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A Bride Who Never Wore A Wedding Dress, But A Coffin

January 6, 2015



It is the 2015 New Year's Eve. People around the globe have planned to play games, spend time with their friends and families. Some people are celebrating it with firework and a big ball in Time Squares in New York City. Nevertheless, some others, wishing to have a great, prosperous, wonderful and joyful 2015, are celebrating it with much fun in Kabul city.

However, it is differently celebrated in some rural areas of Afghanistan. A couple, with plentiful wishes, expectations and hopes, decide to get married on the 2015 New Year's Eve in SarwanQala area of Sangin District of Helmand Province. They invite hundreds of their relatives, neighbors and villagers to make this event more memorable and joyful. It is late evening; guests are arriving to the party with gifts for the groom and the bride. Some members of the host family are busy in preparing food for the guests; some are making juice and tea, and

some are chit chatting. Bride is in her room, not showing her face to the guests, but she is getting prepared to wear her wedding dress and welcome her guests. Some women from the host family and guests are singing and dancing. Some host women are welcoming guest; however, some are serving tea to the guests.

The bride is impatiently waiting to meet all the guests in her wedding dress, and the guests are waiting to see the beautiful bride in her fancy wedding dress. It NEVER happens because Taliban are ambushing the Afghan security forces from a house close to the wedding party. The music and dance party calms down, and the fight between the Taliban and the security forces begins. The more the battle is getting momentum, the less audible is the music. Hosts and guests are losing patience! A mortar hits the wedding party's house killing several guests and hosts, most of them women and children. The wedding party is changed into a chaos and a funeral ceremony. Guests who had come to the party to have fun are now shifting the dead bodies of their beloved ones to a cemetery. Some hosts, who were serving tea and juice to the guests, are now helping them carry their dead bodies.

The bride, who was waiting to welcome the guests in her wedding dress and see her handsome husband in a well-decorated room, is now being hospitalized for her severe wounds. The groom, who was waiting to see his bride on his wedding night, meets her in a red wedding dressed [blood] in the hospital. The bride dies of her wounds; some of the guests and hosts are killed for celebrating a wedding party. The bride, who was supposed to wear a wedding dress, is now wearing a coffin on her wedding night. The bride, who wished to spend her whole life with her new life partner in a well-furnished room, is now living in a grave taking all her dreams with herself. The groom, who was waiting for his bride, will now be waiting his whole life—his bride will NEVER return. The guests, who wanted to see the bride in her beautiful wedding dress, see her dead body in the cemetery.

The Afghan National Unity Government, the United Nations, Afghan former president and the Taliban condemn the tragic incident; the government vows to thoroughly investigate it. However, the families of the victims and the people of Afghanistan are living in grief and sorrows.

May their soul rest and peace and May we live in a peaceful country!