

## Circumcision ritual

Circumcision ritual is a traditional event of the Tajik Muslims organized on the occasion of circumcising a male child in the family. According to the Islamic law every male child before reaching puberty must be circumcised. Traditionally the circumcision in Tajik is called «dast halol kardan» (making hands ritually clean) that means a male child who is circumcised becomes a man and whatever he does or performs is ritually clean. Thus circumcision ritual belongs to rites of passage.

A child is circumcised by a «khatnagar» a traditional man who has inherited the skill of circumcising from his forbearers. The traditional

circumcision is conducted without anesthesia the wound is sealed with burned cotton. The circumciser uses special knife called «poku» similar to a Swiss knife very sharp and thin.

After a child has been circumcised his relatives and parents gave him different gifts and care for him until he recovers. According to the local beliefs a child who has been circumcised should not be left alone and for the period of forty days people he is accompanied and looked after. To ward him against evil spirits his parents will put chilly paper, garlic or keep Quran in his room.



These days the circumcision ritual is held in the circle of family members and close relatives without concert and invited feast as it was before the Law on regulation of traditional rituals and celebrations in the territory of Republic of Tajikistan.

