

Kalash, ancient tribe of Pakistan in Taliban region



Reference

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Title

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Caption

May 16, 2024- Kallas Valleys, Pakistan: The Kalash director at the elementary school sells handmade items and braided braids made by the children to support the poor ones and their families. The Kalash, living in a predominantly Muslim environment, fiercely preserve their ethnic identity and purity, as intermarriage with other groups is unthinkable. Each community is governed by an elected leader, priests, and 12 advisors. Their priests are hereditary. Temples dedicated to the family goddess are found in each village and are the only places of worship open to women, while men make sacrifices to male deities outside the village, typically at high altitudes. The Kalash have lighter skin, often light hair, and some have green or blue eyes. They are of average to tall stature, upright, and agile. Kalash Valleys, are situated = in the mountains of Pakistan, just a few kilometers from Taliban-controlled areas. Kalash is a small ethnic group, believed to trace its origins back to Alexander the Great, lives here in relative isolation. For centuries, invaders forced them into remote areas, where they fiercely resisted the Arab conquerors and their religion. The Durand Line at the end of the 19th century, which separated Afghanistan from India, the Kalash managed to survive in the three valleys Birir, Bumburet, and Rumbur of the eastern Hindu Kushrange, now part of Pakistan. These valleys lie near the Afghanistan border and are surrounded by towering peaks. With a population of approximately 3,000 the Kalash continue to practice an ancient religion, the origins of which remain unclear. Legend has it that the Greek god Dionysus founded a settlement in the region known for its festivals and orgies. During Alexander the Great's expedition to the East, many of his soldiers deserted, and settled in the Kalash Valleys. Kalash culture still carries remnants of Greek influence, with traditions centered around ecstasy, love and poetry. (Maro Kouri / Polaris) (FOTO:DUKAS/POLARIS)

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