

Parbhi Lagna

The Pathare Prabhu community is so small that the members of the community know each other well. When an eligible bachelor is suggested by someone in the community to the girl's parents, a proposal is sent from the girl's side to the boy's side. But today the scene might be reverse, a boy may send a proposal to a girl through someone. In the earlier days the girl's horoscope used to be sent to the boy's house for match making but nowadays a bio-data may be attached with the horoscope. The girl's horoscope is first placed in front of God and later matched with the boy's horoscope by an astrologer. This may be conveniently avoided today. If the proposal is worthwhile considering, then the boy and the girl meet at a convenient place to approve each other. These meetings might be repeated. If they approve of each other the further activities are carried out.

Jawaab

The confirmation is then sent to the girl's residence with a coconut and a conical box 'Puda' containing sugar or 'batasa' and even chocolates. The puda is kept in front of God in the girl's residence. This is known as 'JAWAAB'. This 'jawaab' is generally sent on festive days. After 'jawaab' the boy and the girl can meet each other frequently.

Tea-Party

On a convenient day the girl is invited to the boy's residence for a tea party. This is usually first done at the boy's side so that boy's relatives and friends can be introduced to the girl. It is later repeated on the girl's side. On this occasion the girl is given a Sari, an engagement ring, money and some sweetmeat. This is reciprocated to the boy by the girl's family. He is given a shirt piece, trouser piece, a ring, money and sweetmeat.

Bolni

The girl's parents and relatives go to the boy's house to discuss the wedding & other activities and exchange of gifts. (This exchange of gifts is with mutual consent and there is no element of dowry in it.)

Baghana

The Baghana is usually held on an auspicious day. On this day a small girl or a boy from the boy's side is sent to invite the girl for lunch. This small girl or boy is given

a token in the form of chocolate and some money. The girl dressed like a bride goes to the boy's house for the Baghana. The lunch basically comprises of non-vegetarian 'Parbhi delicacies' with 'Guravali' as an essential sweet. This lunch is served in silver 'Taat' (plate) placed on a rangoli. The Baghana ceremony is held in presence of the boy's relatives and friends in the evening. The girl is dressed in a 'Shalu' (saree) and is given five to seven Gold ornaments comprising of 'Jali Bangles', 'Necklace', 'Ear-rings', 'Ring', 'Hair Clip (Flower design)', 'Broach' and 'Khelna', 'Toode', 'Bar' (Any of these depending on individual discretion.), pair of Sandal, Purse containing mirror, comb, compact, handkerchief, money etc are also given. A flower 'veni' is given to her. She is presented with big fruits (especially red bananas) and 'Batasa' in 'Thala' (made of German silver).

This is reciprocated to the boy on some other auspicious day. The lunch remains the same. The boy is gifted with suit, shoes, socks, handkerchief and money. The ornaments given are 'Goff' (Closely knitted gold chain), Gold shirt buttons & cuff links, watch and Fur cap (This depends on individual discretion.). He is also presented with big fruits (especially red bananas) and 'Batasa' in 'Thala' (made of German silver).

Our Pathare Prabhus are quite enthusiastic. The exchange of gifts that follow this till or even after marriage is quite interesting. These gifts are seasonal and according to different festivals. The gifts are usually send from the girls side first.

Bheti-Paratbheti

Sankrant: The speciality of Sankrant is Til ladoo. Large Til Ladoos are send from either side. Along with this various nut chikkis in different shapes like kites, 'firki', heart, spade, diamond, club etc and a castle or lamp made of 'Rajgira' is also sent. Along with this a silver glass or cup, shirt and pant piece, kites and 'firki' for the boy and a saree for the girl, usually black. Not only this but close relatives are also sent small silver vessel with 'Til Ladoos'.

Holi: On the holi day 'Sadra Lengaa' and 'Puran Poli' is sent to boy and a pink saree and 'Puran Poli' is sent to the girl.

Gudhi-Padwa: The boy and girl are invited to each others place for lunch. On this day 'Sakhar bhaat' (Sweet saffron rice) is the special sweet dish. The boy and the girl are gifted with clothes on this occasion.

