

A DAZZLING DISPLAY: A PHOTO ESSAY ON MOROCCAN WEDDINGS

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INTRODUCTION



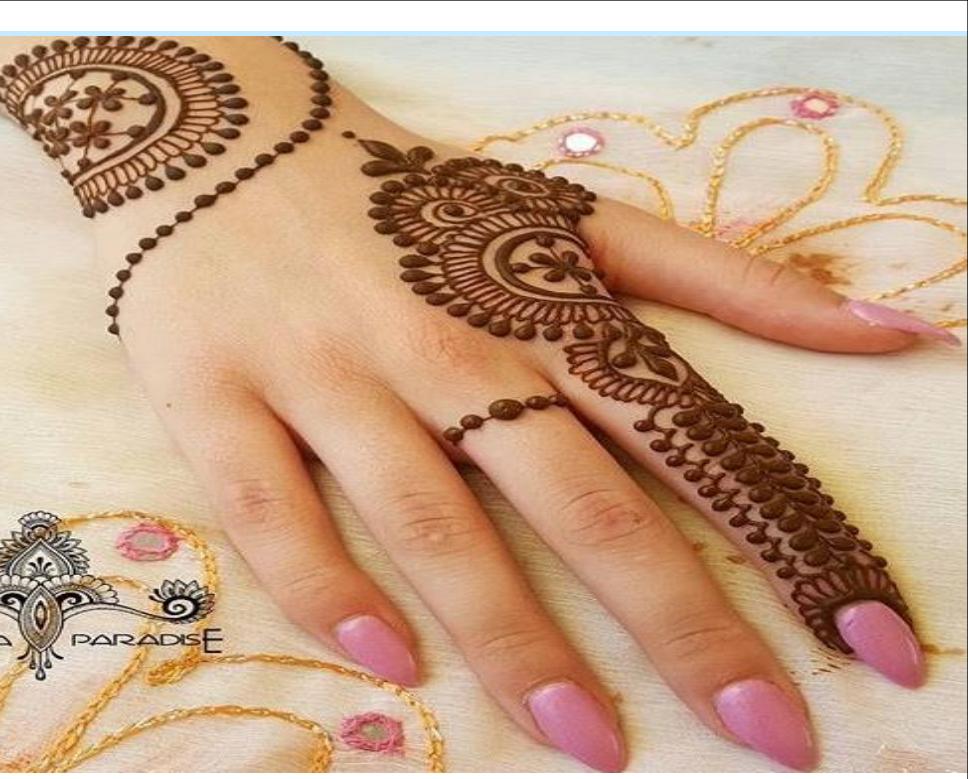
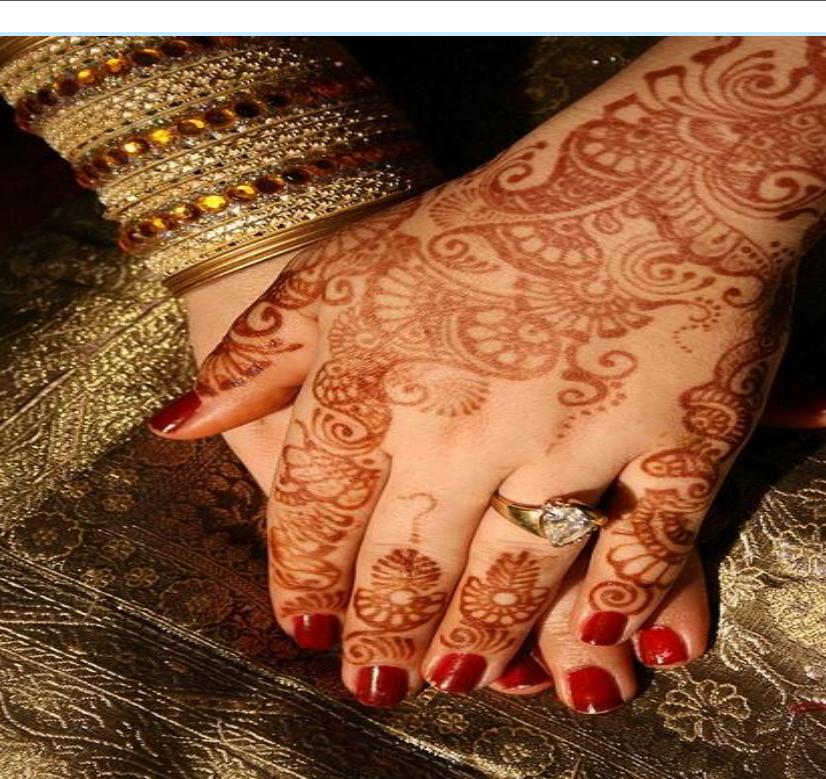
MOROCCAN WEDDING TRADITIONS

