TAUSUG CULTURE

Prepared by:
Czarina Lynne S. Yecla
How does a tausug man court a girl he likes?

• TRADITIONAL:
Woman back then can’t be seen by men. As what the informant had quoted, “There is no courtship in tausug”. So, there is only parental arrangement.
If the man wishes to court a woman, he can only do so when they are at the woman’s house, only when the woman’s family is around. Also, they’re not allowed to go outside alone.

However, if the man can’t go at the woman’s house, he can send letters, gifts or anything he wants that may capture the woman’s heart.
How is tausug wedding being practiced?

Accordingly, there is nothing much of a difference between the modern and traditional tausug wedding. Except that;

In the traditional way, the man is supposed to give the woman a homemade native foods in a colorful wrapper. Now a days, they can buy biscuits and cakes instead.

Also, in the old times, only the parents of the man can decide who he’ll marry.
Both ways requires the man to go at the woman’s house with his parents, introduce himself, set the dowry and plan the wedding. It’s more known as “mamanhikan.”

The second step is to set the date of the wedding or the engagement known as “Pagturuľ taymah”. In pagturul taymah, the man is required to give gifts to the girl and the girl’s relatives and visitors. This serves as the give away. Also, the man must have a consent from either the father, brother or uncle. Only these people can give the consent known as “wali”. Without wali, the man cannot marry the woman.
• After been engaged, they then will perform “Pagkawin.” This is where the man and woman will be married.
• There are instances, that “Pagkawin” and the celebration is being done at the same date. Pagkawin in the morning, then the celebration at the afternoon more known now as reception.
• In the old times, pagkawin and the celebration are done on different dates. It depends on the man’s capacity.
• The pagkawin is done, when the man will have a deal with the “Imam” or the officiating person of the wedding. According to the interviewee, the thumb of the groom and the imam must touch as well as their right knees. Their hands are covered with a white cloth. Then, the imam will ask the groom if he is prepared to take over the responsibilities as the bride’s husband. All the responsibilities of the girl’s parents must be taken over by his husband.
• They can only marry when they have the same religion. If for instance, they’re not on the same religion, one must convert. Accordingly, most of the tausugs follow Islam religion.

• After it’s been sealed, the bride and groom then is legally married.

• In addition, “pagkawin” is only done in the house of the woman back in the old times.
What is dowry for and what is the basis?

• The dowry is required in order for the man to be able to marry the girl, and it was stated in the Qur’an. As what the interviewee said, the dowry is set by the parents and once the man agrees, the two then will be ready for engagement.

• The man can give cow as dowry. But he may also give cash, sacks of rice, or homemade native foods.

• In the old times, the man gives one set of gold as dowry.
What other beliefs or practices do tausugs practice?

• In a burial, the tausugs don’t practice vigil or embalms. They immediately bury the body after twenty-four hours.

• In baptism, there’s this what they call “Paggunting” where the hair of the infant boy is being cut. This is required to all boy infants. Girl infants on the other hand are not required for the reason that girls are precious and they must not be touched.
What are the personalities and behaviors of the tausugs?

- In typical tausug, boys accordingly, are born leaders. They are the symbol of masculinity, bravery, and honor. Thus, boys naturally are bold and courageous.
- Girls on the other hand are precious and feminine. They must be covered all the time to avoid temptation. They must always protect their chastity by covering all their private parts. Accordingly, only the face and hands are considered not private parts.
What are the tausug foods/delicacies?

• Tausug foods according to the interviewee are influenced by the Indian foods.
• Main foods of the tausug are Tiyula sug or Tiyula itum. This is done by putting grilled grated coconut to the recipe and lots of spices and chili. This recipe can be served daily or in special occasions like wedding, paggunting, feast days, etc.
They also have pyanggang which is made from chopped chicken with coconut milk or “gata”. They serve this on special occasions.

They also have many delicacies like pyuto made from white cassava, bawlu, panyam, panganam, daral, etc.
What is their Lifestyle?

• In the old times, typical tausugs practice farming, fishing, gold mining or smiting. But now a days, although some tausug still practice farming and fishing, most tausugs now are engaging in businesses like trading and barter trade. Some tausugs also work for the government.
How is their fashion like?

- Woman, when they’re in their house, they use “shamra” and “sablay”. Shamra is a typical short sleeve sewn from a simple cloth. Man on the other hand, they use “sawal or lapi”.

- Tausugs when attending special occasions, also have their gown as what they said, the “bataawi”. It is a tight long sleeved gown made of silk with hundreds of buttons made from bronze.
• Women who use batawi are referred to as the most beautiful among the women present. Woman use this on occasions like wedding. Maid of honors usually use this.

• Tausug men on the other hand, has expensive handkerchief in their shoulder as decoration. In traditional times, they only use sawal and lapi. But now, they use maong pants.
Informant: Mr. Suharito Jumurin and Mrs. Jahisa Jumurin

Thank you for listening! 😊