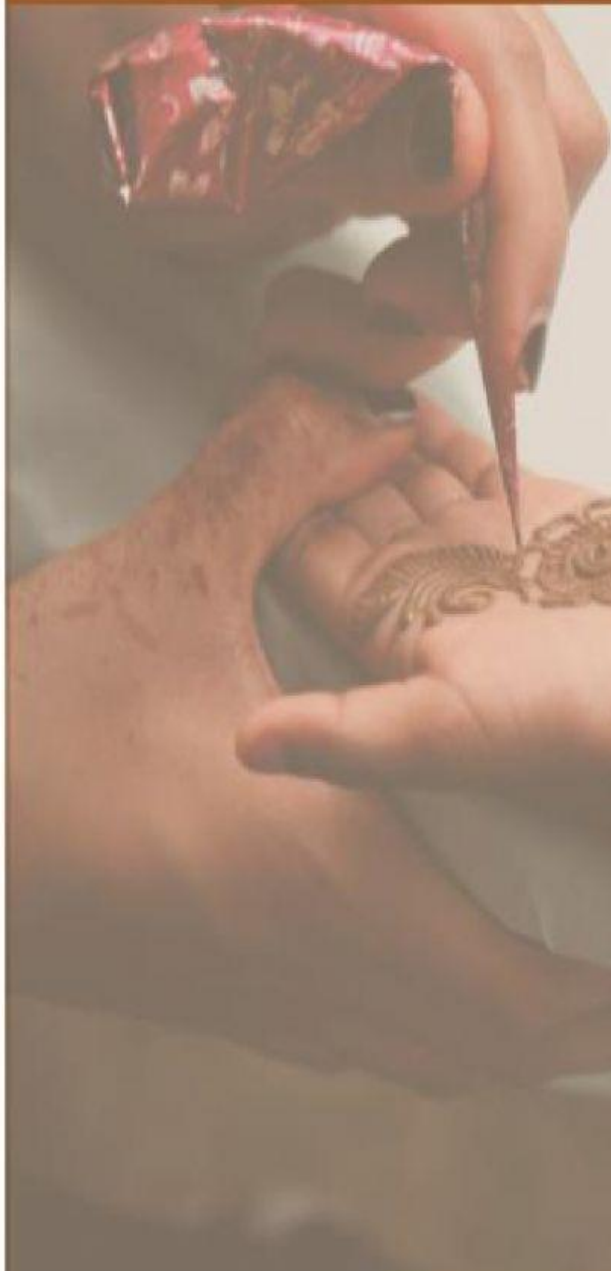


The Importance of Henna in Traditional Emirati Weddings



Henna is a huge part of Emirati culture and _____.¹ Henna is used for many special occasions, but especially in weddings. Henna Night is a really important night where the bride-to-be, her relatives and friends all join together to _____² the wedding to come. They do this by _____³ themselves with henna. They cover their hands and feet with the dark _____⁴ which is made of many _____⁵ including henna leaves, water, lemon juice, tea and essential oils. The henna designs are usually applied in a _____⁶, they range from very simple to very _____⁷. The bridal patterns in particular can take hours and are often done by more than one person, employing a range of _____⁸. Some brides want the henna _____⁹ to be very dark, because tradition says that as long as the henna stays on the bride, she won't have to do any housework, and the _____¹⁰ the stain, the better the marriage. In modern times, there is also a tendency to use gold temporary henna patterns for special occasions such as weddings.