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Translated copy.

Inheritance.K32/27
Laws of the
Mjakha TribeK32/27
S. Naoa

When a man and his wife have built a home, their intention is that when they die they should leave for their children an inheritance in ^{the form of} cattle, goats, sheep and all their possessions. Amongst the cattle, you will find that there are some which have been branded for the male child and the female child. There are other cattle which are bought by the parents with kaffir corn or sheep or with pigs. This kind of cattle is the cattle which the children will divide between themselves when their father is dead. The Basotho say that a beast is better than the savings bank if your cattle thrive, multiply and if they do not die. In the olden times people relied on cattle only. An inheritance is not of cattle only, ^{according to} ~~the~~ Basotho custom, the medical practice is also ~~an~~ inherited ~~practice~~. If the father of children is a doctor, he teaches one of his children medicine and divining bones. If he so desires, he teaches one of them ^{also} to doctor the grave. If the first-born child is a boy, he is the one who will divide the inheritance among his younger brothers. ~~and sisters~~. If the first-born child is a girl and the next one is a boy, the male child is the chief, he is the one responsible for dividing the inheritance. In dividing it, witnesses are called together, the paternal uncles of the children must be present, to see how the division is carried out. First of all, the boy or young man will divide the ^{cattle} branded ^{for each child} cattle between his

brothers, when he has finished, he begins to divide the inheritance in ^{the form of} cattle and goats.

When the father of the children ^{who} has put cattle or goats in the care of one who is to share their produce with him ~~and~~ he dies, it is the duty of the child to collect them and bring them home to be divided amongst the children. When a man or young man has gone to fetch the cattle which had been put in the care of another man who is to share their produce, he must leave one for their having been looked after or for the boy. That is to say, if a man has put cattle in the care of some one, on the occasion of his ^{inspection of} fetching them, he brands one for the herd boy, and the herd boy will show him all the cattle or sheep. He then begins to tell him all about those which died and about those which miscarried, and all the skins are taken by the owner of the cattle thus placed in the care of the other man, their carcasses are eaten by the herd boy, that is the law of lent out cattle which is well known amongst the Basotho. If a person wastes the inheritance he got from his father, it is said that he will eat a dog, that means he will be poor, he will not be able to possess even one beast, he may try to rear a beast but it will die.

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