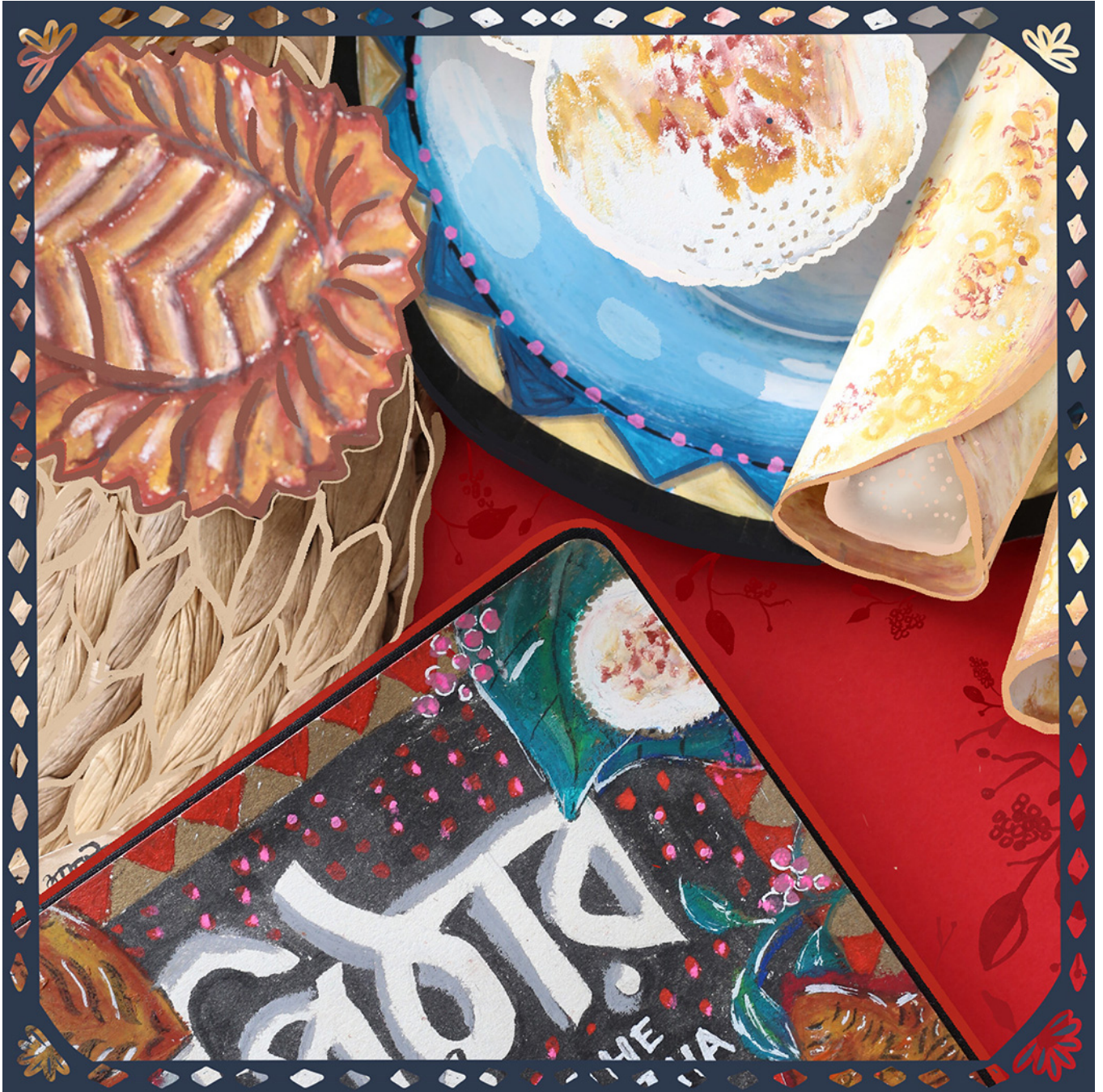




The Pitha Book

The Pitha Book is a mini directory of pithas, or traditional rice cakes, which can be round, syrupy, colourful and fancy. You can read about a few of the pithas among over a hundred varieties available across Bangladesh.



The Pitha Book
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My favorite book is the Pitha Book , written by Ma. Even though I can't read, I look at the pictures and remember when she made each rice cake.



BHAPA PITHA (The snow clouds) This rice cake means that winter is here. When Ma makes this cake the steam mixes with the fog and the house turns into a gur cloud. We wait eagerly as she serves the hot cakes directly into our palms.



PATISHAPTA (Baby in a Blanket) Whenever I am not feeling well, Ma makes this rice cake to lift my spirits. She says this pitha, which is a soft roll stuffed with sweet cream, is full of comfort and makes even the hardest days better, like cuddling up in a well-loved blanket.



CHITA RUTI PITHA (The Fishing Net) This pitha is like a fishing net. It is 70 %air and 30 %rice flour, but 10 0% delicious. Ma makes this pitha when my sister comes to visit from college. She serves it with chicken and potatoes and there are never any leftovers.



NAKSHI PITHA (Happiness)Ma made this pitha for Bhaiya's wedding. It is very pretty and looks like the designs on Ma's sari. She let me help her make the patterns, and told me that each pitha would add a year of sweetness to my brother's life. I stayed up all night, making pitha after pitha.



Note Pithas are traditional rice cakes which come in many strange shapes and textures - wrinkly, curly, round, soft, hard, sweet, savory, salty. Some are soaked in sweet syrup. Some are dry and crispy. Some are salty and spicy. Some are cold, and some are steaming hot. Pithas are a favorite snack and dessert all across Bangladesh. There are more than 100 different types.



Wonderful WordsGur - molasses

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