

G. K. GHOSH
SHUKLA GHOSH
FABLES AND FOLK TALES
OF
TRIPURA



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G. K. GHOSH, a graduate in Chemical Engineering is a prolific writer who wrote over 15 books on environment, anthropology, women development, literature, beekeeping and so on. He had presented over 20 papers in the section of anthropology and archeology in Indian Science Congress. He had also written articles, poems etc., in Oriya, Bengali and English published in various periodicals. He was posted for over four years in North Eastern India therefor he could collect a number of folk tales of the region.

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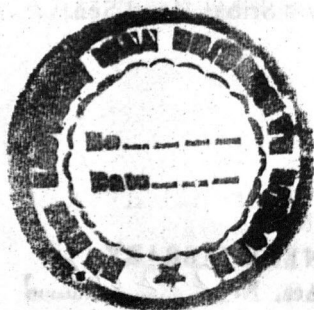
Tripura is a unique state situated in North-Eastern Region of India with characteristic of its own. It has its own culture of its tribes who are the son of the soil while the culture was also influenced by immigrants from neighbouring Bangladesh, Mynamar and Assam.

This created a resultant culture which created its own legends and folk tales. The book gives 62 fables and folktales of tribal Tripura. These stories are not merely fictions but reflect culture of Tripura hence shall be helpful to the scholars of various discipline.

Price : Rs. 175.00

FABLES AND FOLK-TALES OF TRIPURA

G. K. GHOSH
SHUKLA GHOSH



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1
STORY OF MONKEY
(KOLOI)

One day seven sisters went to collect brinjal from their old jhum field. On their returning way, they wished to take bath in a rivulet. Then they kept their clothes on the bank and came down the rivulet for bathing. A monkey was in nearby jungle. Taking the chance, he took away their clothes. After bathing when they got up, they could not find the clothes and looked round for searching it. They found a monkey on a tree top with their clothes. They requested the monkey to give back their clothes, but the monkey did not respond. As they did not get their clothes they tried to cover their breast and vagina by hand but failed. Then the monkey said them to give him one hali (four) brinjal by each of the sisters by coming one step up the tree, and take their clothes one by one. At first the eldest sister gave him brinjal and got back her cloth. Subsequently six sisters got their clothes by giving one hali brinjal each in exchange. When the youngest sister went up some steps for taking her clothes, the monkey told her to get up more and more steps. In this way, the youngest sister went up step by step top of the tree and when the monkey got her within his reach, he held her on the top.

She informed her condition to her sisters. Having no other way, her sisters advised her to marry the monkey. She accepted the proposal being helpless, reluctantly with sorrow after some day by living with the monkey, the youngest sister conceived. She wanted to take some sour food, hence asked the monkey to bring "Latkan fruit" (a sort of sour fruit) from the jungle. The monkey went to jungle to bring that fruit. But after collecting the fruit, he was tempted to eat them. He ate all the fruits and forgot to bring them home. At dusk when he was ready to return home, he saw the basket and remembered his wife. So he filled the basket with the peels of the fruit and returned home. Seeing the peels his wife was angry and scolded him for being selfish.

After a few days she gave birth to a son. The son was named Tate. A few days later the wife again sent the monkey to bring the fruits from a distant jungle. Meanwhile, the girl ran away with her son availing this chance to her father's house. When the monkey returned at the end of the day with a basket full of Neora fruit, he could not find his wife and his beloved son,

Tate. Seeing them nowhere the monkey set out with a "Khanjani" (a sort of musical instrument) by singing

"Dunidang durang dunidang anitatema

Biyang thang

Bwchha totemano bhate rui

Nokkhai Sukui thang harte rui

Dachha damaro twite rui".

(Meaning : O! darling and beloved son Tate. Where are you? Taking the child on your lap and a beautiful basket. Where have you gone.)

So singing and searching, the monkey one day reached his father-in-law's house. The people there wanted to kill the monkey. But they made a beautiful plan for killing the monkey. Keeping the monkey under completely dark about the plan, he was fed nice and tasteful food. At night he was said to sleep in a broken platform under the platform, there were dogs and boars and the platform was full of holes. When the monkey went to sleep a bit away, so that their child would not be hurt in sleeping. The monkey drunk sufficient liquor before going to sleep. When the monkey wanted to move away, he fell from the platform through the hole and the dogs and pigs under the platform killed the monkey. The wife of the monkey went to sell dried monkey flesh but the child disclosed the fact and none purchased it.

2

STORY OF THE MONKEY AND OLD MAN AND WOMAN (KOLOI)

An old couple used to live in a tong (piled house) on a hill during some bygone days. One day they were sowing potato seeds in their jhum field. Some monkeys from the near by jungle came out and addressing them as grand father and grand mother asked what they were doing. They told them that potato seeds are being sown. The monkeys advised them to sow the seeds after boiling so that they can get better harvest. The old couple admitted the advice and sowed the seeds after boiling and covered with leaf. The monkeys helped them in the work. At the sun set when the old couple went back to their tong for rest the monkeys removed the potato seeds and ate all. Then they sowed wild potato seeds. Some days later when the couple came to see their jhum field they saw that the potato plants were grown nicely. Then they harvested the field. One day the

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