

LALSIWALA SHASHAR BOU



THE GREEDY FARMER'S WIFE

ROHINGYA STORY-THREADING COLLECTION

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Kissa gaan hoil fultuli yore Zaheda Begum
Narrated and embroidered by Zaheda Begum



ROHINGYA
CULTURAL
MEMORY
CENTRE

ROHINGYA
KIMOTI
ROSOMOR
GHOR



FORISO

Doshan yaat garir rosomor kissa ar gura halor yaat gari okkol, kissa innawre hoye de Rohingya rosomor yaat garir zagat fultolar habil okkole. Fotti ekkan kissa ye zibonor ekkan sobok de, shomazhor otoba nizor nizor, arkanor tarar chondo halor zibon zabon nore turamura dehaa.

Arkanor gaang zagat, Rohingya kissa hoiya okkol fukor mazor (Middle East) molluk loi mil ashil, Rakhine razawin, ar Bengali fuths. Itarar zubanor rosom, rosomor kissa okkole dawila bodoilla asor goribo kiyalla boli hoile tara ek fissan ottu ar ek fissan tai goijje de ettolla. Fhunoya okkolle kessu kissa mil faibo, ar anka ar fultola hator ham diye hamore zinda rakibolla Rohingya fultoloya maya fuain dore.

Saba tuloya kabil zetarare tuaiyore fai ye etharare CMC maze raikke, Saleha Akter Urmi ek bosoror owore doshwa ibar fultolar dair maya fuain loi ham goijje, notun kabiliyoti unnoti gori bolla modot gori tarar bafaa raki bolla kula hala shojuk diye, sabar zoriye tara nizere nize zahir gori bolla. CMC maze hibar yaat garir kissa okkol bishi moshur shundor. Ay shun doizza hator fultola ar hator horloi silaye de kithab okkol ash foijjontor tarar moksot ola projet.

“Anr ratto beshi kissa okkol hoi bolla ase. Ennan ekkan bala shozuk anrar gura halore mehsus gori bolla, ar anrar fuain dolla kessu sawli rakiballa,” fultolar habil okkole hoiye de, zetara neki ek maa shor owore hator ham gojil ar hefazot gori rakil yaat gari la kissa dollagori yore.

INTRODUCTION

Threading Stories is a collection of ten folktales and childhood memories, narrated and stitched by the embroidery artists of the Rohingya Cultural Memory Centre. Each story imparts a life lesson, whether social or personal, and represents a piece of their childhoods in Arakan.

In rural Arakan, Rohingya storytellers were familiar with many Middle Eastern *kissa*, Rakhine *razawin*, and Bengali *futhi*. Stories were passed down from generation to generation through oral storytelling, changing and taking on different influences with each generation's retellings. Audiences may find some of the tales familiar, while the drawings and *fultola* (embroidery) artwork offer a refreshingly original rendition by Rohingya women artisans.

As the founding artist-in-residence of the CMC, Saleha Akhter Urmi spent over a year working closely with the ten women of her embroidery group, helping them develop new skills, give free rein to their imaginations, and express themselves through art. *Threading Stories* is a capstone to her work at the CMC. These beautiful handstitched and hand-bound cloth books are their most ambitious project to date.

“We have many stories to tell. This was a good opportunity to relive our childhoods, and to preserve something for our children,” says the embroidery artists, who spent over a month creating the artwork and covers for the *Threading Memories* narrative collection.

Agor zobatan maze here uggwa shasha ashil zeniki kushi gori
taitau hitar fawribaror fuwati.

Once upon a time there was a farmer who lived happily
with his family.



Fottin biyanna, hitar guru tun modod loi yore hite halsoi tou.

Every morning, he ploughed the field with help from his cow.



Hitar bou ye kuragin nore sai tou bade gorgan soil tou.

His wife looked after the chickens and ran
the household.



Ekdin hibaye uggwa shunar anda fail hibar kura okkol lor bitor tun kura uggwa ye fajil de hiba ye anda hiba re hibar zamaire bishi kushi gore de hail.

One day, she found a golden egg laid by one of the chickens. She showed it to her husband with great excitement.



Shasha waye torature gori bazar rot gil goi shunar anda hiba
bisi balla bade hiba maze bala dam fail.

The farmer immediately went to the market to sell the
golden egg and received a good price for it.



Tarfod din biyana hitar bou ye shunar anda eggwa dil bade hite bazar rot anda hiba re ar ekbar besil.

Next morning, his wife gave him another golden egg and he again sold it at the market.



Kura waye fotti din uggwa uggwa shunar anda fait tou shasha
waye fottin bazar rot zai besi yorey tiya hamai tou.

The chicken laid a golden egg every day and the farmer
went to the market daily to earn more money.



Ekdin niya, zamai re anda dedde hetunot hibaye hoil de: “Zodi ara anda besh fai tiya yo besh hamai fajjum. Ai bafidde kura hibar bitore beshi anda tai bou.” Ara ayed de hail liya kura ibare mari fela yum bade shunar anda begun nore dola gojjum.

One day, while giving the egg to her husband she said:
“We can earn more money if we get more eggs. I think there are many eggs inside the chicken. We can butcher the chicken tomorrow and collect all the golden eggs.”
The farmer thought about it for a while and finally agreed.



Besh shunar anda faibo de arsha iyan loi, tarfod din biyan niya kura ware mari felaye.

Next morning they killed the chicken in hope to find more golden eggs.



Fereshanot saate, here kissu nai. Shasha waye buzi fajil hitar bodda golti ganore kintuk kurawa morigiyo. Hite ekdin not maze uggwa anda fai tou, zodi hite lalsi wala jodi boni noi tou bade mari no felai tou.

Sadly, there were none. The farmer realized his grave mistake but the chicken was already dead. He would have a golden egg a day, if he did not become greedy and kill it.



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