

## WELCOME TO A ZULU WEDDING

Hi my name is Ndumiso Ngcobo. I would like to welcome you to a Zulu wedding. I would like to show you some of the things that happen during a Zulu wedding in South Africa.

Before a wedding is done, the groom has to pay the bride price. It is a sign that the groom is committed to his future bride.

Most people prefer to do two weddings: a western wedding and a traditional wedding. Western wedding are often done at a Church.



Traditional weddings are often done at the family of the groom. In the traditional wedding, any member of the community is invited to attend. You do not send invitation cards. Many people attend the wedding.



During the western wedding, the bride often wears a white wedding gown. Some people buy the wedding gown. Others just hire one to wear on the wedding day.

After the church wedding, the bride and groom then change clothing and wear the traditional gear. The groom wears skin loincloth. The bride wears traditional headdresses, beautiful beaded necklaces and soft leather aprons.



When two Zulu people marry, the marriage unites two people. It also unites two families. It also unites the ancestors of the two families. The families pour beer on the ground to signify that ancestors of both families are welcomed into the marriage of the bride and the groom.



During the wedding, Zulu traditional dancing is an important part. Sometimes, the relatives of the bride and of the groom compete to see who can dance better.



Sometimes, during the dancing, they engage in a mock fighting.



When a groom marries a bride, he is welcoming not only her, but also her family and her ancestors. As way to show that they are welcoming them into the family, they sacrifice a cow. Some kill a goat.



In the wedding ceremony, the groom also offers gifts to the family of the bride. The gifts are given not only to the living members of the family but also to the deceased members of the family.



The family of the groom often give gifts in form of blankets. The family wear the blankets that they have received as gifts to show them off to the people.

Members of groom's family are invited to lay on a mat and they are covered with the blankets. They then sing some songs and then collect their gifts



I hope you now have some idea of how we do our weddings in South Africa.