

Salomnomakhoni

Salomnomakhoni refers to a special ceremony that takes place on the occasion of arrival of the new bride to her husband's home. *Salomnomakhoni* verbatim means «greeting recital». In this ceremony a cycle of traditional song called «salomnoma» (salutation) is recited by a female folk singer. This ceremony is widespread and common in Dushanbe, Panjakent, Hisar, Khujand and other cities of Tajikistan.

Salomnoma song include couplets consisting of prosaic poetry greeting to God and Prophets and following them the rest of the household and community named one by one in chronological order. This ceremony is also sometime referred as *ruybinon* that is «unveiling the face of

the bride» when the family members and close relatives of the groom, primarily women gather together to greet the new bride. The ceremony is accompanied by bringing the mirror and asking bride and groom to look at together and also bringing a lit candle or making the new couple to drink from one cup a sweet tea.

Salomnomakhoni is a joyous ceremony and women during this ceremony dance and join the lead singer to repeat the chorus. After the ceremony ends they sit together round the table and eat the meal. This way the women of the community welcome a new member as the married women attains a new social status after her wedding.