- ✓ Weddings in Moroccan culture are grand celebrations that hold a lot of significance. They are seen as a way to:
 1. **Unify families:** Marriages join not just the bride and groom, but also their extended families. The ceremonies and preparations often involve both sides coming together.
 2. **Celebrate new beginnings:** Traditional Moroccan weddings can last for days, symbolizing a momentous transition into married life.
 3. **Connect to heritage:** The elaborate rituals and customs are a way to connect the couple and guests to their cultural roots.

PREPARATIONS : THE ART OF HENNA

- ✓ The festivities begin days before the wedding with the Henna ceremony.
- ✓ Women gather to celebrate the bride, adorning her hands and feet with intricate henna designs.
- ✓ The women decorate their hands and feet with henna thanks to the specialism of a *Nekkasha*.
- ✓ She knows how to choose qualitative henna and knows how to draw beautiful designs.
- ✓ During a lot of time, this natural paint, from a plant, was considered as a symbol of fertility, luck and happiness.
- ✓ This celebration is always accompanied by dances and chants.





Brides decorated using Henna



THE DAZZLING BRIDE



- ✓ On the wedding day, the bride adorns herself in a stunning "caftan" (a caftan is a long, loose-fitting robe), often adorned with intricate embroidery and shimmering jewels.
- ✓ Her makeup is elaborate, with kohl-lined eyes and a touch of henna on her lips.
- ✓ Traditionally the bride wears 7 different outfits !
- ✓ Today, she wears less than 7, but this tradition continues because brides usually change two or three times during the wedding night











THE ARRIVAL OF THE GROOM

- ✓ The groom, accompanied by his family and friends, arrives in a procession often featuring musicians and dancers.
- ✓ He is showered with rosewater and dates, symbolizing happiness and prosperity.





THE CEREMONY: A BINDING OF SOULS

- ✓ The (Aqd) is a simple yet significant ceremony.
- ✓ An Imam, or Islamic religious leader, officiates over the vows and the signing of the marriage contract, officially binding the couple together.
- ✓ The couple, along with their witnesses, gather at the bride's home for the signing of the marriage contract (Aqd Nikah).
- ✓ There is the exchange of vows and gifts.
- ✓ The air is filled with the recitation of prayers and blessings for the newlyweds.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَخَلَقْنَاكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا

"And we created you in pairs"

Quran: 78:8

This agreement is made in accordance with Holy Quran & Sunnah is to Certify the marriage of

Azaan
With
Kashaf

Officiated on 24 February 2023

Both have agreed to be united under the path of Islam to follow in the footsteps of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) and to be Rahma onto one another.

With ALLAH as our witness and before the undersigned,
We Promise to treat one another with Honor.

