

of cattle would be too great; besides this, beef as an article of diet is forbidden.

Morality.--The Bhantus, have a tribal code of morality which is strictly enforced. The moral standard is high and an offence is severely dealt with by the Panchayat. Many writers have ascribed to this tribe a very low state of sex morality, due no doubt to the confusion regarding the identity of the tribe owing to the adoption of aliases, such as Behria, the morals and discipline of which tribe are notoriously lax.

Promiscuous intercourse before or after marriage is condemned. It is usual for Bhantus to marry Bhantus, but union with Behrias is common. A strict rule is maintained to prevent marriage with blood relations, that parties should not marry within the same got, there is however one exception, that of Bhanswale Got who may marry within their own clan. Should it accidentally happen that two persons within the same got marry one another, they are brought before the Panchayat and fined Rs.100. Where intercourse or adultery between two persons of the same got is proved, the parties are guilty of incest, a serious offence, mention of which is made later.

Marriage.--The ceremony and arrangements for marriage differ greatly according to gots. Beneath follows a description of marriage according to the Sade Got, all essential differences between gots being mentioned in the tabulated form appended. A system is in force throughout the clans whereby it is incumbent upon certain clans to intermarry according to certain rules. For instance a boy of the Dhapo Got marries a girl from the Chireli Got. A Dhapo boy may not marry a girl of the Dhapo but may marry a girl of the Chireli Got, provided there is no blood relationship with the grandmother, i.e., the marriage system is patrilineal and exogamous, and the female line is barred for two generations. He may however marry a girl of other got.

Formerly the age of marriage for both a man and a woman was from 20-23, but latterly, prior to the Sarda Act, young children could be married at the age of ten with consummation on puberty. Much depended on circumstances and the ability to pay the money demanded. In the Sade Got the parents of the boy send male friend to the parents of a suitable girl. If the prospects are favourable the Panchayats and the father of the boy call on the girl's parents and in their presence two pigs are killed. The spilling of some liquor on the ground seals the engagement (manzui). These preliminary arrangements are called the bait. Two or three days later the price to be paid is settled at the bol when one or two more pigs are killed. The price generally accepted is according to got and this varies considerably. The terms are settled by the Panchayats and according to circumstances. For instance Behrias have paid as much as Rs.1,500 for a Bhantu girl, whilst the lowest price paid in the Tinaichi Got, viz., Rs.200. This price may be raised for any or all of the following reasons, (viz.)--