

Marriage And Divorce Among The Druze

Library Of Modern Middle East Studies 142



Marriage and divorce are significant events in any society, shaping the lives of individuals and families. When it comes to the Druze community in the Middle East, these matters carry even greater significance due to the unique cultural and religious practices observed by this ancient religious group. This article delves into the book "Marriage and Divorce Among the Druze," a study published by the Library of Modern Middle East Studies (142), exploring the rich traditions and complexities surrounding matrimonial affairs within the Druze community.

The Druze Community: An

The Druze community, a distinct religious sect primarily residing in the Levant region of the Middle East, follows a secretive esoteric faith that combines elements of Islam, Gnosticism, and Neoplatonism. The estimated global

population of Druze individuals is approximately one million, with concentrations in Lebanon, Syria, Israel, and Jordan.



Family Law in Lebanon: Marriage and Divorce among the Druze (Library of Modern Middle East Studies Book 142) by Lubna Tarabey(Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 10216 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 354 pages



The Druze faith emphasizes the importance of loyalty, unity, and secrecy within their community. It has a hierarchical structure consisting of various levels of religious understanding and initiations. Additionally, the community cherishes endogamy, meaning they prefer marrying within the Druze community to preserve their unique religious heritage.

Marriage Practices among the Druze

The book "Marriage and Divorce Among the Druze" delves into the customs, traditions, and complexities surrounding matrimonial practices observed by the Druze community. One of the fascinating aspects explored in the book is the Druze concept of "khalwah."

"Khalwah" is a secluded meeting between a potential couple in the presence of a chaperone, often an elderly woman from the community. These meetings allow

the couple to get to know each other while adhering to the strict societal norms of modesty and respect. It provides an opportunity for them to discuss their compatibility, expectations, and future aspirations without compromising the sanctity of their relationship.

The selection of a suitable partner is not solely the individual's decision but involves extensive consultation between families. Family approval is crucial, and the social status, wealth, and religious devotion of the potential couple are often assessed before granting permission for marriage.

Divorce and its Impact

While marriage is highly valued within the Druze community, divorce is also a reality that cannot be undermined. The book highlights the complexities surrounding the issue of divorce among the Druze. In cases where a marriage proves to be unsuccessful or the couple faces insurmountable challenges, divorce becomes a viable option.

However, divorce within the Druze community is not as straightforward as in other societies. The book explores the religious, legal, and social implications of divorce, shedding light on the formal procedures and negotiations involved.

Divorce often carries a significant stigma within the community, as it challenges the ideal of lifelong commitment and the preservation of the Druze heritage. The book delves into the emotional toll and societal repercussions that individuals face when undergoing a divorce, providing a comprehensive analysis of this sensitive subject matter.

Reflections on "Marriage and Divorce Among the Druze"

The study, as published by the Library of Modern Middle East Studies, delves deep into the intricate world of marriage and divorce within the Druze community. It not only offers valuable insights and perspectives but also challenges preconceived notions about matrimonial practices in the Middle East.

Through extensive research and interviews with members of the Druze community, the author provides an in-depth understanding of the customs, traditions, and social dynamics that shape marriage and divorce among the Druze. The book serves as an enlightening resource for scholars, researchers, and individuals interested in the complexities of Middle Eastern societies.

The book "Marriage and Divorce Among the Druze," published by the Library of Modern Middle East Studies (142), offers an engaging and detailed exploration of the intricate world of matrimonial affairs within the Druze community. From the concepts of "khalwah" to the societal implications of divorce, the study provides a comprehensive understanding of the traditions, challenges, and complexities faced by the Druze community when it comes to marriage and divorce.

By shedding light on these important aspects, the book invites readers to expand their knowledge and challenge their preconceived notions about the Druze community. It is a valuable addition to the Library of Modern Middle East Studies and a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the nuances of Middle Eastern culture and society.

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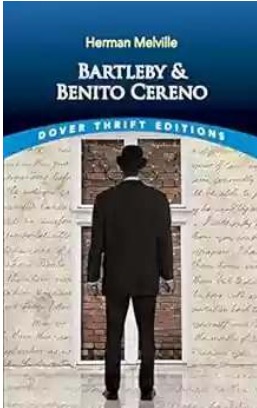
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Much of the life and ritual of the Druze in Lebanon appears mysterious to outsiders, as this esoteric sect remains closed to non-members. Lubna Tarabay, herself a member of this community, is ideally placed to offer insight into the family life, tradition and religious practices of the Druze. She looks back to the 1970s, and the start of a civil war that shattered Lebanon along confessional lines, to explore how the substantial social and political changes that have shaken the country have affected marriage and divorce practices. Family Law in Lebanon highlights the social ramifications of this civil war, as Lebanese society divided according to sectarian affiliations, strengthening this facet of identity to the detriment of a wider 'Lebanese' identification. It was through this process that the internal cohesion and solidarity of a group such as the Druze became even more important. Thus, for generations, the Druze way of life was characterized by a high degree of 'traditional' practices and customs. Examining the development of attitudes towards marriage and divorce uncovers the extent to which these traditions are being developed, negotiated and even cast aside.

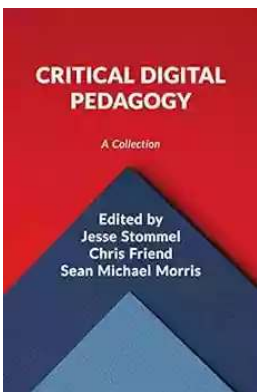
Through analysis of court records, Tarabay explores established and emerging patterns of marriage choices and grounds for divorce. She thus focuses on two interconnected trajectories: one that considers the changes in these overall family patterns and another that places these changes within the legal context in which

they occur, focussing on the interplay between the social and the legal. It is through this that she highlights a complex web of change and continuity, of traditional values competing with enhanced individualism and personal freedoms.



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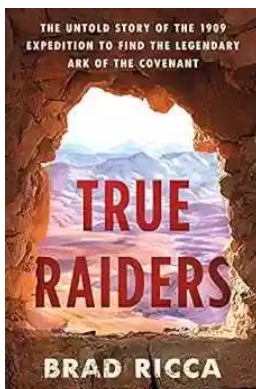
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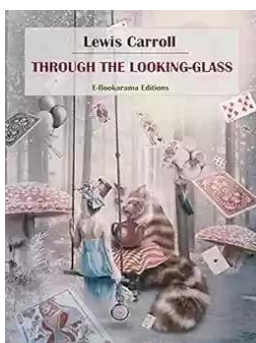
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