Bride

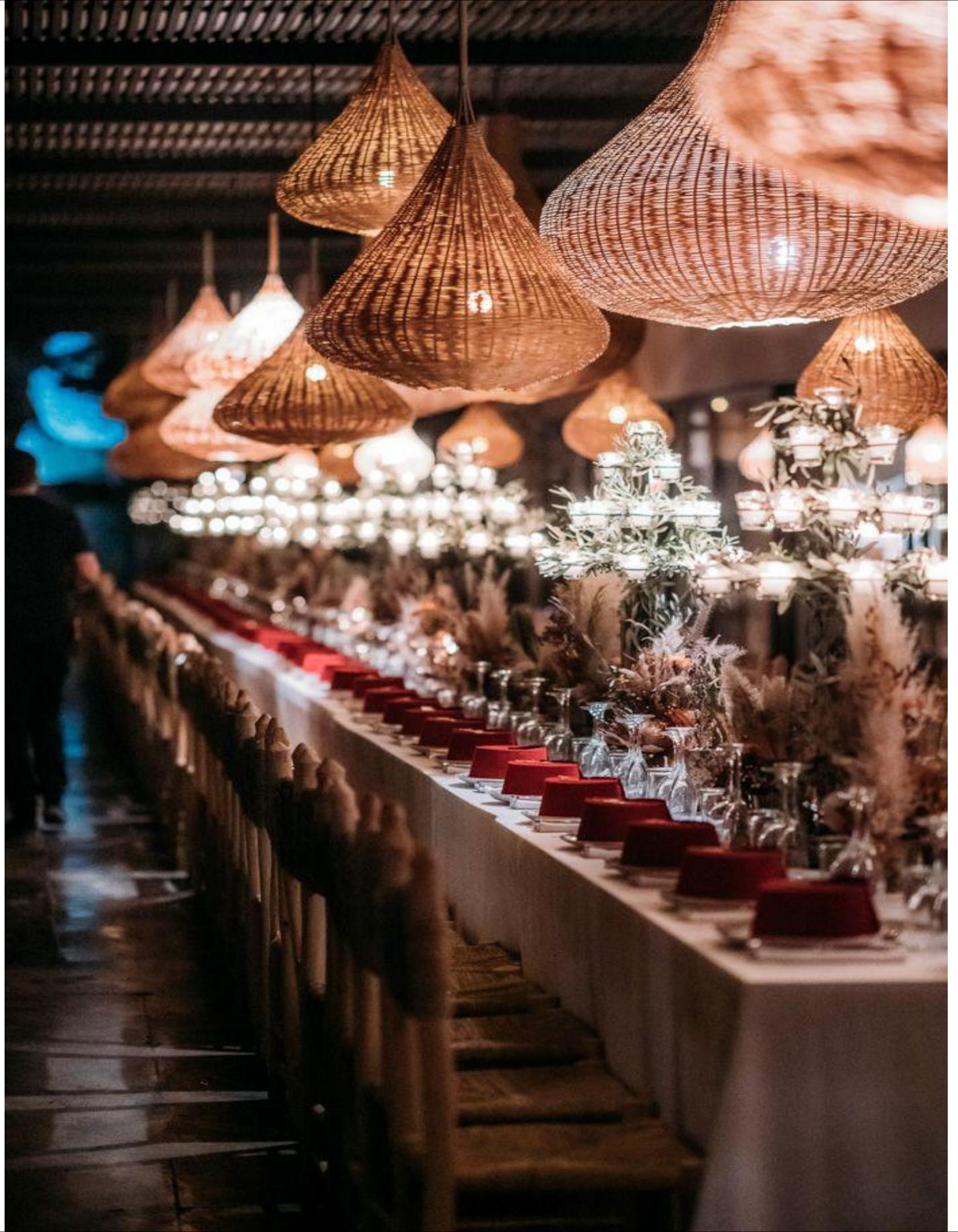
Groom

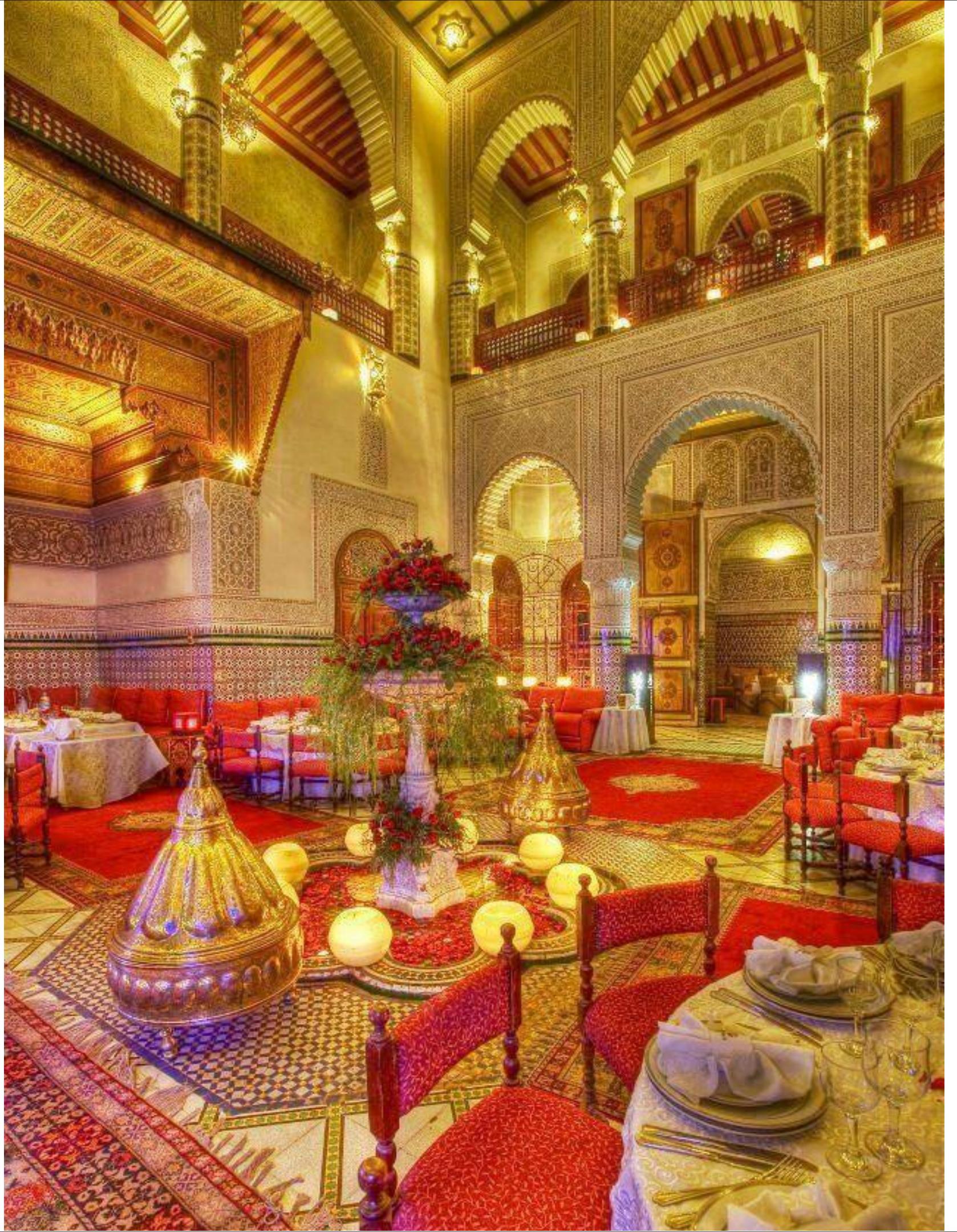


THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN!

- ✓ Following the (Aqd) the celebrations truly begin. Guests gather at a beautifully decorated venue, often a "riad" (a riad is a traditional Moroccan house with a central courtyard) or a luxurious hotel.
- ✓ The atmosphere is electric, filled with music, laughter, and joyous dancing.









A FEAST FIT FOR ROYALTY

- ✓ A traditional Moroccan wedding feast is a feast for the senses.
- ✓ Guests are treated to an array of delectable dishes, from savory pastilla to fragrant tagines and sweet pastries.
- ✓ The air is filled with the aroma of spices and fresh ingredients.
- ✓ Elaborate feasts are served during Moroccan weddings.
- ✓ Traditional dishes such as couscous, tagines, and pastries like baklava are common.







CARRYING ON TRADITIONS

- ✓ Throughout the celebration, various traditions are observed. "Berber" dances, unique to Morocco's indigenous Berber people, add a touch of cultural vibrancy.
- ✓ The Fassiya, which is an incredible dress with head ornaments worn during the Amaria tour. Generally, the Fassiya is white, gold green or white.
- ✓ During a Moroccan wedding, the bride is often carried in a traditional ceremonial chair called a "Amariya" or "Amariya Alayla".
- ✓ This chair is typically elaborately decorated and adorned with intricate designs, fabrics, and sometimes even jewels.
- ✓ It's carried by several men, often family members or friends, as part of the wedding procession or entrance ceremony.



