



## Thobe Abu Qutbeh

### Date

ca. 1850

### Primary Maker

Artist not recorded

### Medium

silk

### Description

Thobe (dress) with long triangle sleeves, alternating green and red stripes. Gold accent to top of sleeves. Old #3370

Thōb Abū Qutbeh (ca. 1850) (Fig. 15) This simple, but elegant wedding dress is made of handwoven pieces (Ar., sheqaq or sheqqāt) of green, red, and, on the sleeves only, gold silk. They are seamed together to form vertical stripes with Cretan stitching in green, red, yellow, blue, and white silk thread, the color of which changes at equal intervals. In Jerusalem such a dress was called abu qutbeh (“the stitched one”). In Bethlehem it was called thōb sheqqāt (“the dress of pieces”) or thōb shuqqa (“the piece dress”). With the exception of the modest qabbeh, there is no embroidery on this dress. The qabbeh consists of several concentric frames of scalloped silk appliqué in green, red, and yellow. The center is left blank. There is no diyāl muqaṣṣabeh, the brocaded back hem panel found on Bethlehem dresses of this type. The silk tassels on the end of the neckline cord constitute the only other adornment on this dress. Length: 139 cm. Width: 92.5 cm. (Palestinian Costume and Jewelry, Yedida Kalfon Stillman, 1979 ISBN: 0-82630490-7)