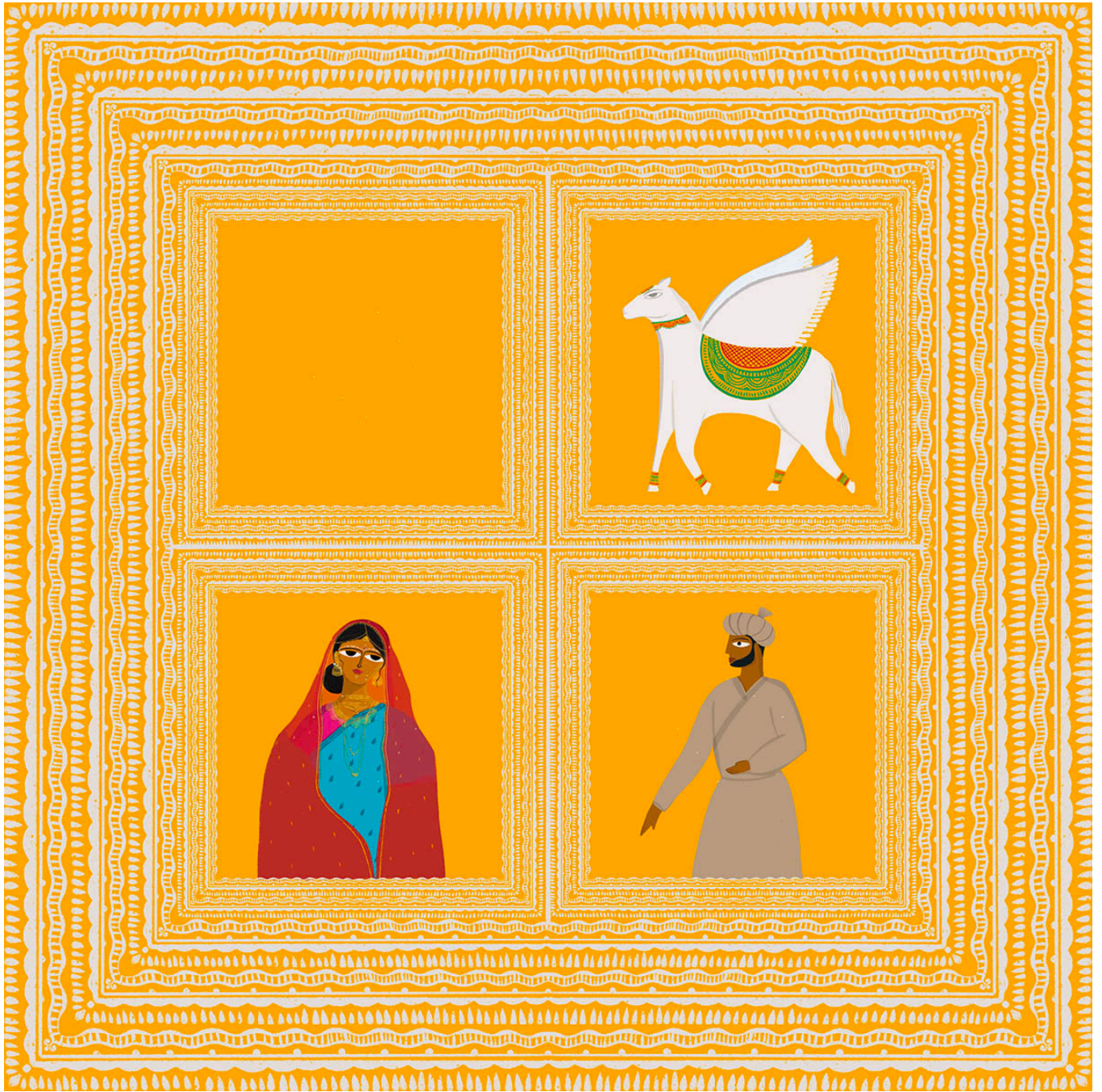


## The Story Scroll

Before there were movies, eBooks or even storybooks, there were Pattachitra's. Pattachitra's are scrolls with stories and drawings. Stories of olden times. This story is about Pir Gazi's story written in a 200 year old Pattachitra.



The Story Scroll  
HerStory Foundation

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# Let's Read



**The Asia Foundation**



This is a story told in pictures more than words - a pattachitra. It tells the tale of Gazi Pir, a wandering saint who lived a long time ago. It is a great adventure with fire-breathing crocodiles and flying horses. It is a tale of love and glory.



Gazi Pir knew all the languages in the world and could even speak to animals. One day he met the ferocious Bengal tiger. Just as it was about to eat him, Gazi Pir said, "I have never seen such fine fur as yours. Do you mind if I sit on your back? I have been walking for so long." The tiger, flattered, let the saint sit on her back. From then on, the saint rode on the tiger everywhere he went.



One day, Gazi Pir came across a cobra. It was just about to bite him when Gazi Pir hissed a sweet compliment about the snake's pretty eyes. The snake became his walking stick.

