

CultureTalk North Africa Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
One Kind of Tunisian Wedding

English translation of Tunisian Arabic:

On the first day, both families – I mean the groom’s family and the bride’s family – they announce the wedding and that should be done by some of the women, who come to the bride’s family home.

The first thing that they should do is to draw *henna* on the bride’s hands, and also they celebrate the wedding by making a small party with dancing and ululations. We make that in order to say that the wedding is starting now. There is a special day for the bride to go to the bath with her female friends without making any party, just chatting with each other.

On the second day, the dowry is determined and announced publicly, some of the men come to the bride’s family home, and they should bring the vegetables and other ingredients for preparing the food. Also, the most important thing is the presenting of the Sheikh who will write down the dowry.

Then men go back to their homes and the women stay at the bride’s family home to cook the dinner, and it should be specific food for this occasion which is couscous with *osben*¹. After preparing the dinner, all the male relatives, friends, etc., they come to have dinner at the bride’s family home.

The next day we make *lottia*, which means the bride’s party which is the women’s party. Usually we cook corchorus. The bride wears nice clothes with makeup, and also the groom should be with her in the party.

The next day the bride’s family takes a rest, they have nothing to do, but the groom’s family has the groom’s party. They serve dinner for his relatives and friends. Also the men from the bride’s family go to the groom’s family to have dinner.

¹ A Tunisian specialty: morsels of a goat’s organs prepared with rice and spices.

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