Pashtunwali: “the way of Pashtuns”

Pashtunwali is a honor code and is practised by the Pashtuns in Afghanistan and Pashtuns all over the world.¹ The Pashtun culture belongs to the religious group of the Islam.²

What Are Their Lives Like?

The principles of Pashtun are all about hospitality and protection for guests, breavity, steadfastness, persistence, defense of property and family honor and protection of female relatives - values for which death is not too high a price to pay.

Hard lives, however, find joy and relaxation in music that includes folk songs or dancing accompanied by stringed instruments and tambourines. Poetry and storytelling have long been favorite pastimes, as are segregated gatherings just to visit or to have pleasant conversation with friends.

Family Life

The Pashtuns wear simple clothing. Woman wear a full-length garment (also called burka) with an opening for the eyes. The women’s task is to raise the children and prepare meals. Living a limited life, women neither inherit property, appear publicly without a male escort nor expect advanced education. Pashtun culture is a patriarchal one. The identity of a women linked to a male member of her family, that is, as the wife of (her husband) or the mother of (her eldest son). With increased exposure to the world beyond, however, and a new democratic-style government some Pashtun customs may eventually change.³

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¹ http://uwf.edu/atcdev/afghanistan/people/Lesson6Pastunwali.html.
³ http://www.google.de/imgres?imgurl=http%3A%2F%2Fjoshuaproject.net%2Fassets%2Fmedia%2Fprofiles%2Fmaps%2Fm14327_af.png&imgrefurl=http%3A%2F%2Fjoshuaproject.net%2Fpeople_groups%2F14327%2FAF&h=321&w=425&tbnid=QKB03mp8-yKkIM%3A&docid=rIBFW1S3VwHrbM&ei=78dAVpzYN4mrUShvaAD&tbm=isch&client=firefox-a&uact=3&dur=726&page=1&start=0&ndsp=19&ved=0CCAQrQMwAwOvCHMl3Iuy1t-DyQIvidUUCh3kUA80
Key Codes

Melmastia:

• Any person can gain the host’s protection
• Hospitality and protection must be offered to all visitors without expectation of favor.
• Any Pashtun who can gain access to the house of another Pashtun can claim asylum there, regardless of the previous relationship between the two parties.

Badal:

• Vengeance, revenge or justice
• Violent reaction to injury, death, insult, advances on ones woman, wealth or land in the name of honour

Zamaka:

• Protection of land and property

Nanawatay:

• = asylum, mercy
• can be requested by any person
• requester is protected at any cost

Truah (bravery)⁴

• Protection over land and family
  includes marriage within the same tribe
• Sabat (loyalty)
  To the tribe and family

Lmandari (righteousness)

• Behaving respectfully

Naamus

• Womens respect

⁴http://www.sharnoffsglobalviews.com/pashtunwali-torah-269/