

An Anthropological Insight into the Folkloric *Haronaki* Ritual in Iran

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ABSTRACT Rituals in every culture reflect people's beliefs. They have the capacity to be performed in the form of drama. For the purpose a deep insight into a ritual is required to trace the dramatic elements. Ritual has been considered as one of the main sources for theatre and dramatic performance; by the recognition and presentation within the folkloric perspective of a country, these rituals can be considered as important sources for establishing relationship with their audience. An attempt is made in this paper to make an anthropological analysis of the dramatic elements in the *Haronaki* ritual of the *Bakhtyari* tribe in Iran. The authors intend to recognize the functional abilities and possibilities of the dramatic ritual of *Haronaki*, and for the purpose, a qualitative and library based methodology is used for collecting data. Based on the theories of ritual communication offered by some anthropologists, the present study examines the dramatic features of the *Haronaki* ritual, including plot, character, dialogue, music and conflict. It also examines the impact of folkloric culture on the performance of the rituals in a dramatic mode in the *Bakhtyari* tribe, and the way these rituals establish reflect people's beliefs.