

seen hung either on the interior walls of houses or on children's chests to protect them from the envious eye ('ain el hasood). The white shell of an egg was also hung on newly-constructed houses for the same purpose. Onion and garlic peels were also suspended on walls. Cana'an writes:

"The Palestinian believes that the gold of demons takes the shape of onion peel and their silver the shape of garlic peelings. People who were rewarded by the djinn used to disdain this apparently worthless gift and threw it away. They always regretted their mistake but too late" (Cana'an, 1928: 162).

Of course, most onion and garlic peelings were indeed thrown away, but on special occasions, such as the construction of a new house, onion and garlic peel were hung on the house door in order to pacify the djinn and prevent their entering the house.

The appearance of greenish light at dusk, or at night in certain locations, was a sign indicating that the site was inhabited by some good-natured superhuman power (Cana'an, 1927: 249). Holy men often appeared in their green garments. Tombs of holy saints were often covered with green cloths. Green branches of trees were also hung on doors indicating a desire for prosperity and peace.

Henna was, and continues to be, extensively used by the fallaheen both for cosmetic and decorative purposes. Henna was believed to have been used by Fatimah, the daughter of prophet Mohammad, and hence has acquired sanctity.

Below, I briefly refer to some "decorative" elements which acquired certain superstitious and symbolic meanings, pertaining to the driving away of demons. Many of these elements are still in use today.

1. The hand of Fatimah or the hand of the Virgin Mary (Sitna Mariam) was commonly used and was often seen hung or drawn on interior walls.
2. Blue stones (kharazeh zarqa), and blue plates were also used.