



ROYAUME DU MAROC
Ministère du Tourisme, de Transport
Aérien, de l'Artisanat
Et de l'Economie Sociale
Secrétariat d'Etat Chargée de l'Artisanat
et de l'Economie Sociale
Chambre d'Artisanat Régionale Fès -
Meknès



المملكة المغربية
وزارة السياحة والنقل الجوي والصناعة التقليدية
والاقتصاد الاجتماعي
كتابة الدولة المكلفة بالصناعة التقليدية والاقتصاد
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Traditional weaving in OuledZem / Commune Bouadel

OuledZem, a village located in the province of Taounate, is one of the leading regions in the art of traditional weaving. It has a multitude of raw resources, including "wool of sheep", considered as the essential ingredient in the manufacture of the "traditional fabric" for making the traditional djellaba with two natural colors: dark brown and ivory. Not all types of fabrics have been able to ban the traditional weaving of wool, nor to compete with it in Moroccan garment markets, which continue to preserve its inherited identity for several generations. Although Moroccan woolen traditional costumes are displayed in local markets at exorbitant prices, they are in high demand because Moroccans can not do without them especially on religious feasts and ceremonies.

Moroccans wear woolen clothes, thick in the winter and light in the summer. It is for the men of djellaba, burnous and selham " cape "; as for women, they wear the haik, the same dress that men had in the past when they presented themselves to the sultans or when they were doing fantasia.

The role of women in the development of traditional textiles in the region:

The housewives made blankets and mattresses made of sheep's wool, which women's soft hands transform into silky yarns. After the mowing of the fleeces, they wash them on the banks of the arroyos and rivers according to particular popular rituals where intermingle hymns and songs associated with the movements of the arms, palms and sticks. Then, they deceive the wool for a night or more in a decoction of saponary plant and proceed to threshing. They spread it on the rocks under the sun to dry it. The women discuss around the wool and turn it while separating the tufts of wool for weaving those that will be used to pad cushions and mattresses.

Whenever Moroccan housewives had clean, spinning and weaving wool, they were careful to untangle it until the fibers matched each other with " Alkhalkhal " a large comb who has five long teeth like spears. Then, the combed wool is put into the card " Alkarshal ", two wooden plates with a handle each covered inside small fine steel picks, which are used to scratch and spread the wool in a movement of va and comes done with intelligence and precision.



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It should be noted that before spinning the wool, the weavers lightly wash it as it is possible that it has been subjected to dust or sweat from their hands. Then they put this spun yarn on a large wicker basket placed upside down on a fire from which the smoke of the combustion of sulfur escapes. This smoke will impregnate the wool covered tightly until it takes on a white color with a yellowish tendency. Therefore, the weavers proceed to the assembly of the loom that will be 3.5m long and almost 2m wide. This operation is the most difficult in the manufacture of woolen fabrics because it requires no less than 3 women. Two will each catch an amount and the third " jaraya " will make the round trip between the two to set up the ropes that can reach the length of 600m and which will be used for weaving.

These housewives weave the silky woolen yarns with a comb that emits, every time they hit the loom, sounds similar to the sounds of the horse's hooves. These weavers strive to diversify colors, use silk threads and give free rein to their creativity without compromising the use of the Moroccan art of living.

The craftsmen of the region of OuledZem have benefited from ancestral craftsmanship that is characterized by the production and innovation of a fabric of artistic nature admirable in terms of shape, color and pattern. A comprehensive program has been carried out for the rehabilitation and development of textile production lines in OuledZem as part of the plan for the development of handicrafts in the northern provinces in accordance with an approach based on coordination and consultation by involvement of all stakeholders and local and regional stakeholders, in partnership with the Agency for Development and Promotion of the Northern Provinces, the Ministry of Crafts and Social and Solidarity Economy and the Spanish Cooperation Agency international development.



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