Aambesade: The king of fruits "Alphonso mangoes" are sent to each others place in the mango season. Along with this "Turas" (Pink 'Karvand' surrounded with mogra flowers) for men and "Gazaraas" (flowers) for women are also sent. Shirt , pant piece and saree is given to the boy and the girl.

Shiv Ratra, Ashadi Ekadashi and Kartiki Ekadashi: On these fasting days the "Faraal" items are sent to each other houses.

Narali Purnima: Coconut Barfi is given on this occasion. The boy and the girl are gifted with clothes on this occasion.

Gokul Ashtami: Banana Halwa is sent on this occasion.

Pithori Amavasya: A 'Vaayan' is sent on this day. It contains big silver glass or cup, a 'Thali', big fruits, Mesur or 'Mathalele Ladoos' (Roasted gram flour ladoos) or items like 'Shalu', 'Chicken', 'Book', 'Lamp' and various such items made of gram flour are sent. A 'Vaayan' is also sent from close relatives to the boy and the girl.

Dassera: The boy and girl are invited to each others place for lunch. They are gifted with cloths and are given a gold leaf (Aapatyache Paan).

Kojagari Purnima: Different vegetables and all materials to make 'Bhajis' are sent from the girls side to the boy house.

Diwali

Aathvinda: A day prior to Aathvinda, a saree, 'paat' 'rangoli taat' (This comprises of a thali with small containers with different rangoli colours), two silver 'vaatis' for 'Utane' and 'Beliya' (oil), 'kalshi' are send from the boys' side to the girl.

A day prior to 'Pahili Aanghol' 'Sadraa Lengaa', towel, soap with soap box, silver 'vaatis' for 'Utane' and 'Beliya' (oil), 'paat', 'kalshi' and bucket is sent from the girl's side to the boy. Along with this various crackers and 'Diwali Faraal' is also send.

Bali Raja: The boy and the girl are invited to each others place for lunch. On this day they are gifted with cloths. They may be given an ornament.

BhauBeej: Though the marriage has not taken place, on this day the sister performs an Aarti to the would be sister-in-law along with her brother.

Pathare Prabhus without non-vegetarian are like, flowers without fragrance. So gifts of non vegetarian food are also sent. This may include various types fish (big promfret, jumbo prawns), chicken or mutton.

Navi Wadi Jatra: On this occasion steel plates or glasses are sent to the boy and his relatives and this is reciprocated in the same manner. Along with this 'Mava', 'Dudhi Halwa', 'Sugar coated Cashew nuts', 'Sugar coated Pumpkin seeds' are

sent.

Suhasinis

To mark the beginning of the wedding ceremony two or more married women are called for lunch.

Phula-Bharna

Generally a week prior to the wedding, the 'Phula Bharna' is held. On this day a small girl or a boy from the boy's side is sent to invite the girl for 'Phula Bharna'. This girl or boy is given a token in the form of chocolate and some money. The girl is dressed like a bride with pearl ornaments especially 'Kapbaalya' and 'Vaali' goes to the boys house. There she is dressed up like a bride with the traditional 'Parbhi Kasabi Saree', pearl ornaments that include 'Tanmani', 'Ruiphule', bangles, broach and diamond ring pearl 'Khelna' etc. Her bindi which is drawn on her forehead is a horizontal straight line with a dot below it is called 'Chiri'. Her hairstyle is decorated with fresh flowers thick 'Veni' (khichadi, pheta names on white flowers veni, teen rangi), jali and furdi. One horizontal line and two verticals line are drawn on her feet with wet kumkum. This is known as pokhane. Then the function is held in a hall. The brides aarti is performed here. She is also given big fruits (including red bananas and 'papanas') and five big batasa on which 'Swastik' is draw with saffron kept in German silver 'Thala'. The relatives and friends are invited for the 'Phula-Bharna' and the dinner there after. This is generally a non-vegetarian dinner. This is reciprocated after two or three days for the boy. The boy is given a diamond ring (roz), diamond buttons, suit, boot, fur cap, watch etc. He is also returned batasa given to the bride and big fruits. One horizontal line and two verticals line are drawn on her feet with wet kumkum and his aarti is performed by brides mother. He is given bouquet. Though earlier there use to be separate 'Phula-Bharna' from either side nowadays it is held together.

