



Henna tattoo in the city of Fez

In Muslim countries, the henna plant enjoys a particular rank rooted in time. Its presence in Morocco is linked to various occasions and to each event its own meaning, it symbolizes the happiness and joy of the wedding, birth, circumcision and fasting festivals ... Some Moroccans believe in its virtues to provide the luck and rejection of jealousy, therefore, many people resort to it during the month of Chaaban, the seventh month of pregnancy and marriages.

It is also considered a source of beauty for both men and women. It is applied to the hair and beard to cover white hair and give radiance to the skin and tattooed with hands and feet.

Morocco is known for the quality of this plant, especially at " Elmayder Basin " in the province of Zagoura because of the environmental factors that characterize the region, such as the earth, the dry and hot climate and the light needed by the plants. henna. There is even a laboratory study that examines the extraction of oils from the henna flower.

Henna is a source of beauty and elegance for the Fessie woman who was and remains passionate about anything that could accentuate her splendor and grace. She uses it to adorn her hands and feet with beautiful tattoos in beautiful colors, to dye her hair and nourish them as well as to perfume her body. It is also impossible to visit the city of Fez without going through the herbalists to buy henna.

The henna of Fez is mainly based on forms of drawings and tattoos inspired by Fessie embroidery (domes, leaves ...) which are executed with great precision on the hands. It is necessary that the woman who draws it (called hennaya or nekkacha) has been an excellent embroiderer before, it is a job that requires on its part: patience, concentration, silence and discretion because its work takes place in people and it attend the most special private occasions.

In the past, the nekkacha used several tools in the preparation of henna, the most important are: the mortar to powder the henna plant and a piece of fabric with very fine holes called hayati (a kind of very fine linen) and a kohl (meroued) spatula made from the horns of goats that women used to apply kohl to their eyes. Nekkacha was required to be pure, to multiply the invocations of God and the prayers on the Prophet (SAWS) because of the sacredness of this plant among the inhabitants of Fez.



The hennaya never discusses her fees because she believes that her job is a gift from God that should not be haggled under any circumstances.

The henna tattoo was reserved for women from the ancestral families of the city of Fez. It expresses the love and satisfaction of the husband towards his wife or the invitation to reconciliation in case of a quarrel between the two. So much so that the husband solicits a nekkacha and a spiritual music group in the majority of the cases and invites all the people dear to the wife, his family and his close friends to a joyous ceremony where reigns the incense of incense composed of sandalwood and of serghina and where the yoyos and the praises of the Prophet (SAWS) resound, touching the souls. The husband offers generous gifts to his wife to make amends and earn her good graces.

When the nekkacha finishes her task, the woman puts on her gold jewelery, her embroidered cherbil and her most beautiful traditional dress, she is sprayed with orange blossom water and precious perfumes to accentuate her beauty and delicacy. what it becomes itself as an art object or an eloquent image that manifests the most beautiful expressions of love, respect and prestige enjoyed by the woman at the time.

The henna tattoo business has undergone many innovations because of globalization in large part. For example, henna tattoos have been placed on papers that are applied directly to the hand without the need for a nekkacha, in addition to the introduction of drawings from India and the Gulf countries. also replaced the merouad with a syringe and even incorporated harmful substances on the skin to speed up work and earn money like so many other traditional trades ancestral. All these intrusions have consumed the authenticity and beauty of this business leaving only a few sweet memories and its refreshing and soothing smell.