

Adras and atlas weaving

Adras and atlas weaving refers to the traditional textile making technique. These textiles are made from silk and cotton threads. Tajikistan silk fabrics had their own names: *shohi*, *khan-atlas*, *zaratlas* etc. These types of fabrics were produced from pure silk. The fabrics made of cotton weft and silk warp was called *adras*, *bekasab*, *banoras* and in English is commonly called *ikat*.

Ikat (*adras*) is a dyeing technique used to pattern textiles that employs resist dyeing on the yarns prior to dyeing and weaving the fabric. In *ikat* the resist is formed by binding individual yarns or bundles of yarns with a tight wrapping applied in the desired pattern. The yarns are

then dyed. The bindings may then be altered to create a new pattern and the yarns dyed again with another color. This process may be repeated multiple times to produce elaborate, multicolored patterns. When the dyeing is finished all the bindings are removed and the yarns are woven into cloth. In other resist-dyeing techniques such as tie-dye and batik the resist is applied to the woven cloth, whereas in *ikat* the resist is applied to the yarns before they are woven into cloth. Because the surface design is created in the yarns rather than on the finished cloth, in *ikat* both fabric faces are patterned.

The *adras* and *atlas* is used to make male and female clothing including home fabrics such





as curtains, pillow case etc.

The *adras* and *atlas* are woven in various sizes regular or also called *odmiyona* which has a width of 40 cm the *serbar* ikat has 70 cm width and *kambar* is woven in 26 cm width. The ikat (*atlas* and *adras*) workshops either buy ready dyes threads. In traditional workshops they use natural dyes extracted from plants and they resistance is improved by adding different oil or fats.

Ikat fabrics are produced in both traditional small family-owned workshops as well as in industrialized factories. Usually the quality of the fabrics differs from the weaver's skills, dyes and size. The traditional workshops in addition to the weavers also have dye-master who is responsible

to dye the loom according to the pattern he has in mind. The patterns are taken from the natural world and also traditional jewelries of the Tajik people.

In industries about 30 types of ikat both pure silk loom and mixed or cotton threads are made. The ikat fabrics depending on their origin have their individual names such as «Tajikistan's spring»; «Rainbow» and «Wedding» etc.

Ikat fabrics are found in every household and that is considered to be traditional fabric to make traditional costumes. In recent years in Khujand city a new tradition Atlas Festival was born where the traditional and workshops and factories bring the samples of their ikat fabrics for display and sale.