्हें उस गोश्त को, उस मीट को। और functions ... function भी किया जाता है उसका लियणकाफ़ी बड़ा। बच्चों को... सब वही... obviously, जैसणिंगाता होता है, नयणकपडणपहननणऔर तोहफ़ा वग़ैरह सब लोग लण कर आताहैं।

और ि र उसका यह है कि कुछ लोग जलात । हैं, कुछ लोग कब्र में दबा दल । हैं। तो हम लोग तो of course दफ़नात । हैं कब्र में, ज़मीन में, जैसा | Christians भी दफ़नात । हैं, मुसलमान भी... बस हमारा यह है कि हम लोग साद । बिना coffin का दफ़नात । हैं, वा लोग coffin में दफ़नात । हैं। बस... वह... इसकाल होता है, थोड़ा रोना । धोना होता है, और लोग जो हैं ... as usual, जैस । बावे लोगों का मरन । पा होता है... एक तो फ़िर उस को दफ़ना दिया जाता है थोड़ी दष्ट बाद, जब सब लोग आ जात । है, लोग आख़री चहुरा दुष्ट न । जो दुष्ट न । वाता है। Culturally speaking उसका बाद लोग दसवाँ करत । हैं, कि भई जब दस दिन हो जात । हैं मौत को, तो ि र, ि र कुछ वह बनाया जाता है ... खाना, बँटवाया जाता है और ि र रोया जाता है और यह -वह। जो का as... as is said, in Islam is wrong। या जो रस्में हैं, या सब करना मना है। अल्लाह ताला न । कहा है कि तीन दिन स □ ज़्यादा किसी चीज़ का सोक नही । मना वाहिय । दिल में हाँ, अफ़सोस रहता है, रोत । हैं, अल्लाह स । ताक़त माँग लिसी चाहिय । अल्लाह स । सब्द माँगनी चाहिय । लिसन य । सब करना की तरह करना न । कि भई अब दस दिन हो गय । अब चालीस दिन हो गय । अब यह हो गया, मर । हर,

तो वह ग़लत चीज़ है, क्योंकि अल्लाह की अमानत थी, अल्लाह का पास चली गयी। इसी तरह साहम लोग coffin में भी इसी लियानहीा लालत कि मिट्टी साबना हुआ है इन्सान और मिट्टी में उसको मिलना है, तो िर यह बचाना क्या ना, mummies की तरह? रूह तो चली ही जाती है ...soul।

English translation:

As far as births go, they are normal, as births take place, in the hospital. And there is a lot of celebration. Some people have functions (celebrations). They have an event at which the child is named ... there is a naming event. And ... [the child's] relatives come with many gifts, all that, I mean, a lot of friends [of the family] visit, and relatives, there is much celebration. And there are many functions. And *akhiqa*, among us, Muslims, there is something called *akhiqa*, some people do it later; some people do it right away. Since a child has been born, they perform some charity in his/her name (i.e. for his/her well-being). So some lamb, or meat, some *halal* animal, not chicken ... goat, or buffalo, something, I mean, mostly it is goat, it is sacrificed and its meat is distributed among the poor. And there is a big function for this also. To children ... the same things ... obviously, the way functions are, wearing new clothes, people bringing gifts and so on.

And the thing is that some people cremate, others bury. We (Muslims), of course, bury [our dead] in graves, in the ground, just as the Christians do, so do the Muslims ... the only difference is that we bury without a coffin and they [Christians] use a coffin. So then, when there is a death, there is some mourning, the people, as usual, as with other people ... the person is buried after a while, when everyone has come to see the face [of the dead person for the last time. I mean those who are close to the person; then the person is buried. Culturally speaking, after that people hold a dasvan when it has been ten days since the death; then some food is prepared and distributed and there is more mourning etc., which, as I said, in Islam is wrong. All these rituals, these are forbidden. Allah has said that one should not mourn anything for more than three days. There is sorrow in the heart, we cry, we should ask Allah for strength, ask Allah for forbearance but all these functions – that now its been ten days, its been forty days, now its been this or that, since the death – that is wrong, because [the person] was God's property that has since been returned to him. In the same way, we do not put [the body] in a coffin, because the human being is made of dust and returns to dust, so then why save [the body] like mummies? The soul departs anyway.

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