

NUNTA LA ROMÂNII DIN LUNCOIU DE JOS, JUD. HUNEDOARA

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Abstract: *Romanian weddings reveal a picturesque ceremonial but complex at the same time, overpassing in magnitude all the other annual customs and the ones of the family cycle. The wedding is the most fastuous due to the need and pleasure of recording such an event, this moment of greatness.*

The work approaches the matter of carrying out the bridal ritual, according to the elders in Luncoiu de Jos, Hunedoara. The traditional ritual repertoire got lost, even from the passive background, being replaced by a range of formulae quasiversified: formulae recited at the bride's house, the "wedding" song.

The role of the wedding is to raise a family, that is why the ones who reach a certain age without getting married, are looked on with restraint by the community, and the girls who do not get married would go to the priest for sermon and dispensation. The youth would meet on different occasions : fairs, "hora" or "nedeie", but mainly at work. The lad's intention of getting married starts with the wooing, which is not done anyhow and anytime, but starting with the sign of the cross and claiming God's help.

Any wedding starts with an intense preparation: a "vornic" or groomsman is hired, as well as a cook and a music band. The ritual items used are candles, used only during the church wedding. The wedding tent where the party will take place is set up and the young, unmarried persons are invited to decorate it with hand-woven carpets, paper ornaments, flowers and other stuff. The "vifori" are men who invite families to the wedding two weeks before the event, and in the wedding day the retinue leave the groom's house heading to the bride's place, then to the church and return to the groom's house where the party will be held, starting with the ritual of washing the wedding-guests' hands by the bride. On Monday after the wedding, there is a "cale intoarsa" – double on back party, small tokens being offered.

The study offers an image of the contemporary wedding, starting from the traditional wedding, referring to the functional and spiritual negative implications.

Key words: *Tradition; Folklore; Wedding; Ritual customs; Spiritual wealth.*

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