

TRIBAL STUDIES OF INDIA SERIES T 162

# GENESIS OF INDIAN TRIBES

AN APPROACH TO  
THE HISTORY OF  
MEITEIS AND THAIS



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**K.C. TENSUBA**

### The Book

The book is a serious attempt to compile the facts gathered mainly from the Meitei vocabularly and traditional script relating to the historical events occuring from time to time in Manipur in the pre and post-British times.

Manipuris have had a history dating back to their ancestor *NINGTHOU KAANGBA* who ruled during 15th century BC. In his successors were Maharajas, Maharanis, princes and princesses who ascended the throne of Manipur. There were also gaps sometimes when the throne remained vacant and the law and order situation went out of hand. There were occasional invasions from Burma.

The close relationship between China and Manipur has been shown to be established by way of cultural similarities and exchange *viz.* sericulture etc. Various myths and theories have been discussed to find out the origin of the ancestors of the Meiteis. Mongoloid origin of the Manipuris has been emphasised.

In the 19th Century A.D., the fight between the British and the Manipuris has been significantly mentioned. Some Manipur Chiefs joined the British. There were movements at various levels to defend the Motherland. The womenfolk participated vigorously and had to face tyranny of the alien rulers. Finally, British had to bow down. Heroes and warriors who fought and sacrificed their lives for the Motherland are still remembered. Those who are alive have been honoured and rewarded.

The book would be very useful for the students of all disciplines as well as to the scholars of social history who are engaged in research.

### The Author

Mr. Keertichand Tensuba (*b.* 1927) was the founder Secretary of the Manipur Sericulture and Silk Industrial Society. After receiving training in Sericulture in 1955 he was appointed Sericulture Demonstrator during 1956 by the Manipur State Government. He was promoted to the post of Farm Overseer in 1960. He was again deputed for training in Sericulture in 1962 by the State Government at the All India Sericulture Training Institute, Mysore. He got a series of promotions as Farm Manager, Inspector, Superintendent (Seri), Asst. Director (Seri) and finally as Dy. Director of Sericulture/Tasarculture (1982-91) in which post he retired on 31 August 1991.

Mr. Keertichand Tensuba has written about ten books on religion and philosophy. He also writes poems in Meitei language.

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# GENESIS OF INDIAN TRIBES

(An approach to the History of Meiteis and Thais)



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Besides, my humble thanks are due to those elders and forerunners who left some footprints, at least, in respect of the Meiteis viz. Thongaak Kurumba, M. Kainou Irengba, M. Khaagemba, Louremba Khongnaang Thaaba, Angom Gopi, Gopiraam Singh, Madhopraam, Chirom Shyamraam, Oinam Anandaraam, etc. of the old generation and L. Ibungohal Singh, Shri N. Khelchandra Singh, R.K. Sanahal Singh, L. Shyamjai Singh, Shri L. Jogeswar Singh, Shri Nongthonbam Angou Luwang, Mutuwa Bahadur, Shri W. Ibohal Singh, Oinam Bhogeswor Singh etc. of the later generation from among the Manipuris and Mr. Rendel, Sir James Johnstone, Sir Edward Gait, Mr. B.C. Allen, Mr. R. Brown, Mr. T.C. Hodson, Mrs. Grimwood etc. from among the Europeans and others whose names are forgotten. This work titled Tribal History (approach) could be established only on the basis of footprints left by them.

Suggestions for the betterment in the establishment of a sound Manipur History for the generations to come are always welcome for the next edition.

Thank you all once again.

**K.C. TENSUBA**

(Retired Dy. Director of Sericulture, Manipur)

## PREFACE

### What is History ?

HISTORY is methodical record of public events, past events. It is a course of human affairs, an account of events public or private and systematic accounts of natural phenomena.

### What is Itihaas

Dharmaartha Kaama Mokshaanaamupadesha Samanwitam Purbabritam Kathaayuktamitihaasang Prachakshate—a verse in Sanskrit cites *Dharma* means the code of conduct, *Artha* means wealth, *kamaa* means the desire, *Moksha* means enlightenment, *Upadesha* means advice on the said matters, *Purbabritam* means of the past and so is called Itihaas.

### What is Pu-Waari

The sequence of events of the origin of life has been detailed as to how and when and through which channel the so-called ‘myself’ “I am” was brought about is known as *Pu-Waari*. *Pu* means those Grand-father, Great-grandfather and Great-great-grand-father etc. through whom my blood which means “I am” was successively descended from the first one, who is known as *Apokpa*. *Waari* means story. It is according to the belief of the Meitei, who are also known as Manipuri now-a-days.

Generally, History, Itihaas and Pu-waari were considered equivalent and transcribed one for the other though the main objectives are different from each other. The first one namely History is interested in recording events, the second one, Itihaas, is interested in dealing with the code of conduct, wealth and desire whereas the third one *i.e.* Pu-waari is interested in recording the phases of origin of human life and its successive stages. The materials or the informations to record these objectives are more or less common to all the three. It may be because of this reason that each one transcribes for the other. But in fact the approach was originally different in spite of modern attempts for amalgamation with a view to keep under the same heading of borrowed term known as History.

The main thrust of this book is to bridge the train of events found mainly in the Meitei's vocabulary and partly with the traditional scripts where the sense of originality was always contemplated with the modern History. However, it may serve the purpose of a welcome channel for both the East and the West.

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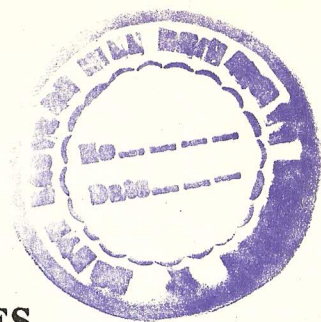
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