

## The Spiritual Power of Lotus Fabric

Dr. Neerja Gupta

*Dr. of Philosophy in Home Science (Textile & Clothing) from Dr Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya Sagar,  
Madhya Pradesh, India*

*Add: C-903, Gauri Ganesh Apartment, Himachali CGHS Society, Sector – 03, Dwarka, New Delhi – 110075*

---

### ABSTRACT

Eco-textiles refer to all fabrics, clothing and accessories that have been manufactured, produced, and processed in an environmentally - conscious manner. This manner reduces any negative impact in the form of pollution or damage to the planet. “Eco-friendly” is the new and emerging term in today’s life. Many new fibres are introduced to have a sustainable and environment friendly future for next generation. Working in the same direction one such upcoming fibre is the lotus fibre which can also be used as a **Spiritual Fibre**.

**KEYWORDS:** Samatua Lotus Textiles, Natural microfiber, Spirituality

---

Date of Submission: 06-07-2020

Date of Acceptance: 20-07-2020

---

### I. INTRODUCTION

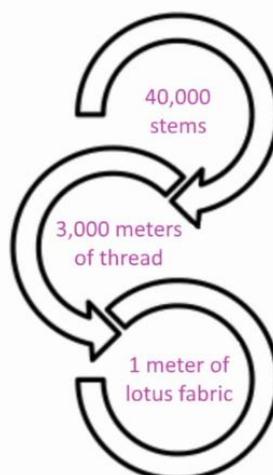
Lotus fabric has unique properties: it is naturally soft, light, especially breathable, and almost wrinkle free. It is also a very eco-friendly fabric containing no chemicals or toxic products. It’s probably the most ecological fabric in the world. We transform a stem that would have turned to waste into a quality textile, while not using any polluting energy during the entirety of the production process.

Extracting fibers from lotus stems have been in practice since 1910. Later during the 90’s designers of Japan setup workshops to create a foreign market for their fabric.

But due to low demand in Japan, lotus fiber fabric remained a rare and handmade textile

### II. THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS

The entire process of fiber extraction, spinning it into yarn and making the fabric is completely handmade making the process time consuming. This also limits the quantity of the fabric produced. Stems of the lotus plants are collected, cut, snapped, and twisted to expose its fibers. These are thin and white filaments around 20 to 30 in number. These thin filaments are rolled into a single thread. Around 20-25 women are needed to extract fibers this way for one weaver to work with.



Fibers extracted from the stem are spun into yarn. Extracted fibers are placed in the skeins on a bamboo spinning frame preparing them for warping. Yarns are made by placing the fibers on a bamboo spinning frame and transferring the thread into winders for warping. With much care, not to get tangles, threads are made; up to 40 meters long. The threads are then taken from the warping posts are coiled into huge plastic bags. Yarns for the weft are wound into bamboo bobbins.



Fabrics are woven in the traditional Cambodian loom. Excess warp is stored and is later released during the course of weaving. The woven fabric has a width of approximately 24 inches. During the process of weaving, threads are frequently moistened with water, as lotus fibers need to be kept cool. Around 1, 20,000 lotus stems are required to make fabrics adequate for making a costume. The fibers are very delicate and should be woven within 24 hours of being extracted so as to prevent its deterioration.



### **III. EXCEPTIONAL PROPERTIES**

- 3.1 Light weight
- 3.2 Soft touch
- 3.3 Silky hand
- 3.4 Especially breathable
- 3.5 Wrinkle resistant
- 3.6 Piling resistance
- 3.7 Tearing and tensile strength

According to a test report realized in 2016 by IFTH (the French Textile and Clothing Institute)

---

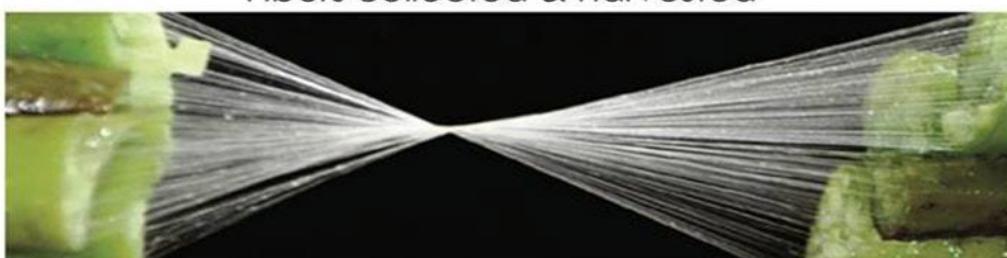
## HOW LOTUS FABRIC IS MADE

---

Stems harvested



Fibers collected & harvested



Fibers meticulously rolled into thread ready to be hand woven using traditional Thai or Burmese frame looms.



