

**Exercise: Explore the cultural logic of the following marital practices that are observed in many cultures worldwide:**  
 → In other words, why do people in this culture engage in this behavior? Why might a person in this culture say she likes this practice?  
 \*This is a brainstorming exercise. I will collect these sheets, but you will not be graded on their content

### Arranged Marriage

- love will come, but later
- don't worry about stress of dating.
- worries about being single
- unites wealth of two "involvement of parents"
- families > economic reasons make marriage
- guaranteed to end up marrying
- link up a families
- no single people
- keeps men & women from associating with each other
- solidifies parent/child ties
- (that would be considered inappropriate) - a way to increase social status
- a spouse from a wealthy group
- keeps spouse within groups that are "approved" of by the family
- parents wiser, can make best choice

Like the practice because:

- guaranteed a spouse
- guaranteed security
- they are finally adults in the eyes of the culture

### Bridewealth

- means of security for ensuring that the woman is bound to him
- makes divorce more difficult - would have to begiven back if divorce
- compensates for loss of daughter & her house hold contributions / bride labor
- solidifies marriage & stabilizes it
- equated to the exchange of wedding rings here > symbolic
- grants security to bride in case husband dies (his family has invested in her & will continue to support her & her children) (levirate)

Like the practice because:

- women feel valued in both households
- marriage is more secure; there is more to lose if they divorce > stabilizing factor
- family likes it for economic reasons

### Polygyny

- keeps population high
- husband has a large labor pool (wives & children)
- responsibility to take care of one's kin (e.g. will marry wife's sister if her husband dies)
- provides heirs for the man
- if a wife is barren
- eases workload
- companionship (bond w/ co-wives)

Like the practice because:

- the community raises the children rather than having it fall on only two people
- women have less work because there are more women to do it
- companionship