

回族

The Hui



1

回族是回回民族的简称。回族分布广泛，主要聚居于宁夏回族自治区，在中国其他地方也有许多回族人聚居和散居。汉语为回族的共同语言，在日常交往及宗教活动中，回族保留了一些阿拉伯语和波斯语的词汇。在边疆民族地区，回族人民还经常使用当地少数民族的语言。

Hui is the abbreviation of Huihui. The Hui people are widely distributed. With the mass of them inhabiting the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, there are also many living in compact communities or in scattered settlements in other regions of China. The Hui people use Chinese language as their common language, but they keep a few Arabic and Persian words in their everyday life and religious activities. In bordering minority areas, the Hui people often use the language of the local minorities.

回族人信仰伊斯兰教，习惯在聚居的地方修建清真寺。主要的节日有开斋节、圣纪节和古尔邦节^①。

The Hui people are Muslims, and they are accustomed to building a mosque in their communities. Their major festivals are the Lesser Bairam, Mawlid al-Nabi (Shengji Festival or the Birthday of the Prophet Mohammed), and Corban Festival^①.



2



3

伊斯兰教对回族人有很深的影响：回族小孩出生后，要请阿

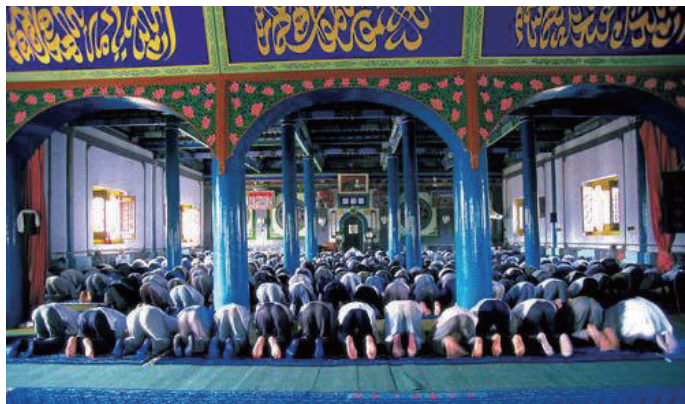
1. 回族老人
An aged Hui man
2. 回族学生
Students of Hui nationality
3. 宁夏银川南关清真寺
The Nanguan Pass Mosque in Yinchuan, Ningxia
4. 清真寺内穆斯林在做礼拜
Muslims taking part in worship in a mosque

尕^② (hōng) 起名字; 回族人结婚时, 要请阿尕证婚; 去世后, 要请阿尕主持葬礼; 回族人吃猪肉, 也不吃一切动物的血和自死的动物。回族在穿戴、姓名和风俗习惯上基本和汉族相同, 所不同者主要体现在头饰上: 男子多戴白色、黑色或棕色的无沿小圆帽; 妇女多戴盖头, 特别是在西北地区, 老年妇女戴白色的, 显得洁白大方, 中年妇女戴黑色的, 显得庄重高雅, 未婚女子戴绿色的, 显得清新秀丽。

Islam has a deep influence on the life and customs of the Hui people: When a baby is born, he will be given a Hui name by an imam^②; when people get married, they invite an imam as the chief witness; when one dies, an imam will be invited to preside over the funeral; the Hui people do not eat pork, and nor do they eat the blood of any animal or the corpse of animals that die naturally. Now, the Hui people are almost the same as the Han in terms of clothes, ornaments, names and customs, only that men normally wear white, black or brown caps, and women veils. Especially in northwest China, aged women wear white veils, which make them look graceful; the mid-aged wear black ones, which make them elegant, and maids are in green, which looks fresh and pretty.

“花儿”是流传在甘肃、青海一带深受回族人民喜爱的民歌形式。每年在固定的时间(农历六月的第一天至第六天), 人们都聚集于风景秀丽的山间举行传统的“花儿会”。

"Hua'er" is a kind of folk song popular among the Hui people in Gansu and Qinghai provinces. Every year, from the first to the sixth day in June in the lunar calendar, people gather in scenic hills to hold traditional hua'er parties.



小注解 • Footnotes

① 穆斯林三大节日: 伊斯兰教历9月, 所有成年的、身心健康的穆斯林男女都要进行一个月的斋戒, 斋月结束时举行开斋节, 届时人们沐浴净身, 施散钱财, 听阿尕讲经, 互相道安, 祈祷亡人。伊斯兰教历的12月10日, 是古尔邦节, 这一天人们要沐浴净身, 室内焚香, 斋戒半日, 上午去清真寺参加会礼, 请阿尕宰牲, 将所宰牛、羊肉的一部分分赠亲友、济贫施舍。圣纪节是纪念穆罕默德逝世的日子, 在每年的3月, 活动中要诵经演说, 讲述穆罕默德的圣绩, 有的地方还要举行盛大的善事宴会。这三大节日, 对回族来说, 既是宗教节日, 又是民族节日。在中国, 它也是回族、维吾尔族、哈萨克族、乌孜别克族等信奉伊斯兰教的民族共同的节日。

① Three Most Important Islam Festivals: All grown-up Muslims who are mentally and physically healthy, male or female, observe a one-month fast in the 9th month of Islamic calendar, and hold the Lesser Bairam Festival (Fast-breaking Festival) at the end of this Ramadan month. On this occasion, all people bathe themselves, give donations, attend imams' lectures on scriptures, greet one another and pray for the dead. On December 10 in the Islamic calendar is the Corban Festival when people have bath, burn incense, and go on fasts for half a day. In the morning, people go to mosques, invite imams to kill animals, and present beefs and mutton to relatives and friends, or give donations to those in need. The Shengji Festival is a day to commemorate the death of Prophet Mohammed. In March each year, people recite scriptures, give lectures, and tell the holy signs of Mohammed; in some places, large-scaled philanthropy banquets are given. These three important festivals are both religious festivals and ethnic ones for the Hui. In China, they are also the common festivals of the Hui, Uyghur, Kazakh and Uzbek ethnic groups, which all believe in Islam.

② 阿尕: 伊斯兰教称主持清真寺教务和讲授经典的人。

② An imam: presides over Islamic religious activities and teaches Islamic scriptures.