

*Glimpses into
Oral Culture and Traditions
among*

Jâf Kurds

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Introduction

"Jâf" is a name given to previously one of the largest nomadic tribe confederations in Southern Kurdistan. Presently only a very small number of Jâf Kurds may still follow the path of their ancestors and live a nomadic pastoral life. Majority of these people are now settled down in Kurdish regions in both sides of Iran-Iraq borders. Those in Iraq were once called Morâdî Jâfs, whereas those in Iran were called Juvânru Jâfs.

In this study, except for a short presentation of the history, economics and society of this tribe, the rest is concentrated on the oral culture and traditions of that part of the Jâf people living in Iranian parts of Kurdistan. Therefore in different capitals in this study, traditional clothing of Jâf men and women, Proverbs, common and ceremonial culinary culture, traditional beliefs and superstitions, traditional wisdom, sport, language riddles and narrations are presented. In the last capital, a short theoretical discussion is made about the Jâf tribe and people as well as their culture and ethnic identity.

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