Bext (Baht)

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Published Date:
15 January 2026

Downloaded Date:
07.11.2026

Suggested Citation: Gezik, Erdal (2026). Bext (Baht). Alevi Encyclopedia — ISIL: DE-4607. https://doi.org/10.68413/alevian siklopedisi.3hbqw (Access Date: 07.11.2026)

The Alevi Encyclopedia is registered under the code **ISIL: DE-4607** within the scope of the **International Standard Identifier for Libraries and Related Organizations**.

ISSN 3055-9928

ISIL URI /isil/DE-4607

LOBID
lobid.org/organisations/DE-4607

Permalink id.zdb-services.de/resource/organisations/DE-4607

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Summary
Bext (Turkish: Baht) is one of the thirty qualities granted to humans by Haq in the Raa Haqi belief system and expresses the wish for a “fortunate spouse” in marriage as well as exalted moral virtues such as compassion, righteousness, loyalty, protection, and forgiveness. Bext may be requested through verbal supplications or through performative acts, as in the çe kotene ritual, and functions in particular as a mechanism of social guarantee in practices of asylum and forgiveness.

Keywords: Baht, Bext, Dersim, Raa Haqi

Meaning and Conceptual Framework [1]

Within the Raa Haqi belief system (in the Dersim Alevi tradition), *Bext* is regarded as one of the thirty qualities bestowed by *Haq* upon humans and is used in two primary senses.

The first meaning is related to marriage; in wishes expressed for finding a virtuous and suitable spouse, the aspiration for a “fortunate destiny” is articulated, as in the expression *“Ana Fatma bexto xêr to do”* (“May Mother Fatma grant you a fortunate baht”).

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The second meaning refers to elevated moral qualities such as compassion, righteousness, loyalty, care, protection, and forgiveness. In this sense, *bext* is understood as a value that both protects the individual and defines their moral responsibility toward others.

Requesting Bext and Ritual Practices

There are two methods for requesting *bext*: verbal supplications and action-based rituals. In the performative practice, after sunset, an individual rubs their face on the threshold of a house and performs *çe kotene*, binding themselves with a black cloak or rope to declare acknowledgment of guilt and readiness for forgiveness. In such circumstances, refusing a request for forgiveness is considered a grave misfortune.

Socially, *bext* has also functioned as a mechanism of protection for individuals who sought refuge with another community due to intra-tribal or inter-tribal conflicts. In such cases, on Thursday evening, a pregnant woman is sent as an emissary and utters expressions such as *"taxtê ho bırızne bextê ho merızne"* ("May your throne be destroyed, but may your baht not be destroyed").

Conclusion

Within the Raa Haqi belief system, *Bext* represents both the wish for auspicious fortune associated with marriage and a fundamental value encompassing elevated moral qualities such as compassion, righteousness, loyalty, and forgiveness. Requested through verbal prayers and ritual practices such as *çe kotene*, *bext* functions not only as an individual virtue but also as a social guarantee mechanism operative in practices of asylum, protection, and forgiveness. In this respect, *Bext* constitutes a foundational ethical principle in the Raa Haqi tradition, regulating both personal conduct and social relations.

Endnotes

[1] Editorial Note: This entry has been prepared on the basis of the relevant entry included in Raa Haqi - Riya Haqi / Dersim Aleviliği İnanç Terimleri Sözlüğü by Erdal Gezik and Hüseyin Çakmak (Ankara: Kalan Yayınları, 2010) and represents a version that has been reviewed and updated by the authors of the original publication.

References & Further Reading

Gezik, Erdal, and Hüseyin Çakmak. 2010. Raa Haqi – Riya Haqi / Dersim Aleviliği İnanç Terimleri Sözlüğü. Ankara: Kalan Yayınları.

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