Lagna

Nanha Pokhane

This ceremony is carried out at the bride and groom's residence a day prior to the wedding. A 'PAAT' is kept on a rangoli. One more rangoli is drawn in front of this rangoli and a 'Khalbatta' is kept on it. The khalbatta is decorated with 'Zendu' (marigold) flowers. Whole turmeric is kept in the khalbatta. The bride is then made to sit on the paat. The Zendu mundavalya is tied around her forehead. A married woman 'Suvasin' stands behind the bride with her hand over the bride's head. Another married woman takes a small quantity of rice in both hands and touches her fist on the bride's knees followed by her shoulders and her head. She then gives the rice to the lady standing behind the bride. This step is repeated

thrice. The woman in the front completes the ceremony by applying a few grains of rice to the brides forehead. The ladies then interchange positions and the procedure is repeated. Another pair of women also perform the same act. Generally these four married ladies are the brides Atya, Kaki, Maushi & Mami (the bride's aunties). These four ladies and a fifth married woman grind the turmeric together and apply it to the brides body. The bride is then taken for a bath. In front of her the 'Karoli' (brides sister) sprinkles water with mango leaf. These ladies are given a small 'KALSHI' filled with water and mango leaves. Each one of them sprinkle water from the kalshi on the bride with the help of the mango leaves. The bride then takes a bath. She is then given to wear a 'KUNWAAR SARI'. This sari is a new unworn sari which is later given to an unmarried girl. It is believed that whoever gets this sari would be the next one to get married. The Mami performs an aarti of the bride. The same ceremony is also performed for the groom.

Ganpati Pujan

Ganpati's puja is performed at bride and groom's place. Bride and his parents, likewise Groom and his parents perform this puja at their respective residence with the help of Bhatji. For this Ganpati Pujan the picture of Ganpati sitting on Mango tree, is required. This picture is known as 'Aamba' This picture is pasted on a wall in front of which a 'Chaurang' is placed for the puja. Other items of the puja are kept and the puja is performed accord to the 'Bhatji's' instruction.

Kohale Raasane

On rangoli a paat is kept. A Kohale' (a white pumpkin like vegetable) is kept on it. A 'Swatik' is drawn on this 'Kohale' with kumkum. The son-in-law who is given the honour of kohale Raasane stands behind the paat with the sword in his hands. He cuts the Kohale with the sword in two pieces. His wife then applies haldi kumkum on both the pieces. Further the son-in-law cuts the two pieces into four pieces. Now again his wife applies haldi and kumkum to the kohale. Then she performs the aarti of her husband (the son-in-law). They are then felicitated by gift for this honour (maan).

Laadke Ladoo

Laadke Ladoo is done by close relatives. The bride and her parents are given cloths , sweetmeat, coconut by relatives. Then aarti of the bride and her parents is performed. Mela is like Laadke ladoo, done to the bride and her mother. The relatives are given gifts to reciprocate this gesture. Same Laadke Ladoo ceremony is also done at the groom's place.

Menmuhurta

In this ritual the relatives of the groom come to the bride's place to do

'menmuhurta' expect the groom's mother. The bride is made to sit on a silver 'CHAURANG' in her kuwaar sari. Beside her a 'thala' is kept in which a green saree, blouse, silver comb, silver mirror, small mangalsutra, silver 'fervi' (foot ring) silver box for haldi kumkum, green bangles, green ribbon or clip, gold chain, ring, oati which contain wheat, coconut 2 betel leaves, betel nut, 5 velchi bananas, 5 fruits, 5 almonds with shell, 5 dried dates. The karoli (the groom's sister) combs the bride's hair with a silver comb. She then gives the bride a green saree to wear along with gold chain, gold ring, silver 'fervi' (ring to be worn in second foot finger). Two 'savashins' then carry out the procedure of 'pokhane' ([see nana pokhane](#)) The karoli then gives an 'Oati' to the bride and perform the Aarti. Karoli from the grooms side performs aarti of the karoli from brides side and gives her 'Silver Vaati or Drone (Vaati of dried leaves)' with sugar in it. Guest are served with Masala milk or ice-cream, nowadays snacks.

