



Buddhist Marriage

*L.O To know about marriage in the
Buddhist faith*



Success criteria

By the end of the lesson you should:

- *Know the traditions of Buddhist marriage.*
- *Be able to think about how Buddhist marriage compares to marriage ceremonies in other faiths.*

What is a Buddhist marriage like?

- *Marriage in the Buddhist faith is very traditional and simple.*
- *They don't like to use lots of complicated rituals.*
- *It is not a religious affair.*
- *During a Buddhist marriage the bride can change her dress up to 5 times! The whole event of being married can take 24 hours. The actual ceremony only takes 30mins.*

Before the wedding

- *Before a man and woman can get married, their horoscopes have to match.*
- *The groom and his family have to ask the lama (priest) for a special day when he can propose.*
- *When the day has been set, the groom with his family go to the girl's house. He then asks permission for her hand in marriage.*

- *The ceremony called 'the chessian' is completed with a prayer and the 'lama' gives out a religious drink 'madyan'.*
- *The date of the marriage is decided in consultation with the astrologer.*



Groom's family prepares the dowry (gift of property or money for the bride).



Bride's family greets the groom's family

The wedding day

- *The wedding takes place either in the temple or at the bride's home.*
- *At home a shrine is erected with a statue of Buddha.*
- *The bride and groom light candles and incense and lay flowers around the statue.*
- *The 'lama' conducts the wedding. On some occasions it is conducted by a family member or the bride and groom themselves.*
- *Prayers are recited - Vandana, Tisarana and Pancasila*



- *The bride says goodbye to her family and prays to her ancestors. She is given earrings as a gift by her mother and mother-in-law. These are a symbol of her youth.*



VOWS

The groom:

"Towards my wife I undertake to love and respect her, be kind and considerate, be faithful, delegate domestic management, provide gifts to please her."

The bride:

"Towards my husband I undertake to perform my household duties efficiently, be hospitable to my in-laws and friends of my husband, be faithful, protect and invest our earnings, discharge my responsibilities lovingly and conscientiously."

After the wedding

- *After the wedding has been blessed by the parents and the 'lama', the bride goes to her new husband's house. Here a big feast is held in celebration of their union.*



Other examples of Buddhist marriage



Discussion

- *Discuss in pairs what the main features of a Buddhist wedding are.*
- *What do you think the vows meant?*
- *Why do you think they pray to their ancestors?*
- *What's the importance of horoscopes? Why do they have to get married on a certain day?*
- *How does the wedding ceremony compare to Christian weddings?*