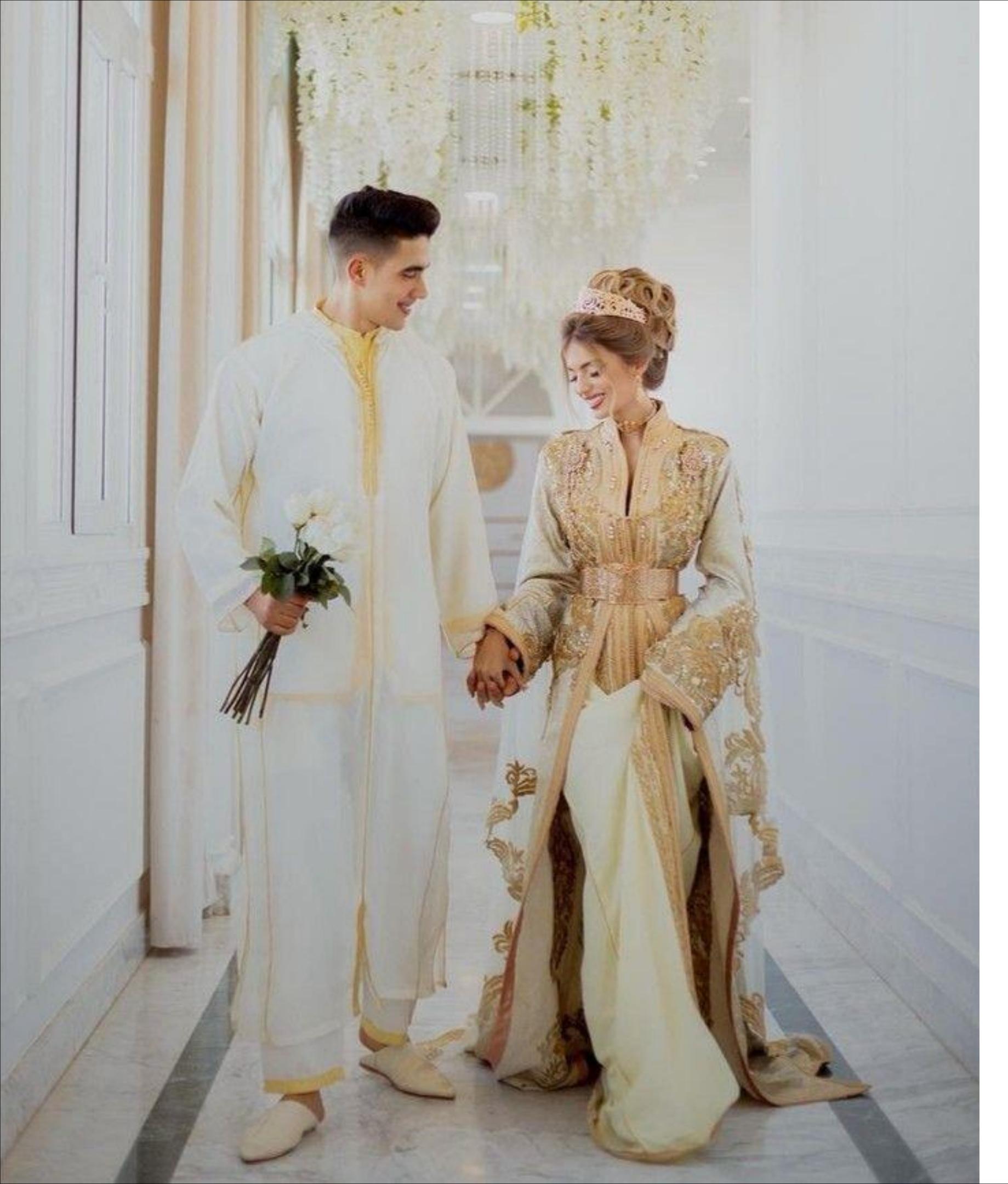




THE CELEBRATION OF A LIFETIME



- ✓ A Moroccan wedding is a celebration of love, family, and community.
- ✓ It is a vibrant event woven with tradition, music, and joyous revelry.
- ✓ As the night draws to a close, the newlyweds embark on their journey together, their hearts filled with the blessings and well wishes of their loved ones.







THANK YOU