
KHASI HERITAGE

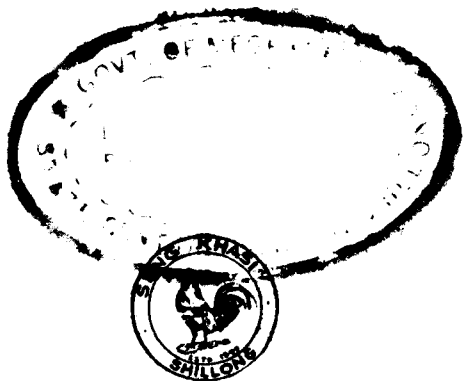
A Collection of Essays
on Khasi Religion and Culture



1979

Khasi Heritage

(A Collection of Essays on Khasi Religion and Culture)



Revised and Enlarged Edition
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CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	i
The Seng Khasi Flag	iii
The Messenger of Khasi Heritage	1
<i>Dr. J. B. Bhattacharjee</i>	
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	29
Upto 1874—Historical Outline	
<i>Kynpham Singh</i>	
Evolution of Modern Khasi Society	56
<i>R. T. Rymbai</i>	
Certain Customs of the Pnars	75
and their Changing Pattern	
<i>R. T. Rymbai</i>	
God and Man	83
<i>H.O. Mawrie</i>	
Khasi and Jaintia Religion	91
<i>Kynpham Singh</i>	
Some Aspects of the Religion	110
of the Khasi-Pnar	
<i>R. T. Rymbai</i>	
My Faith	119
<i>Hipshon Roy</i>	
The Festivals of the Khasis	123
and their Influence on his Life	
<i>R. T. Rymbai</i>	
Shad Suk Mynsiem Dance	129
<i>A. S. Khongphai</i>	

Behdienkhlam	...	...	...	139
<i>R. T. Rymbai</i>				
Nongkrem Dance	...	...	...	146
<i>Maham Singh</i>				
A Peep into Khasi-Jaintia Music	...	...	...	153
<i>P. Ripple Kyndiah</i>				
Monoliths of Khasi-Jaintia Hills	...	...	...	159
<i>Kynpham Singh</i>				
The Khasis—Their Houses and	...	...	...
House-Warming Customs	...	...	...	171
<i>Kynpham Singh</i>				
A Pledge of a Khasi Chieftain	...	...	...	182
The Birth of Sein-Raj	...	...	...	185
<i>H. Rymbai</i>				
<i>U Sib Charan Roy</i> — a Life Sketch	...	...	...	186
<i>U Rash Mohon Roy</i> —a Life Sketch	...	...	...	189
<i>U Radhon Singh Berry</i> —a Life Sketch	...	...	...	192
<i>U Chandranath Roy</i> —a Life Sketch	...	...	...	193
From the Recent Past	...	...	...	195
Extracts from Here and There	...	...	...	203
Khublei — God Bless You	...	...	...	218
<i>J. T. Sunderland</i>				

INTRODUCTION

This enlarged and revised edition of "Khasi Heritage" marks the attempt to bring together the representative examples of Khasi thoughts, culture and religion by the members of the Seng Khasi, established in 1899.

The Seng Khasi was formed with various aims and objects, the principal of which are :

1. To foster a sense of brotherhood among the Khasis who still retain their socio-cultural-religious heritage.

2. To encourage national sports like archery, cultural dances and other social festivals in which people from all over the districts participate.

3. To undertake welfare and developmental activities such as maintenance of cremation ground for those who dispose the dead according to tradition and religion, advancement of education and so on. It will be relevant to mention that the Seng Khasi is maintaining a higher secondary School and a College in Shillong.

The Seng-Khasi has undertaken various activities of the nature outlined above for the all-round development and welfare of the people

as well as to keep the tradition and culture alive. From the days of the the British rulers up to these days the Khasis has seen many changes in all spheres of life. Many of the traditional norms and patterns have been affected by the waves of changes and the winds of different civilization have blown over these Hills and yet the Khasi people have been able to retain their traditional customs, manners, social norms and religion. It is the Seng Khasi, under whose auspices-untiring efforts have been made by organisers and members to retain their cultural heritage and oppose indiscriminate westernisation, western permissiveness and to the dilution of Khasi religion, tradition, culture and national values from 1899. It has been a hard but rewarding march and struggle for the Seng Khasi. As long as the Khasis love themselves : their religion, tradition culture and their beautiful Hills and affectionately respect other religions, cultures, traditions, customs and races, the Khasis will remain as a proud race in this corner of this great country with a rich and varied heritage.

No chapter claims to give a complete outline on any subject but to present an introduction on the Religious and Cultural Heritage of the Khasis. Some of the essays are new while others have been published and two of the Papers, "Some aspects of the Religion of the Khasi Pnar's" and "Khasi and Jaintia Religion" were read in the Seminar on Cultural and Religion in North India conducted by the Department of Philosophy, North

ii(a)

Eastern Hill University held in Shillong on June 15-16-79 by Tokin Roy Rymbai, IAS (rtd) and Mr. Kynpham Singh, respectively. New forms have crept into Khasi tradition, developing new ideas to suit new conditions but in their religion they have held aloft the highest conception of God the Creator in the best tradition founded by their ancestors based on there Covenant with God, U Nongbuh U Nongthaw of the race.

The book is aimed at the general reader and the scholar seeking a deeper knowledge of "KHASI" religion and culture to serve them as an introductory study of the faith and the people. To all authors, the Ri Khasi Press and friends, who have contributed generously, the Seng Khasi desires to express its warm appreciation.

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