

# BLAH

## Folk Game *Al-kheela*

Children cut suitable branches from the date palm trees and remove the frond leaves from the branches. A boy puts the branch between his legs and holds the thicker end with his hands, like riding a horse. He runs hitting his false horse with a small short stick. This game is played by boys between the houses in villages and areas near date palm groves.



Text and pictures by: Alia Al-Numani





# Traditional Craft

## Wool Weaving

# AL SA

Dear friends,

Let's in this issue explain a traditional Omani craft, the weaving of wool. It's one of the old crafts some people practice in different regions of Oman. The material is wool. it is made available from goats, which are known for their long and thick wool suitable for weaving. Goats are shorn, and their wool is well washed and put out to dry. The wool is then rolled into small balls, and spun with a simple hand spinner to make yarns. Then the yarns are woven using local hand looms.

The handmade wool cloth is used to make *al mansool*, an overall garment like the *bisht*, but the cloth is thicker, and to make *Al kifal*, a band like *Okal* for tightening men's head cover, the *masar*, and *al khitam*, a camel guiding rope. Wool is also used to make pillows, which are used in the houses.



Text and pictures by

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On the third day the woman came again, and did the same. However this time the man asked her, "Who are you?" she answered, "I am the minister's daughter."

The man became sure that he was right, and asked the woman if she would marry him. She agreed, but told him that there was a problem. "What was it?" he asked.

She said: "When you go and ask my father for my hand, he will tell you that I am just a bulk of meat in a carrier basket, and therefore he will refuse, but keep insisting on your request."

The man agreed. He went to the minister and asked him for his daughter's hand. The minister told him that his only daughter was just a bulk of meat in a carrier basket. The man kept insisting, offering a big dowry until the minister agreed at last.

On the wedding day the bride was brought in a carrier basket, and the man was mad to see a handicapped girl who was really a bulk of meat. He was very sorry, sad and unable to think what to do. He didn't see any more the woman who cheated him.

After a few months he went back to his shop. The woman showed up again to buy the perfume. He asked her angrily why did she put him into such trouble. She told him that if he wanted to get out of it he must be convinced that 'women's snare is mightier than men's,' and told him: "Go to the minister, tell him that you have lost all your money, and now you clean the roads to earn a living. Then the minister will ask you to divorce his daughter, but don't agree immediately. The minister will then offer you money and will repay you the dowry."

The man went to the minister and told him the same. He kept refusing the divorce until the minister said that he would repay him the dowry. Then he divorced the minister's daughter and regained his wealth.

The woman cleverly made the man change his belief and recognized that women's snare was mightier. He liked her cleverness and proposed to marry her. They married, and lived together happily.







# Women's Snare

Illustrations by Corporal: Rawya Al Khalili

There was an arrogant rich man who had a shop with a signboard reading: 'Men's Snare is Mighty, Women's Snare is Weak'.

One day a beautiful woman walked by and read the signboard. She decided to teach the man a lesson he would never forget, that women's snare is mightier. She made a plan and immediately went into action. She entered the shop and asked for an original, expensive perfume. The man gave her the perfume, and as she paid the price, she poured the perfume on her shoes and gave him back the empty bottle. He was amazed. Next day, the woman came again to the shop, asked for the same perfume and did the same as yesterday.

The man was even more amazed, and many questions jumped into his mind, was the woman mad or sane? If she was sane why did she pour such perfume on her shoes? Why did she waste her money like that?

He kept thinking of that woman all the time. He thought that she might be a daughter of a wealthy man, and so she didn't care for the money. He thought that if so, he might marry her because as such she would fit well to his status.