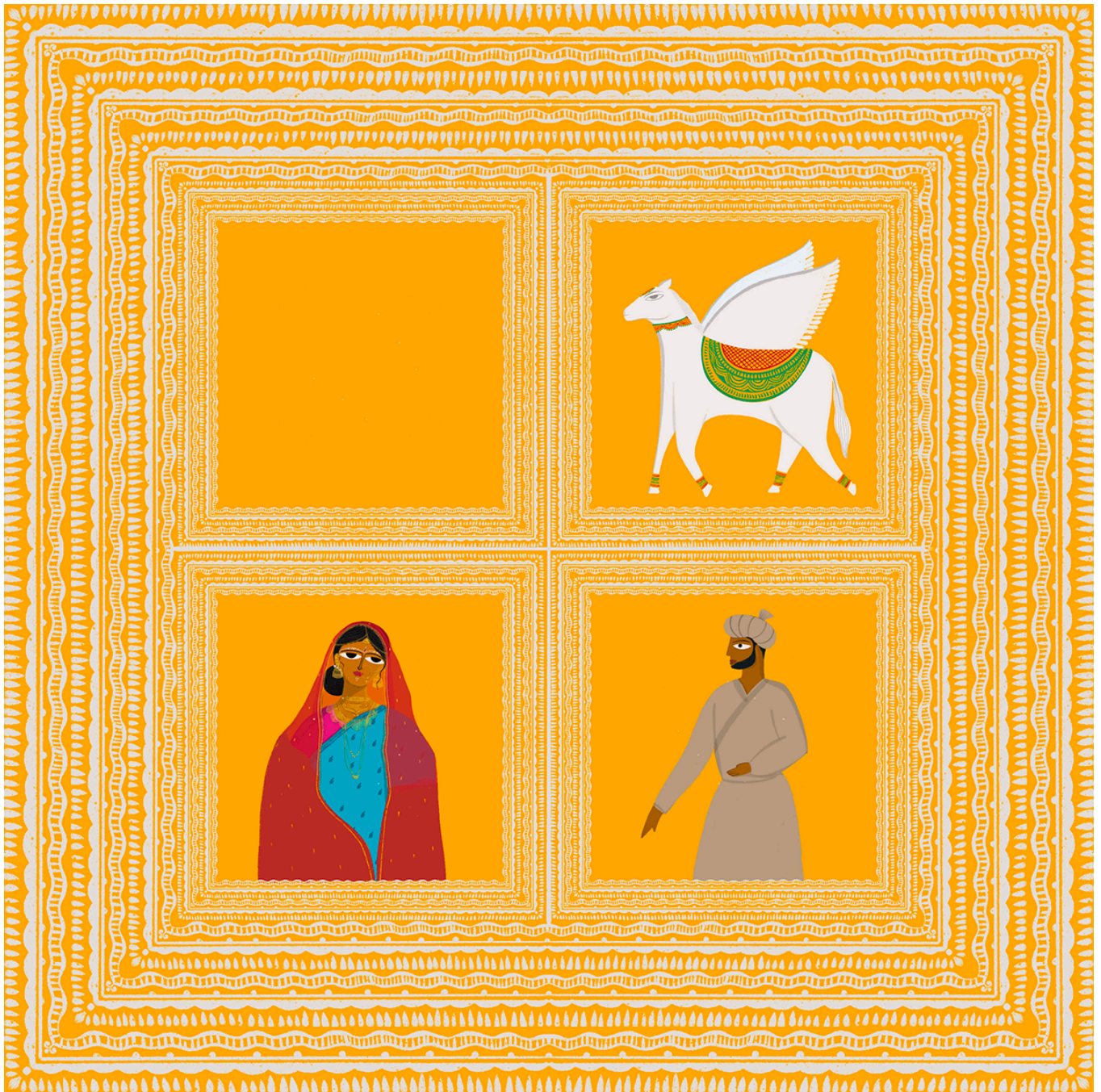


Gazi Pir was so loved that the sultan offered to make him prince. But the saint thought it would be boring and said no. He got on his tiger and rode all the way to the Sundarbans mangrove forest. There, Gazi Pir became the king of the beasts.



One day, Gazi Pir fell in love with the princess of a neighboring kingdom. The King was against his daughter marrying a Pir and started a war. But his soldiers had no chance against Gazi Pir's army of alligators, boars and tigers. After a long and hard fight, the saint won and married his beloved princess.





Note Before the cinema, and even before storybooks, stories were sung and acted out. Storytellers, travelled from town to town to put on amazing performances about great adventures, terrible monsters and courageous heroes. In Bengal, the travelling storyteller would unroll a long piece of fabric, called a Pattachitra, on which the story was drawn, scene by scene. The storyteller would point to an image and sing his wondrous tale. The Gazi Scroll, a type of Pattachitra, was drawn more than 200 years ago and is 13 meters long. It tells of the adventures of Gazi Pir who travels across Bengal and meets many people and

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fantastic creatures.



Wonderful WordsPattachitra -a scroll story. Like a comic book, but drawn on a long piece of canvas which can be rolled into a tube to make it easier to carry. Pir - a saint

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