

## ***Jaanko* Celebration**

### **English description:**

Here a glimpse of “*Jaanko*,” a celebration observed by Newars, is shown. You can hear bits of Newari language in the video. *Jaanko* is a celebration of a long life (longevity). In olden times, people did not live for very long. So, those who survived were respected as gods. *Jaanko* is a special form of this respect. It is celebrated five times in a person’s lifetime. The first *Jaanko* is celebrated when a person is 77 years, 7 months, and 7 days. Second *Jaanko* is celebrated in 83 years, 4 months, and 4 days; third is celebrated in 88 years, 8 months, and 8 days; fourth is celebrated in 99 years, 4 months, and 4 days; and the fifth is celebrated in 105 years, 8 months, and 8 days. Similar to 50<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversaries celebrated in the West, *Jaanko* is a grand day. In the morning, the birthday person is worshipped according to special rituals. The entire family participates in the ritual. The participation of grandchildren and great grandchildren is important. Everyone bows down before the birthday person and brings good food, clothes, jewelry, and other gifts. After the ritual ends, there is [a] feast. In the evening there is a party for friends and relatives. The birthday person is dressed in red and adorned in gold jewelry throughout the day. A person who has finished *Jaanko* is considered higher above all others in the society.

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