

ثقافة العراق



RELIGION

The majority of Iraqis are Muslim. The Muslim population can be divided into two branches: Shia and Sunni. The beliefs of these two groups do not vary greatly but their differences are taken into great account and have sparked much contention in the country. When the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) passed away these two distinct branches of Islam arose.

SHIA

Believed the power should be taken on by a family member of the prophet or by one of his companions.

Believed that there is a hereditary privileged class

Don't base their religion on the testimony of the prophet's companions.

Only those who have *wayalet* are free of error and sin and have been chosen by God through the prophet.

SUNNI

Believed the leadership shouldn't be a birthright, but a trust that is earned and can be taken away by the people.

Believed there isn't a hereditary privileged class

Approach God directly



FAMILY

Loyalty to the family is the most important thing for Iraqis. It comes before an individual's social life and business. Relatives are very likely to be business partners because they are seen as more reliable.

CLOTHING

Men and women may wear traditional or modern clothing. In rural areas it is more likely to see very traditional attire that would cover most of the body and only expose the face and hands. In urban parts of the country, men and women are more likely to wear conservative western clothing. It is very unlikely to see men and women with jewelry. Iraqi youth normally wear pants and branded T-shirts (Polo, Nike, etc.).



CUISINE

Due to the many sanctions placed on Iraq by the United Nations, the traditional Iraqi diet consists of very small portions and fruits and vegetables are hard to come by. The distinction between classes can be very easily spotted through a family's meal.



ETIQUETTE

In general, both adults and children keep to themselves and are not loud or boisterous, especially in public. Men commonly hold hands or kiss when greeting each other, but this is not the case for men and women. Respect is given to the elderly and women, especially those with children.

In Alziad's bio, she mentioned that that she prays four times a day and would like to visit a mosque. The other participants didn't ask for anything like that and they seem to be a little more lenient. But their religion still seems to be a very big part of who they are.