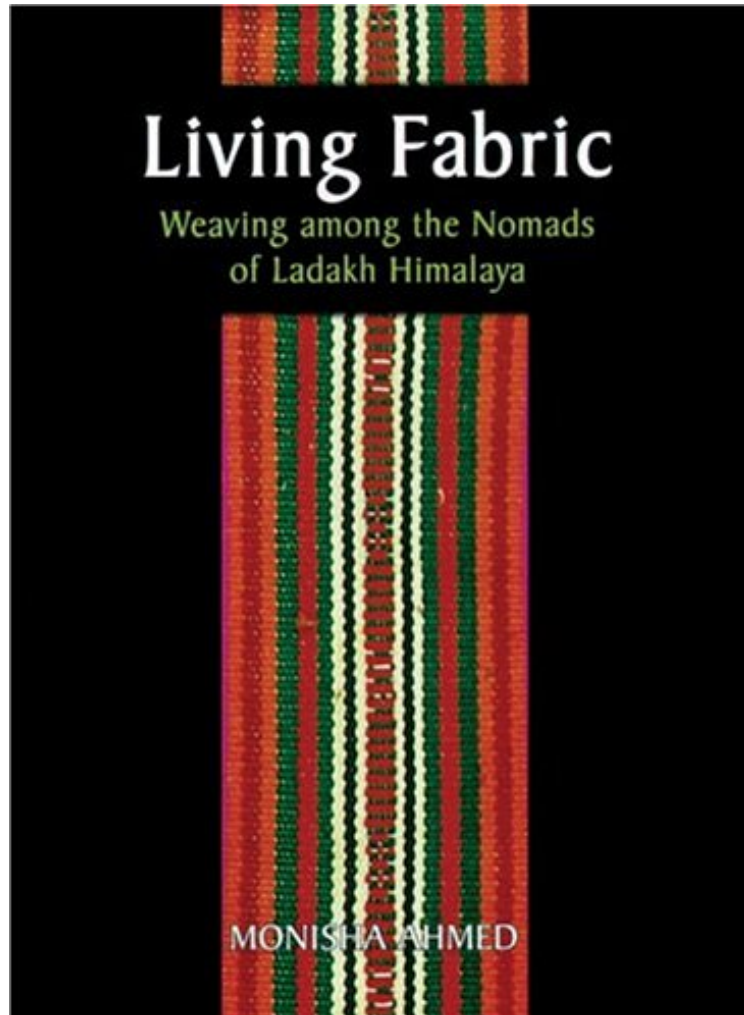


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## **Living Fabric: Weaving Among The Nomads Of Ladakh Himalaya**

**Monisha Ahmed : Living Fabric: Weaving Among The Nomads Of Ladakh Himalaya** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised [Living Fabric: Weaving Among The Nomads Of Ladakh Himalaya](#):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Award Winning BookBy Robb ShepThis book was selected to receive the R.L.Shep Ethnic Textiles Book Award for 2002. The Award is presented annually by the Textile Society of America (TSA) to a publication judged the best book of the year in this field. The purpose of the Award is to encourage the study and understanding of textile traditions by recognizing and rewarding an exceptional study that fosters appreciation for the field of ethnic textiles.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An Amazing BookBy Caroline M. AlexanderThis is one of the saddest books I have read in a long time, and I'm not sure where to

start. On the one hand there is a beautiful and sympathetic account of the weaving traditions of a very obscure Himalayan tribe, that can only increase our understanding of how important weaving is to cultural traditions, and how much national identity can be wrapped up in the fabric that is woven. The author is sensitive to the Buddhist beliefs of the nomads, without overwhelming us with trite or ill-informed comments, and this respect for the dignity of the tribes people permeates every page. But on another level this is a terrible indictment of our modern throw-away life-style, and how our thirst for trash, uniformity of ideas, and financial gain can wipe out a society and an ancient way of life in a mere 20 years. Cultural and economic genocide is not a pretty subject, and I suspect that in years to come this book, and others like it, will be studied by anthropologists and historians trying to piece together the strands that once held ancient cultures together, because western society will have wiped them from the face of the earth in pursuit of the almighty dollar. Should you buy it? Its a must for anyone with a social conscience. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Useful but not Engaging By Ronald The big plus of this book is that there simply isn't any other source material easily available on the subject. The book represents the author's Ph.D. research and thesis, and it bears the marks of being such a project -- rather rigidly organized and a bit lifeless in its prose style. A good place to get information, but not a particularly engaging experience.

This is the first study of the tradition of weaving among the nomadic pastoralists of Rupshu, in eastern Ladakh. Weaving touches all aspects of life in Rupshu, where both women and men weave, each on a different type of loom. Local narrative states that the craft of weaving was bestowed upon Rupshu by the gods, and thus all feats related to it have a close connection to the sublime. This book documents and analyses the ways in which fibers, weaving, and textiles are symbolized, constructed, and experienced in Rupshu where themes such as gender, kinship, hierarchical and spatial relations find ready expression through the design and making of cloth. Through her work the author traces the relationship between livestock, weaving, social and symbolic structures in order to understand the multitude of contexts within which wool-oriented activities exist. Richly illustrated, this book will appeal to those with an interest in textiles, nomads, gender studies, and the Himalaya.

About the Author Monisha Ahmed has been visiting and writing about the Himalayan region of Ladakh since 1987. She is co-founder of the Ladakh Arts and Multi-cultural Outreach Trust, a non-government organization that works with the arts in Ladakh and is in the process of establishing a locally based arts resource center in Leh.