widow：未亡人

Levirate marriage is a tradition that has been part of many cultures around the world. In this kind of marriage, when a man dies without having any children, his brother is expected to marry the widow. The main idea behind this practice is to ensure the family of the man who has passed away. It helps in keeping the family together and ensures that the family name and property stay within the family.

This practice comes from very old times and can be found in many stories and historical records. For example, it is mentioned in the Bible, showing that it has been a part of human society for thousands of years. Different societies have their own reasons for following this tradition, but the most common reason is to support the family of the man who has passed away.

In some cultures, this kind of marriage is not just a choice but a duty. The brother of the deceased man is expected to take this responsibility to show respect and care for his brother's family. Sometimes, if the brother is already married, he still has to marry the widow. This shows how important family bonds and responsibilities are in these cultures.

However, not everyone agrees with this practice. In modern times, many people and societies believe that women should have the freedom to choose if they want to remarry and whom they want to marry. They argue that forcing a woman to marry her husband's brother after his passing is not fair and can cause many problems. This difference in opinion has led to a decrease in the practice of levirate marriage in many parts of the world.

Even though the practice of levirate marriage is not as common today, it is still followed in some communities. It serves as a reminder of how traditions can shape the way families and societies are organized. It also shows how traditions can change over time as people's beliefs and values evolve.

Understanding levirate marriage helps us understand the diversity of human cultures and the different ways societies have developed to deal with the challenges of life. It also emphasizes the significance of family and the extent of effort people will exert to support and preserve their families. As the world becomes more connected, it's interesting to see how such traditions are maintained, adapted, or fade away in the face of changing social norms and values.