

Lobola Custom

A native ~~when~~ ^{before} he goes Courtship a young lady, has a good bit of thinking to do. He has got to first get the "Lobola" together. Now the proper "Lobola" for a wife are twelve head of Cattle, of any size or sex, a week old calf is counted ~~as~~ a beast. A Cow & Calf is two head of Cattle of the same value. If the lover has not sufficient Cattle, he can substitute Goats or sheep. Ten goats equals 1 Cow. Six Sheep equals one Cow. Money is not paid. If a boy has money he must take that & buy Cattle with it. The woman be husband when he goes to fetch his bride, ~~is~~ accompanied by male members of his family and the Cattle are handed over to the parents of the girl, then Cattle becomes family property, but can only be disposed of by

the father; On the day of the wedding all the members of the Kraal of the tribe under the fathers headman fathers at the brides Kraal, they are the witnesses to the wedding & the handing over of the Cattle. The father of the bride must kill one ~~of the~~ beast, and that is ate that day, at the dance. The hide is taken home to the mans home. If a beast is not killed, then the bridegroom claims all the Cows from up to the twentieth, that is when the original ten ^{live} have ^{increased} multiplied to twenty. If the man should send his wife home, he cannot claim any compensation, but if the wife runs away home, then her father or family must pay ~~back~~ back the number of Cattle previously paid. If as is often the case the original Cattle have been paid out for the sons wife, other Cattle must be sought. The father of the bride having received the ~~brides~~ head

Of Cattle, generally keeps them long enough for them to breed and increase, thereby starting a herd of his own. If there are two or three brothers the younger brothers must give the cattle ^{they} worked for, to the elder brother to help pay his "lobola". It is not necessary for the elder brother to keep the younger ones, but in most cases they do so to avoid being laughed at & put to shame for their meanness. If a man is so poor that he cannot pay "lobola" and he has made love to a girl, he can marry her without the "lobola" but he cannot take her away from her father's kraal and he must also remain at the kraal and can be used as a servant of the bride's father. He occupies this position until a daughter has been born, this daughter is then "lobolaisa" and the cattle given to the father to pay or "lobola" the chief's mother, then the man and

his wife can seek their own home elsewhere. If a native only have four or five head of Cattle, he can pay these as an instalment, and awaits the arrival of a daughter to be disposed of & then the full amount is paid for the mother. Until the full amount is paid, the girl or wife still remains the property of his father. The other members of the tribe outside the girl's family have no right to the Cattle and only the father in ^{agreement} conjunction with the mother and other members of the family can dispose of any of them.

In older days. Only the chiefs & very rich head men had Cattle, wives were then procured in exchange for work, or articles made such as Mohopos (wooden dishes) or grain baskets. Hoe, Assagai, Batteraxes etc. As the tribe were much smaller then the Chief could allocate certain females to certain males. To build up the tribe:

Going to the "Lobola" System or Custom
 the Nations are placed in a much
 more favorable position, than the
 Europeans or the Christian Nations
 because a native at the age of
 thirty or thirty five becomes a cattle
 owner, or he has a number of sheep
 and goats, and then he becomes
 independent, having no need or inclination
 to labour, any more than repairing
 his huts keeping in the lands etc. in
 fact he becomes a squire. When
 on the other hand Europeans, ~~the~~ Christian
 or educated nations have to toil
 until death claims them, or they
 become a burden to others & must
 take the back seats, being shifted
 from pillow to post, so should
 the "Lobola" custom be abolished, and
 all the old nations who are at the
 present time well off and happy
 become members of a "Poor House"
~~and~~ seeking the aid of the foot
 in pensions etc. The burden falling
 on the Taxpayers of the Country.

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There is one thing to be said about
the discontinuance of this custom.
It would improve the Labour Market.
The males and females would have
to seek work elsewhere outside of
their areas & would have to work
like all Europeans the whole year
round instead of four, six or nine
months as is the case at present.
They would then have to buy food
Garments & boots to wear, making
trade better, ~~from~~^{making} more employment
and a larger circulation of money,
at the same time that would breed
squalor, debt, poverty & discontent,
making more criminals and another
section of poor Blacks to rank alongside
of the poor Whites: ^{NB} the newly married
wife upon her joining her husband's family has
to cook & do other work for the family for
one or two years. When she is given her pot
and a hut is made for her, after
which she only works for her husband.
It is a disgrace if the wife refuses to
cook & attend to her husband's family:

Collection no: A1655

Collection: HUNT, Donald Papers

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

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