

One of the most important experiences of my life has been working with Nirav. He is passionate about Kala Cotton and handmade textiles. His dedication and hard work to deliver many metres of beautiful hand spun and hand woven fabric to me never wavered.

In September 2020, E.Y.H.O. Newsletter, reported "Indian weavers face unprecedented hardship due to the pandemic lockdown". I read a little more. E.Y.H.O. had set up a direct link to the Indian weavers so people like me, had a way to make a difference. I felt relief. I had a way to help.

Now at the same time, I was in the middle of building a new home. The juxtaposition of my life in lockdown and the weavers in India got me thinking.

I need fabric, and lots of it. The fabric houses in North America can not keep up with the demand. The handmade fabric from India is beautiful and the Indian weavers are desperate for business. I reached out to Shila and asked, are any of these artisans able to make large volumes of fabric? Shila paused then said pensively, "I believe so, let me check".

Before you know it, I was texting back and forth with Nirav. I was scared at first. I had so many questions. Does he know enough English to understand me? Is he going to be able to do quality control of the fabric to my North American standards? I definitely had to make a leap of faith. I thought, if Shila trusts him, then I will.

Within 2 weeks of my first contact with Nirav, I had around 30 samples of different weaves of Kala Cotton. A couple of weeks later, I ordered 45 metres as a test. I needed to see the quality over many metres. I needed to understand how long it would take to get to me. What kind of import duties would I face....

Within in 8 days, the fabric was made. I was flabbergasted. I asked Nirav how was this made so fast. He told me a village has not had work for a year and they were thrilled to have the work. He said "you have feed a village". I was gobsmacked again.

Within a couple of weeks, I received the fabric. There was no duty on this raw material (fabric), shipping cost was way less than I expected (Nirav shopped around to get the best shipping cost), and to top it off the fabric is lovely. There are fine coloured thread every few metres marking a new weaver starting (I love this). It had been washed but Nirav told me to wash and dry it in the machine 2X to get the remainder of the starch out of it. There was very little shrinkage.

There were some minor flaws that I told Nirav about. He took this so seriously and travelled to the weavers and spoke with them all.

I then ordered another 300 metres. In about a month and half I had received the remainder of the fabric. Unbelievable! This fabric is beautiful.

I am so thankful to Nirav who walked me through each step. His knowledge and his careful attention to making everything right is very impressive.

I am honoured the weavers worked so hard to make this spectacular fabric for me. I am beyond thrilled.

Nirav made this happen.

Thanks Nirav!
Cathy Griggs

