

Accession NO. : HBFOLK - 16

Mina grew up in a small village in what is now present-day Bangladesh. Her family was known for their exquisite textiles, with her father as a skilled weaver and her mother an accomplished spinner. One day, while gathering cotton, Mina overheard travelers discussing a new weaving technique called jamdani. This technique involved weaving a pattern into the fabric using a discontinuous weft technique. Intrigued, Mina begged her father to teach her the technique, but he was hesitant, as it was difficult and time-consuming.

Determined to learn, Mina turned to her mother, who agreed to teach her in secret. For months, Mina practiced tirelessly, working late into the night to perfect her technique. Her hard work paid off, as her jamdani creations quickly gained attention for their intricate designs and fine, lacy patterns. As her reputation grew, Mina dreamed of creating a masterpiece that would showcase her talents and bring her family great honor. She decided to create a six-border muslin sari patterned with jamdani. The sari would have a white ground with indigo butis in the field, indigo borders, and four corner kalkas (two at each end).

Mina poured her heart and soul into every warp and weft, taking great care to select the finest materials and weave each pattern with precision and care. Finally, the sari was finished, and Mina presented it to her father with tears in her eyes. He praised her for her hard work and dedication, amazed by her skill.

But their joy was short-lived, as a neighboring kingdom invaded their village, burning and destroying everything in their path. Mina's family fled, taking only the clothes on their backs and the sari with them. For years, they wandered, searching for a new home and a new life. Mina clung to the sari, knowing that it was the only thing she had left of her old life. She wrapped it carefully in a cloth and carried it with her wherever she went. Finally, after many long years, Mina's family settled in a new village, and they began to rebuild their lives.

Mina continued to weave, creating new designs and experimenting with new techniques. But she never forgot the sari she had created so long ago, and she longed to see it once again. One day, while she was out selling her textiles in the market, Mina saw a woman wearing a sari that looked strangely familiar.

She approached the woman and asked to see the sari. When she saw it, she knew immediately that it was her own creation. Tears streamed down Mina's face as she looked at the sari, remembering the countless hours she had spent weaving. She realized that her talent and hard work had not gone unnoticed, and that her masterpiece had survived the destruction of her village.

Years later, the sari became a part of the Craft Museum Collection in New Delhi. Visitors from all over the world marveled at the intricate details and delicate patterns of the sari, and it became a symbol of the rich textile traditions of Bangladesh.

