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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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lev·i·rate  (lěv ə-rīt, -ə-rāt', lē vər-īt, -və-rāt')

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n.

The practice of marrying the widow of one's childless brother to maintain his line, as required by ancient Hebrew law.

[From Latin *lēvir*, husband's brother; see **daiwer-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

lev'i·rat *ic* (-rāt ĭk), **lev'i·rat** *i·cal* *adj.*

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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