Vyahi Beth

This ceremony is the part of the Men Murtha. On a rangoli three paats are kept. On one side the bride and her father sits and opposite side a family member of the groom sits. The 'Bhataji' instructs the groom's relative to perform a puja of 'Lord Ganpati' & Lord 'Varun'. He then gives the bride a silk sari. The bride's father and groom's relative then embrace each other. A married woman 'Suvashin' from the groom's side performs the aarti of five 'Suvashins' and 'Karoli' from bride side and gives them coconut, batasa and velchi 'Kela'.

Halad

After the Menmuhurta the relatives of the bride including the bride's mother go to the groom's house. On a Rangoli two 'paats' are kept side by side. The groom and his mother sit on this paat. The grooms mother wears a rich sari, Kapbaalya, and a 'chiri' on the forehead and Vaali (nath). On a silver 'chaurang' five silver cups are kept. Five dabbas containing five big 'Mathalele Ladoos', rava, rice are also kept in front of the groom and his mother. Banana leaves are kept on which silver plates filled with sweetmeats are kept. Pokhane ([see above](#)) is then carried out on the groom. The bride's mother then cleans the groom's and his mother's legs. The groom is given 'Pitamber' (silk dhoti) and Kurta and his mother is given a 'saree'. The groom is then given 'Masala milk' in a silver cup and a saucer by the bride's mother. While she is offering this milk the groom applies halad on the bride's mother's cheek. A married woman from the brides side performs aarti of five married women from the grooms side . They are given coconut, batasa, paan and velchi kela. Karoli from the brides side performs aarti of the karoli from grooms side and gives her 'Silver Vaati or Drone (Vaati of dried leaves)' with sugar in it. Snacks and masala milk are served to the guests. Nowadays Ganpati Pujan, Menmurth and Halad are performed on the previous day of the wedding.

Paay Pakhani

On the day of marriage, the bride's father along with some relatives and the 'Bhatji' comes to the groom's place. The groom is made to sit on a silver 'chaurang'. The bride's father cleans the groom's feet with milk. He then applies kumkum to the groom gives him a ring (diamond if possible). The bride's Atya (aunty) then performs their aarti. The groom is made to wear 'Pitamber' or salwar and dagala, now Kurta given by the Mama. The Bashing, fresh flowers, long mundavalya tied to his forehead, a coconut covered with gold paper and a knife is carried by the groom. He also wear a golden 'GOP' (heavy golden chain) and Tode.

Gaurihar Pujan

The bride wears yellow sari. Embroidery work of sun and moon are done on her yellow blouse. She wear green glass bangles, 23 in left hand and 24 in the right and other gold ornaments. "Chiri" is drawn on her forehead. The Bashing, fresh flowers, long mundavalya tied to her forehead, a coconut covered with gold paper and a knife is carried by the bride. Sitting in a different room the bride performs a puja of goddess 'Gauri'. While doing the puja she chants the words :

"Ye re Vara, Ne Re Ghara"

Sagun Diva

The bride's 'AATYA' (aunty) has the honour to perform the ritual of 'SAGUN DIVA'. When the groom arrives at the entrance of the hall (place of marriage ceremony), the Atya beneath the cover of a shawl held on four ends by four men greets the groom and performs an aarti using 'LAMAN DIVA'. The Atya is then given a sari from the grooms side.

The 'muravala' (bride's young brother) wears 'MUNDAVALYA' around his forehead goes to greet the groom beneath the covering of shawl held by four men. He then twists the right ear of the groom. For this ceremony the 'muravala' get cloths from the groom.

Then bride's father goes to invite the groom for the wedding. He also goes beneath the shawl held by four men and he carries a coconut in his hand. He hold the hand of the groom and takes to the place where the marriage ceremony is to be performed. The bride's mother touches the feet of the groom's mother and then holds her hand and brings her inside. Then she gives 'Oati' to the grooms mother ('Vehin')

Madhu Parkha

As the 'Vidhi' is performed by the 'Bhatji', he instructs the bride's father and

mother to perform a puja of the Groom and then Atya who had honour of 'Sagun Diva' performs the Aarti of the three. (The groom and the bride's parents).

