

The Curious Customs of the San Bushmen: Trance Dances, Clicking Languages, and Desert Survival

By Melkisedeck Leon Shine · July 3, 2023

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Once upon a time, in the vast and arid landscapes of southern Africa, a fascinating civilization thrived. Let us embark on a journey through time to explore the curious customs and traditions of the San Bushmen, a resilient and ancient people. ??

? It was the year 20,000 BCE when the San Bushmen first settled in the Kalahari Desert. In this harsh and unforgiving environment, survival required incredible skill and knowledge. The San, also known as the "First People," demonstrated their resourcefulness and resilience by crafting tools from bone and stone, and mastering the art of hunting with their signature poisoned arrows. ?

? The San Bushmen were masters of adaptation and possessed an intimate understanding of the natural world around them. They developed unique survival techniques, such as tracking animal footprints and reading the stars for navigation. Their keen sense of observation allowed them to identify plants with healing properties, which they used to treat various ailments and injuries. ?

? However, it wasn't just their survival skills that set the San Bushmen apart; it was their vibrant culture and customs that entranced those who encountered them. One particular custom, the Trance Dance, held immense significance within their society. During these enchanting rituals, the San would gather around a blazing bonfire, the orange flickering flames dancing in rhythm with their hearts. ??

? As the drums started to beat, the San would enter a trance-like state, transcending the boundaries of their physical bodies. Their movements became a mesmerizing display of agility and grace, as if channeling the spirits of their ancestors. It was said that during these dances, they could communicate with the divine, seeking guidance for their people and celebrating the harmony between the earthly and spiritual realms. ??

? Another remarkable aspect of the San Bushmen's culture was their unique clicking language. Their speech was a symphony of clicks, pops, and whistles that echoed through the vast desert expanse. This intricate form of communication allowed them to convey complex messages across long distances, ensuring their survival in the harsh and isolated landscape. Their language, rich with meaning and tradition, remains one of the oldest known in the world. ??

? Fast forward to the present day, and the San Bushmen face numerous challenges. With the encroachment of modernity and the pressures of globalization, their way of life is endangered. Yet, there is hope. Organizations and individuals are working tirelessly to preserve their culture and protect their rights. By understanding and appreciating the rich tapestry of the San Bushmen's customs, we can contribute to

their story and safeguard their legacy for generations to come. ??

So let us celebrate the curious customs of the San Bushmen, a remarkable people who have left an indelible mark on history. Their trance dances, clicking languages, and desert survival techniques remind us of the resilience and beauty that exists within humanity, even in the harshest of conditions. Let their story inspire us to cherish and protect the rich diversity of cultures that grace our planet. ??

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