



Perfume Making

Other names:

Dag al Reeha



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Domain

CUSTOMS RELATED TO HOME AND FAMILY PRACTICES

Perfume Making

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND LOCATION



Community groups

Nationwide



Practitioners

Sudanese women with expertise in perfume-making. They are usually women related to the bride with knowledge in perfume making or friend of the bride's mother. In families where the women might not have the perfume-making knowledge, a professional lady is hired to make the perfume with them.



Purpose / Use

The perfume making ceremony is normally done for a bride to be, as a celebration of her going into a new stage of life. The perfumes are strong and unique and are only used by married women to differentiate them from the girls.



Knowledge / Skills

Perfume making requires the skill and knowledge of knowing which perfumes to mix together and in what quantities. It also requires cultural knowledge of which scents to use for which specific fragrance and the right method to reach the right scent. Part of the perfume-making also includes incense and scrubs, they too require specific knowledge, as the incense is made from specific wood, such as sandalwood, oak and cypress



Transmission

Perfume-making is transmitted through practice, where the younger girls attend the perfume-making with the elders in their family. They watch it being made in front of them and support them in purchasing the right ingredients and perfumes.

Some ingredients and processes can be written down but the methodology of cooking it and eyeing the ingredients is not easy to transmit of not present during the process.



Tools, Equipment, Services

Pots

Charcoal

Wok



HISTORY

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INTRODUCTION

Perfume making, is a cherished Sudanese tradition deeply rooted in women's ceremonies, particularly weddings. More than just crafting fragrance, it is a joyful gathering that brings together women—relatives, neighbors, and friends—to celebrate a bride's transition from girlhood to married life. Held in the bride's family home, the ritual blends skillful preparation of strong, distinctive perfumes with song, dance, food, and storytelling. Women with expertise—whether family members or hired professionals—combine scented oils, incense, scrubs, and rare woods, using recipes passed down through generations. The perfumes, reserved exclusively for married women, not only carry deep symbolic meaning but also serve as treasured gifts shared with close relatives, friends, and in-laws, reflecting generosity and cultural pride.

Cultural Value:

Family occasions, are usually held in households. Brings the women together to celebrate and prepare for a wedding ceremony together.

Its also a form of celebrating a woman's journey from being a girl to being wed.

some of the brides perfume made for the bride is shared with close family and friends, in addition to the in-laws as a token of generosity and appreciation.

Associated Practices:

Perfume making is usually done at home by women who are relatives of the bride or friends of the bride's mother. The preparation takes time and is associated with other practices, where the mother of the bride (host) prepares food for the women and guests.

Perfume making is also associated with cultural songs and dances that play in the background to entertain and create a festive feeling of joy and happiness associated with the upcoming wedding.

Cultural Expressions

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VIABILITY

Threats:

Perfume making can be time-consuming. With lots of women now selling ready-made perfumes to people who would prefer not to make their own, or dont know how to make their own. This imposes a risk in the culture of spreading the transmission of perfume-making to younger generations.

This makes the practice more commercial and threatens its cultural value and practise significance in households.



Natural Resources used

Sandalwood

sandal oil

Perfumes (oil, parisian)

talih, shaf, musk

[Image\(s\) source :](#)

[Link\(s\)](#)