

# The Gift Of A Virgin: Women, Marriage, And Ritual In A Bengali Society

Lina Fruzzetti

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Marriages are arranged in many Islamic societies, although this is not a legal requirement. Marriage begins with the betrothal or khitbah. The marriage contract specifies the gift or bride-wealth that the bride will receive, and stipulates conditions for divorce, alimony, or anything else of importance to the couple. The sadaq or mahar (gift or bride-wealth) may include jewelry or money. Normally, the wedding ritual consists of an offer of marriage made by the groom or his representative, and its acceptance by the bride or her representative. In many cultures, the bride and groom or their representatives join hands under a white cloth and the religious leader presiding over the ceremony delivers a blessing. A portion of the Qur'an is also often read. *The Gift of a Virgin: Women, Marriage, and Ritual in a Bengali Society*. By Lina M. Fruzzetti. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1982. xi, 134 pp. Appendixes, Glossary, Notes, Bibliography, Index. \$22.50. Carol Prindle (a1). (a1). Chicago, Illinois. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2055346>.