

## Getting Engaged

### Moldovan transcript:

I: Apoi se înțelegeau ei doi de nuntă, și era o modalitate, pețitul: deci mirele își lua niște pețitori, niște flăcăi, niște prieteni, și se duceau la părinții miresei și împreună cu părinții lui, și declarau că el vrea, are intenții serioase, vrea să se însoare cu fata lor, și făceau o discuție, dacă mai întâi părinții, dacă ei sunt de acord, sau nu sunt de acord. Dacă se ajungea la o înțelegere, la un numitor comun, atunci se făcea schimb de obiecte de preț. Băiatul îi dădea fetei și fata îi dădea băiatului. Se mai duceau acasă, se mai gândeau și erau cazuri când se răzgândeau cineva din ei. Atunci obiectele ăstea se întorceau și asta era semn că s-a răzgândit. Nu-i spunea că eu nu mai însor, sau nu mai mărit, dar trimitea pe cineva să îi ducă obiectul și-l lua pe al lui.

De cele mai multe ori, se înțelegeau, veneau următoarea dată împreună cu părinții mirelui și ai miresei, de acuma și nașii, împreună, se înțelegeau de nuntă. Aici la înțelegerea asta, erau puse toate la cale, ce zestre are mireasa, ce face băiatul, ce fac părinții băiatului, când, cum e nunta, la cine și așa mai departe, cât pun, care e partea; de cele mai multe ori, părinții miresei, ei erau cei care trebuia să dea mai mult.

### English translation:

I: And they would agree upon the wedding, the two of them. There was a way [called] *pețit*<sup>1</sup>: so the groom would bring some *pețitori*<sup>2</sup>, some boys, some friends, and they would go to the bride's parents, and together with his parents, they would declare that he wants – he has serious intentions and wants to marry their daughter, and they would discuss it, if first of all, the parents agree with that, or if they don't agree. If they reached an agreement, a common denominator, then they would exchange precious objects. The boy would give the girl one, and the girl would give something to the boy. Then they would go home, think about it, and there were cases when one of them changed their mind. Then these objects would come back, and that was a sign they had changed their minds. He or she wouldn't tell the other one, "I'm not getting married anymore," but they would send someone to bring the object back and retrieve theirs.

Most frequently, they would agree upon it, then the next time they would come together with the groom's parents and the bride's, together with the godparents, and they would agree upon the wedding. Here, at this agreement, everything was planned – what dowry the bride has, what the boy is doing, what the boy's parents are doing, when, what the wedding is like, which place and so on, how much they are contributing, what the share is. Most of the time, the bride's parents, they were the ones contributing the most.

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<sup>1</sup> *Pețit* is the act of asking for a woman's hand in marriage.

<sup>2</sup> *Pețitori* are people who go along with the man to ask for the woman's hand.

**About CultureTalk:** CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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