The bride's father and mother then washes the feet of the sisters and brother-in-law of the groom. The 'Aatya' then performs an aarti of these people. (now a days just hands are washes). The bride's father then places a betel nut and the coin in the groom's hand. Young boys then try to snatch this coin from the groom's hand.

Shubha Mangal Savadhan

The Lagna is held under the 'CHANDVA' (It is a silk cloth with designs of sun, moon, star and it is hanged over the ceiling) in the lagna mandap. Akshatas are distributed to the people.

On the heap of rice the groom stands facing East—West. On the 'Antarpaat' (cloth of manjarpaat 2.25mt in length) a 'Swastik' is drawn with kumkum. This antarpaat is held by two married men in from of the either side. One of them hold a sword. This is to drive away evil spirit. The Bhatji starts saying 'MANGALASTAKA'. The bride's Mama (maternal uncle) carries the bride to the Mandap and makes her stand on a heap of rice opposite the groom.

Note that bride's mother never hears the mangalastaka. At this time she leaves a small portion of her hair free. The father of the bride and groom stand behind the bride and groom respectively. The groom's father hold the Mangalsutra (Garsoli) which is of the length of the groom's height. In Pathare Prabhus the locket of mangalsutra varies from family to family. It can be a single golden sphere or two small spheres with one half sphere. But the weight is 10 grams (1 Tola approx)

The Karoli of both the sides stand holding the 'KARA' (silver kalshi with mango leaves and coconut over it) Akshatas are thrown at the bride and the groom after every verse of the Mangalastaka.

After the Mangalastaka, the Antarpaat is lowered and the bride and groom garland each other with the flower garlands they hold. The groom's father then put the Mangalsutra around the bride's neck. The Bhatji then applies the water to the bride and the groom from the Karoli's Kara considering the newly wed bride and groom as 'Lakshmi Narayan', married woman then perform their aarti. In Pathare Prabhu new wed couple do not touch anybody's feet on the day of marriage as they are considered as 'LAKSHMI NARAYAN'

Kanyadaan

The chair that are gifted to the bride by her parents during 'KANYADAAN' are kept facing each other. Besides these chairs one side two 'paat' are kept. The

bride parents sit on these 'paat'. The bride and groom are made to sit on the chairs. The Bhatji performs the 'vidhi'. Then the groom stands and makes a cup like formation with his hand over which the bride joins the hand in a cup shape. The 'Bhataji' holds a 'silver Taman' (plate) below their hands. The bride's mother pours water over the bride's father hand which he directs over bride's hand, the water is collected in the silver 'taman'.

After this bride's father drops 51 coins of rupee 1 in the bride and groom hands which are eventually collected in a 'Kasa' plate (kasa is an alloy). Now the bride and groom sit on the chair. They tie each other 'HALKUND' on their hands. Bride's parents then tie a thread round the two chairs by going round it for 108 times.

Aashtrotri Vaayan

This is give to the bride and the groom. It contains, cloths, mirror, ivory comb, glass bangles, mangalsutra, fervi silver haldi kumkum box, coconut, betel nut, beetle leaf, fruits and money (dakshina) in a German silver 'Thala'.

Lajja Home

In a 'Havan Kund' a fire 'Home' is lit. The bride and groom sit in front of it and the bride's brother sits besides them. The groom performs the vidhi as instructed by the Bhatji. Then the bride's brother puts 'Lahya' (parched rice) bride's hand, the groom that bride's hand and together pour the 'Lahya' (Parched rice) in the 'Hoam fire'. Now the groom's sister 'Karoli' sprinkles water around the 'Hoam' as the couple go round the 'Home'. The bride holds the groom's hand as he follows the 'Karoli' around the 'Home'. As they return to their original position, the bride's brother again puts the 'Lahya' in the sisters hand and the procedure is repeated thrice. The 'Muravala' (bride's brother) is then gifted with cloths. Then a 'Oati' of fruits is given the bride. (In this 'Oati' essentially consist of the Mahalung fruit.)

