

The club of women of Mesi revives every year the custom of fire. People burnt old mattresses, according to the custom, in order to get rid of the fleas. After the revival there was a ghlendi at the Cultural center of Mesi, where women set the tables and offered various foods which they had prepared themselves:

*Every year we revive an old custom and light up fires in every crossroad of the village, we burn old mattresses in order to get rid of the fleas. We are also waiting for spring to come. We made the martis (red and white bracelets) for children in order to prevent the sun from burning them”* said Konstantina Agelidou, the president of the Cultural club of Mesi.

Mrs Efthalia Karapaschali remembers her childhood: *I am 55 years old and I remember when I was little and we kept this custom every year. People did not have our contemporary luxuries. They emptied mattresses and they burnt them because they were full of fleas. If a housewife did not do so, bells were ringing* (Maria Papadopoulou, Paratiritis newspaper, 2<sup>nd</sup> of March, 2004).

Folk ritual of the first day of March:

*Women in Pamforo compete in waking up as early as possible to clean the house yard and burn greens and garbage in order to burn the fleas. The whole family should jump over the fire so that “month March will not pea on them”. The whole village does this. If someone does not light a fire, they say that he/she did not because March pead on him/her* (Mina Macheropoulou, Elefthero Vima newspaper, February 1998).