

Kalash, ancient tribe of Pakistan in Taliban region



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Title
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Caption
May 15, 2024- Kallas Valleys, Pakistan: A young Kalash woman comes in ecstasy dancing all day till the sunset, during the 3 days Spring celebrations named Joshi. Despite the strong influence of Islam in their region, the Kalash women of all ages, managed to retain their colorful traditional clothing, in contrast to the conservative attire worn by women in neighboring cities, such as the burqa. Their festive hats are adorned with feathers and aromatic branches, reminiscent of the plumes of Macedonian helmets. The sea shells in their attire remind them of their maritime origins. The number of the colored beads of their necklaces, indicates the degree of their economic status. Their hair is combed into five braids, where the main one, in the center of the head, has been braided since a young age and has never been cut. The next day all the women will sing a song to thank the walnut trees for their abundance of fruits. Furthermore, the young women of the Kalash, despite living in a conservative Muslim area, choose to study at nearby universities, pursuing subjects such as botany. Their goal is to stay close to their community while integrating the ancient wisdom of their tribe into their professional lives. The Kalash follow their own calendar, with the seasons determined by the Moon and the rhythms of Nature. Kalash women can marry the man they fall in love with. Women stand out for their beauty, they are proud, free with obvious sociability and active participation in the democratic processes of the Community. The Kalash Valleys are located in the mountains of Pakistan, just a few kilometers from Taliban-controlled areas, where Spring Celebration is an annual event. 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. (Maro Kouri / Polaris) (FOTO:DUKAS/POLARIS)
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