

Rug and Kilim Motifs

Scorpion: Repeated use of the scorpion motif means the rug was woven as a means of protection against malice. The scorpion can also be used as a symbol of pride and liberty.

Eye: The evil eye motif itself is used in the same way an animal is depicted on a rug in order to control it or to reduce its effect.

Dragon: The dragon is a mythological creature whose feet are like the lion's, whose tail is like a snake and who has wings. The Turks of Central Asia stylized the dragon with a beak, wings, and a lion's feet. Believed to be a great serpent, the dragon is the guardian and protector of treasures and secret objects as well as the tree of life. The dragon is the sacred imaginary animal of the sea, sky, mountains, and forests. It is a symbol of power, force, and might because of its ability to produce flames from its mouth as well as by its supernatural appearance. The dragon also offers specific protection from the sting of the scorpion.

Fertility: The fertility motif contains the hands on hips and ram's horn motifs used together to denote a man and a woman. An eye motif in the middle is used to protect the family against the evil eye.



scorpion



comb



eye



fertility



star



dragon



amulet



burdock



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Comb: The hand, finger, and comb motifs are very similar. All are used against spells and the evil eye. The use of this theme dates back to very early times. The fingers on the hand number five, which is considered a lucky number.

The comb motif is largely related to marriage and birth. When used against the evil eye, it expresses the desire to protect birth and marriage against evil eye.

Star: The star motif, though it generally symbolizes happiness, can represent the womb, thus it may mean fertility as well.

Amulet: The Muska is a triangular package containing a sacred verse carried by the tribal people for protection. When woven into a rug, it serves as an amulet, conferring protection by its presence.

Burdock: The burdock, a plant with burrs that stick to clothing and animal hair, is believed to avert the evil eye. It is also a symbol of abundance.

Elibelinde: The hands on hips is a very common and widely used motif. It symbolizes the mother goddess, a mother with child in womb, fertility, abundance or the hope of giving birth to healthy children, and the productivity of animals and plants.



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