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Inheritance.

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The Basotho say: if a man dies leaving children who are boys, the eldest is the one who controls the cattle kraal. He divides what is possessed in the kraal and distributes it amongst his younger brothers. The household goods belong to their widowed mother. The blanket he was wearing and his trousers are his uncle's. The boys' inheritance is the cattle, goats, sheep and horses. The girls have no inheritance when their father is dead. The little ones get nothing. If a man is a polygamist, the children of the wives of the polygamist are also given the share which is due to them, they are given cattle, sheep and goats. Their mothers have control of their houses. If that man has a certain piece of land over which he rules, an ox is then taken to the chief and with it the chief is told that his subject has passed away. The houses remain under the control of the women who live in them. If there are male children, the wife of a polygamist owns the house, and their father's belongings are theirs in their mother's house. If one of the wives has no male issue, the female children will be brought up by the male child of the big house. The household goods do not get mixed, they are taken as one. Yes, they are dealt with according to the wish of the sick person or according to his instructions. But if there is a misunderstanding in the kraal, the matter is taken to the chief and that wish is considered by the men of the council and they act in accordance with his word. If there is no heir who is the eldest, these goods fall on to the widow, they shall be under her control and she will bring up the children with them. This widow is given to her husband's younger brother. This man is forced by his relatives even if he does not like to take his brother's wife to make her his wife. When he has married her, he cannot forsake her because she is his wife. His duty when he has married is to bring up the children and to see to their maintenance at the home of his elder brother,

he too being the owner of the home. Nevertheless, he is neither controlled by these children nor their mother. It is he who controls them because they have to listen to what he tells them. Even if he does not behave well, she has no right to drive him away her only course is to take him to the council so that he may be exhorted or remonstrated with by the men of the council. He has authority in the kraal. This woman will have an argument with him over her little children if he does not treat them well or if their uncle does not take care of them properly. When the eldest son has already married, it is then that he is given his inheritance, but he does not take the house, he only takes his cornlands and cattle. If the wife dies, and she has sons and daughters, the dishes, clothes, blankets and other things which belong to her, are taken by the girls. The house also is theirs but they do not receive it if their father is not yet married. Cattle and small stock are divided amongst all the children. The cornlands and crops belong to all of them. Boundaries are made in the cornlands so that they may work their own cornlands. Their mother's sister is given a sheep, a dish and spoons so that she may know that she is dead. It is said that this means that she must give her up for good. If he marries another woman, he still gives her cornlands because he still has his own.

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