

## RITUALS OF RAIN MAKING

Rain making ritual is the ritual that is conducted when the droughts began. This ritual was known under such names as “*sustkhotin*”, “*sutkhotin*”, “*suvkhotin*”, “*chalachotin*”.

The ritual of “*sustkhotin*” was conducted with participation of women in some villages of Jizzakh, Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya and Namangan regions of Uzbekistan. In contrast, in Shurchi and Kasan districts main participants were men. In accordance with the ritual, at a certain time 10–15 women put a dress of an elderly woman on a specially created dummy. Then, one of the women carried it, while the rest followed her. This procession visited each house in a village by singing a song of “*sustkhotin*”. This was followed by watering of the participants of the procession by a hostess of the house and giving out presents. Whenever it was possible more children were attracted to the participation in the ritual because people believed that children’s prayers would be accepted since they are sinless.

In some regions instead of dolls real elderly women participated and one of the women carried her, while the rest followed her. This procession visited each house in a village by singing a song of “*sustkhotin*”. This was followed by watering one of the participants of the procession by a hostess of the house and giving out presents. Whenever it was possible more children were attracted to the participation in the ritual because people believed that children’s prayers will be accepted since they are sinless. The ceremony ended by gathering the gifts and

holding a *khudayi*(fiest). The songs that were sung in the ceremony mainly consisted of four lines. In the text mainly the melodies of addressing and exclamation were used, and they were sung in the chorus.

In “Sust Khotin” uzbek nation’s labor experience of ancient time and desires are described in an artistic genre. In terms of its rhythm and artistic means it is learned as the event of oral folk art.

Even though it is not being held naturally, it took place from onstage performances, repertoires of folk ensembles, from the events, which are held on the occasion of Navruz festival. The song “Sust Khotin” is performed in concert programmes of folk ensembles and introduced to the textbooks of educational establishments, in which folk songs art is studied.



