

Molsoms and Sengrak

A Folktale

Ananta Das

NESLET

Faculty member

Dept. of English, Kabi Nazrul Mahavidyalaya

Sonamura, Tripura, India

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Bijoy Molsom

BA(English Honours)

According to a Molsom folktale, the Molsoms belongs to a lineage of Kshatriya, having an affinity with that of Karna (son of Surya, a Hindu mythical god). In ancient times, the people of Molsom community were very likely lived in a village called 'Barpuitwng', a place near Guwahati, north-eastern part of India. Molsoms were the dominating authority of that village where they had settled on. The word Molsom derives from two words-'Mol' means 'hill' and 'Som' means 'ten or ten' i.e, the name of the people who lives on ten hills. The tribe Molsoms bear the following titles such as- Sungfoon, Uisha, Lengman, Mapu, Nwkham, Nampar, Laurak, Singer, Achep, Lungthung, Dourai, Tuisum and Ronte.

There was a river in the village of Barpuitwng named Tuioamte. One day, suddenly it was seen that a snake in the river started calling like a cock. Everyone was afraid when they heard of it. To the people of that community, it is an ominous sign when a snake calls like cock. They all left the village and started to live in another place and formed a Kanchikao (a Sarpanch or head of a clan) whose position was equivalent to that of the prince. Along with the village of Molsoms there lived a powerful Daini (a witch) who used to take the locals out of the village and kill them. The Daini was so strong that no one has the courage to fight with her. When Kanchikao heard about her, he took his troops and fought with the Daini but lost to her and returned home. After few days in Kanchikao's dream baba Sengrak (kul-devta of Molsoms, a saviour of mankind) comes in the form of a human and said---

“Take two white cock and worship me, or else the abduction of your daughter will take place”

Kanchikao did not believe the words of baba Sengrak. Later on, one day that Daini had taken Kanchikao's daughter away from him. After searching for many days the villagers and Kanchikao was unable to find out or even get any news of the girl. Kanchikao returned home and a week later he had remembered that dream of baba Sengrak. He offered a pair of white cock and worshipped Sengrak. Immediately after the worshipping he was able to kill that witch and brought his daughter back. Since then, Kanchikao and other villagers started believing Sengrak and Sengrak were worshipped in every place where the Molsoms resides. Every year in the name of father Sengrak a fair is organized in Manithangpara of Udaipur, Gomati district of Tripura where irrespective of caste, class, religion, language everyone participate in that.