



A Jewish Wedding



A marriage ceremony
with
many beautiful and
meaningful traditions.





Before the marriage, the bride and groom sign the Ketuba to show that they are both willing to enter into the marriage.



It sets out the promises that the couple make to each other for a long and happy marriage. They sign it in front of the rabbi and witnesses, who also sign the Katubah.



The ketubah is a beautiful document, handwritten in Hebrew. This one has a beautiful hand cut paper design.



The congregation are all waiting for the ceremony to begin. Jewish weddings usually take place on a Sunday. They are not allowed to be held on a Saturday because this is the Shabbat, or holy day.



The rabbi arrives to conduct the ceremony. He is a religious leader and teacher.

Usually the ceremony is held in a synagogue but the wedding you are about to see was held outside.



The marriage ceremony takes place under a canopy, the Chuppah (pronounced "huppah"). It is symbolic of the home that the couple will establish together. It has a roof but no walls to show that family and friends will always be welcome



On the table are a bottle of wine and a glass. The rabbi blesses the wine and gives it to the bride and groom to drink, as a symbol of their shared joy. Wrapped up in a napkin is another glass, which the groom will stamp on and break. One meaning of this is that no vessel can hold all the love that the couple have for each other.



The groom arrives escorted by his parents.



The bridesmaids and groomsmen arrive. They will stand with the best man at the front on either side of the Chuppah.



It's a long walk for a little flower girl.



Everyone awaits the arrival of the bride. The men all wear a Kepah (Yarmulke in Yiddish), a head covering worn as a sign of respect and to remind us that there is always something higher than ourselves.



The bride walks down the path with her mother and father on either side.



Her parents hand her over to the groom. Both sets of parents then stand on either side of the couple while the ceremony takes place.



The wedding begins with a reading from the scriptures. Then the groom and bride exchange rings. The rings are a symbol of marriage and the hope for an unbroken union. At the end of the ceremony, the groom breaks the glass.



The ceremony is over. The couple are now husband and wife. The congregation call out in Heberw, "Mazal Tov! Mazal Tov!" which means 'good luck and congratulations'.



At the reception after the ceremony, everyone holds hands and dances the Hora, the circle of life.



Many of the dances are traditional. Here the bride is seen dancing with her father.



At the end of the dance, the bride and groom are lifted onto chairs and paraded around the room. Everyone claps.



There are toasts and speeches to wish the couple well. On the table is a loaf of bread, the challa.



The couple cut their
wedding cake.
and the reception
continues .

Music, dancing and plenty
to eat and drink makes
everyone happy.

We wish them
every happiness as they
start their new married
life together.

Mazal Tov!