**G.O.T.S. CERTIFIED**

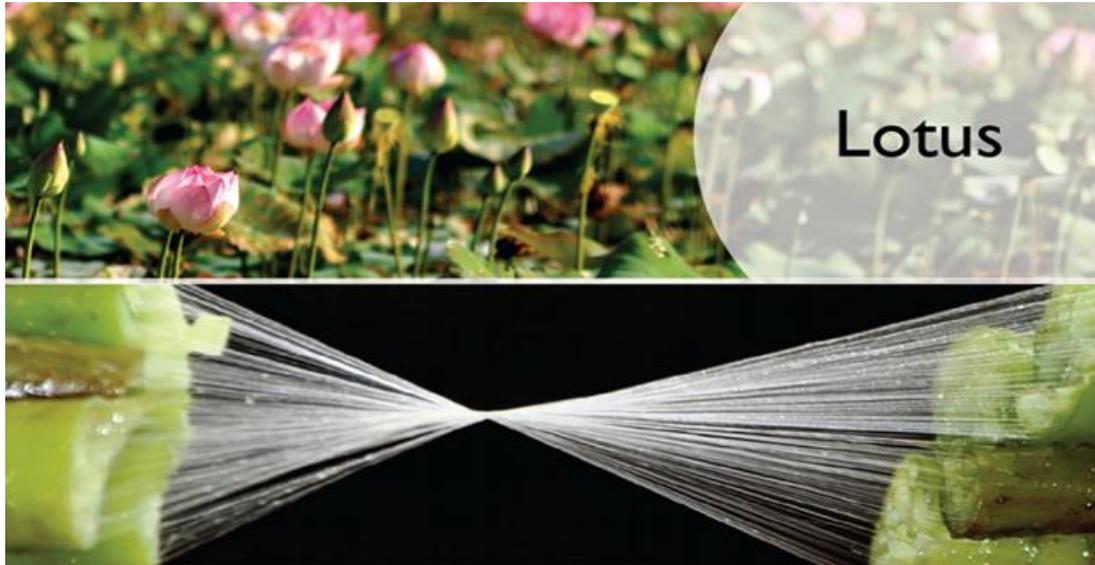
---

### **IV. THE MOST ECOLOGICAL FABRIC:**

- 4.1 A WASTE (LOTUS STEMS) TRANSFORMED INTO A QUALITY TEXTILE
- 4.2 NO CHEMICAL OR TOXIC PRODUCT
- 4.3 HAND SPUN AND HAND WOVEN FOLLOWING TRADITIONAL CAMBODIAN METHODS
- 4.4 NO USE OF NON-RENEWABLE ENERGY

## **V. THE RESULTING TEXTILE HAS MANY UNIQUE QUALITIES THAT MAKE IT SPECIAL.**

The hand of the fabric is like a cross between silk and linen; it is very soft and breathable. Unlike silk and linen however, it is wrinkle resistant. It is also stain-resistant, and due to the plant's aquatic habitat, 100% waterproof.

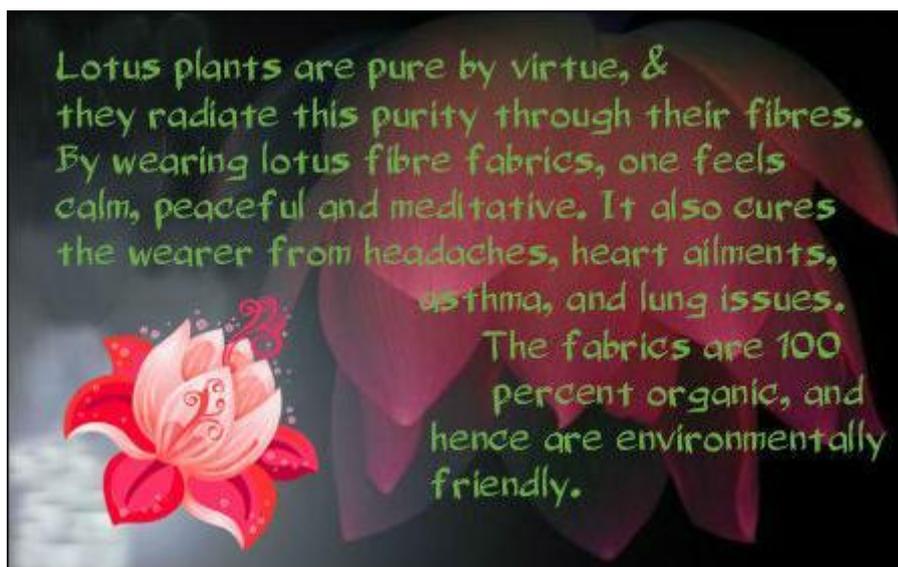


Legends assert lotus as a celestial flower for the Hindus, and Buddhists. Fibers extracted from this divine flower are used for making fabrics with amazing virtues. The lotus flower is adored for its characteristic of rising above the muddy water, indicating how one can rise above defilements of life. Apart from motivation for life, the plant also provides fibers which are used for making a rare kind of cloth matching with the flawless virtues of the silk. Fibers extracted from the lotus flowers of the Myanmar lakes are spun by hand and woven within 24 hours making a fabric similar to silk.



Lotus plant is believed to have healing abilities and wearing a fabric made from lotus fibers is also believed to have the same effects. Lotus plants are pure by virtue, and they radiate this purity through their fibers. By wearing lotus fiber fabrics, one feels calm, peaceful and meditative. It also cures the wearer from headaches, heart ailments, asthma, and lung issues. The fabrics are 100 percent organic, and hence are environmentally friendly.

## VI. CONCLUSION



### **“BE LIKE THE LOTUS, TRUST IN THE LIGHT, GROW THROUGH THE DIRT, BELIEVE IN THE NEW BEGININGS”**

The lotus plant in itself is very inspiring, as it teaches us how to rise from the difficult situations of life. The same goes with lotus fabric as it will help to overcome people from depression. Its production requires almost 24-25 individuals to make it which will also bring employment to our country.

Since the fabric is made from the waste material that is the stems of lotus fibre, it can also be considered as the waste reduction or management. All I want to say that by promoting the production of such fabric in India, we can surely reach at some specific heights which will be really advantageous.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- [1]. fiber to fashion.com
- [2]. online.wsj.com
- [3]. samatao.com
- [4]. samatao.lotus-flower-fabric.com
- [5]. textile & spotlight: Source and eco-friendly lotus
- [6]. textiles worldwide.blogspot.com
- [7]. fashionunited.uk

Dr. Neerja Gupta. “The Spiritual Power of Lotus Fabric.” *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 25(7), 2020, pp. 11-15.