

## Kalash, ancient tribe of Pakistan in Taliban region



### Reference

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### Title

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### Caption

May 14, 2024- Kallas Valleys, Pakistan: Kalash little girls stand on their mothers shoulders attending at the circle spiritual dance, while men accompany them with drums and powerful songs, during the three-day Spring festival "Joshi". The celebration lasts all day, stopping at sunset and resuming the next day, when they sing a song to thank the walnut tree for its abundance, holding its leaves in their hands. The Kalash women, sing in their native language and perform traditional dances. They honor the Greek Goddess of hearth Hestia, known locally as "Gestak". The story highlights how, in one of the most Islamic countries, the women of this small community retain their freedom wearing their own traditional clothes, dancing and singing in the countryside areas, surrounded by men visitors from all over the country. Kalash Valleys, located 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:DUKA)

### Special instructions

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### City

Rumbur valley

### Credit

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Source

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Original references

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