

# PAISLEY PATTERN (1)

The teardrop pattern known as **PAISLEY** is **Indian** in origin, but its name is taken from a town in Scotland - **PAISLEY**. Paisley was a major site for the production of printed cotton and wool in the 19th Century.

**Paisley Pattern** is one of the most recognized patterns in the world. The pattern resembles a large **COMMA** shape. **Original Paisley Pattern often combines a teardrop shaped stylised flower or leaf from the INDIAN BODHI TREE.** This is a type of cypress or mango tree.

**The pattern can be traced back more than 2,000 years** There are many theories about the bodhi/ boteh motif; **Paisley Museum** says the pattern can be traced back to **ancient Iran**, where a tear-drop shape was used as a symbol to represent the growing shoot of a date palm. The palm provided food, drink, clothing (woven fibers) and shelter, and so became regarded as the 'Tree of Life', with its growing shoot being gradually recognized as a fertility symbol.

It has also been suggested that Paisley pattern represents **FRACTALS** (geometric/ mathematical forms and patterns). The Paisley pattern also looks similar to half of the **Chinese Yin - Yang** symbol.

**Iran** is most often cited as its first home, but **India** and neighbouring countries also used the design long before it was seen worldwide.

The design was copied from costly silk and cotton Kashmir (Indian) shawls. These shawls feature a floral motif called **BODHI/BOTEH or BUTA**.

Shawls were brought back by Scottish soldiers serving in India, and later brought to the UK by members of the **East India Shipping company in the middle of the 18th century.** **Kashmir Shawls cost around £50 - a huge sum of money at that time.**

As a result, these shawls were copied by British textile manufacturers who sold them for a tenth of the price (£5).

**Bodhi Leaf**



**Paisley Pattern Motif**



**Yin Yang Symbol**



**Fractal**



**Paisley Pattern Shawl**