Sapta Padi

Next the 'Hoam' a grinding stone is kept. On it seven betel nuts are kept on small heap of rice. The bride stand at one end and the groom kneels down at the other end. He then pulls the bride's toe, and as she pushes the betel nut. These are considered as seven steps 'Sapta Padi'. As the seventh step is taken the wedding ceremony is considered as complete.

Sade Sohale

Groom's Kaka Kakis (uncle aunty) sit in a row. A square basket containing 'Telpoli', diva made of flour called 'Kodya', rice, dal, ghee and 'vadas' is kept by the bride's father on the cloth held by the bride's mother on the head of the groom's family member. At this stage the bride is made to sit on the family member's lap who then feed her a chocolate. This is a sign of accepting the bride

in the groom's 'Gotra' or family. A sari from the groom's family given to the bride. There after lunch is served. The menu generally includes 'Varan (dal), 'Bhaat' (rice), 'Godi Batati', 'Chaulichi Bhaji' (beans), 'Ananas Sambare' (Pineapple), 'Bhaji' (Egg-plant or Potato), Papad, Panchamrut, pickles, chutney. The groom and the bride feed each other and this is known as "Bharva Bharvi"

Varat

After the 'Sade Sohale' the preparation of 'Varat' begins. For this the bride is given a white jari saree and gold bangles generally 'Patallya'. 'Ooti' given to the bride during 'Men Muhurta' is tied to her waist. The bride is given a silver 'Laman Diva' (lamp), Ghee in 'Kasha vaati' (alloy). The bride & the groom now leave for the groom's home. At that time steamed rice is sprinkled on the road by a servant.

When the 'Varat' reaches the groom's home the 'Karoli' blocks the path of the groom and bride. She insists to leave the path only on the promise that the groom would make her son, his son-in-law. This is done only in a light humour. The path of rangoli is drawn from the main door to the place where 'Ganpati Pujan' is done. 'Kodis' (lamps made of rice flour) are kept on either side of this path. The bride then holds rice in the cavity of her hands. The groom stands behind her and puts his hands over her shoulders and holds her hands. Then they walk along this path together. While walking the groom sprinkles rice from the bride's hands using his thumbs. Then they sit in front of the 'Ganpati Pujan'. The groom then takes a plate of rice in his hand and with his ring he writes the name of the bride in the rice. This name could be the bride's maiden name or the new name that the groom gives. Here the 'Oati' of dry fruits given during the 'Menmuhurta' is kept in front of God. The "Uttar" Puja of the Ganpati Pujan is performed. This ends the Rituals of this day.

In the earlier days "Lagna" used to take place on the 'Goraj Muhurta' (evening), hence there used to be no reception in those days. Nowadays "Lagna" usually takes place in the morning and so a reception is held in the evening.

The Day After Lagna

On the day after the Lagna the 'Oati' of fruits given after the Lajja Home is opened on the bed by the bride. These fruits are then taken by small children. Then the newly wed couple go to bride's house. They perform the 'Uttar Puja' of Ganpati Pujan. Here the groom is given masala milk in a silver cup. The couple then unties "Halkund" from each other's hand.

Sohalyacha Aaher

Relatives and friends are invited for Aaher in the evening. On a rangoli a chair is

kept. The groom sits on this chair. His bride performs his aarti and gives him 'Vida' (betel leaf with supari) and Masala milk in silver glass.

Then the bride and groom sit beside each other on chairs. The bride's mother performs their 'aarti'. The groom gives a token of money in the aarti. The couple is also given clothes and ornaments. Along with this the gifts from the relatives that have come as 'Aaher' are also given to the couple. Other gifts from the bride's side like cupboard, bed sets, dressing table, electrical appliances and utensils etc. are also given. (This is as per individual discretion). Relatives are given snacks and Masala milk.

Satya Narayan Puja is usually held after Marriage.

Note : This information has been compiled considering the present trend, hence rituals 'Bhataka', 'Devut' 'Balicha Bhaat' 'Paata Pujan', 'Bhoog Vidhi' 'Telvaan' 'Audumbar Pujan', 'Varni Pujan' 'Bhanas' are not performed in present day Lagna. Moreover this information is to the best knowledge of the Prabhu Tarun team. Any suggestions, corrections to the same are acknowledged and should be send to pp.prabhutarun@gmail.com