

LUKA DVALISHVILI

BETROTHAL TRADITION IN ANCIENT GEORGIA AND AMONG GEORGIANS OF FEREYDAN

The tradition of marriage, matrimony and marital union is a remarkable phenomenon for every highly developed or developing state and society of a relatively low-context culture. It could be argued that all other actual or unwritten customs, rituals, rules and practices, laws or regulations build upon the marital union, family and the most sacral fact in the universe – emergence of new life. Family and wedding as well as betrothal traditions of Georgia in antiquity and late feudal periods very much resemble the similar traditions of the Georgians living in Fereydan.

As for the betrothal tradition among the Fereydan Georgians, it reflects common Georgian rather than Iranian practices (G. Gotsiridze). Despite involuntary difference in time and space, it is an undeniable fact that there are many common ethnic and cultural trends both in ancient Georgian marital traditions and wedding / marital practices of the Fereydan Georgians, the further research on which might reveal interesting data.