

“THANGAL GENERAL”
by **ARAMBAM SOMORENDRO SINGH (2002, PRINT)**
as
“THANGAL GENERAL”

Translated by

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This project takes up the work of Arambam Somorendro Singh, the Father of Post-war period of Manipur. Arambam Somorendro Singh (1935-2000) emerged as one of the greatest dramatist of Manipur region, who stood for hope and transformation, revival and regeneration and the present violent scenario of the region. He has written twenty four full length plays, eight radio dramas and six film scripts. He was the founder of the Amateur Artist Association (1955) that merged with the Aryan theatre to become an icon of revival and reformation in Manipuri theatre. Singh has stood up as the ‘voice’ of the region, the voice of Manipuri Drama and represents the revolutionary mouthpiece through his real-like characters. The man of post- Manipuri war period imbued in the people the hope of resurgence and by enlightening them with the concepts of Manipuri dramas reiterates the importance of regenerating one’s own roots and belongingness. Being the founder of an underground organization (UNLF) in a conflict ridden place like Manipur, and transforming into a famous dramatist, it is needless to say that Singh’s life has impacted his way of writings and his revolutionary themes are all embedded in all his real like characters.

The emergence of writing as a purpose began in lieu to the political and societal settings of the region. The writings are often called “political writing”, as the structure of the region has been laid down due to the political formation and constructions of the region, with the significance of the realities (image of violence) in the backdrop. “Thangal General”, set in the year 1891, narrates the turmoil and sufferings, the emergence of revolutionaries, and the utmost need for a strong ruler to fight against the enemies. The play is intensified with a strong historical background and deals with the revolt against the unjust supremacy of the Britishers and unjust Kings. It accounts the tales of great reformers who sacrificed their life for a new opening of a hopeful and enlightening road towards freedom and liberty for the commoners. The sacrifices made are not to be wasted and Singh cleverly employs the life story of the great reformers as the thematic study of the play, to reflect the need for unity and strength as the only medium for survival. Manipur shared its history with the historical suppression by the foreigners and Singh gives us a graphic representation of the past leading towards the present. Wording out his motives behind preserving the native culture, he stands as a symbol to be united and safeguard the region and its diminishing culture of love and regionality. It also unveils the inner ideology of the author and his silent struggles for freedom as a dramatist and a revolutionary.

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THANGAL GENERAL

ACT- I

Time and setting -August 13, 1891

Two British officer’s declaration:

H.Maxweel: I am H. Maxwell, chief political office Manipur field force.

A .Coleman: I am A. Coleman, surgeon, senior medical officer, Manipur

H. Maxwell: Certified that Tikendrajit Bir Singh, late Senapati of Manipur, on this 13th day of August 1891, hanged at Manipur in my presence.

A .Coleman: Certified that Thangal General of Manipur was also hanged on this same 13th day of Manipur at my presence. And both of them are ‘truly dead’.

(Lights off)

ACT – II

Time and Setting: August 12, 1891, early morning.

(Thangal is seen when the lights are on and his health is in a worsening state. He observes the sweeper and his means of sweeping the floor. In his state of frustration he says.)

Thangal: Saheb, don't you like your people who came along with you to Manipur. May be we look united but not really united. Wherever and whichever place you have taken over, your captives believe that you are the supreme power but I don't accept that. You are not supreme as the almighty but are just mere humans. I know that you are highly intellectual and potential. You have colonized many of the colonizers but that does not identify your identity (power). I have my own identity and respect derived from this small region. My region and my state are happy serving our innocent civilians with its rich fertility and varied culture. But your entry into my place has damaged all the richness of my state. I am proud to be the son of my state. There is no sign of any difference between the rich and the poor, the big and the small. If there is equality and unity among the people, then come the strength everywhere.²²²

(The sweeper leaves the scene, General Thangal still continue to observe)

Yes Saheb, today your final dream is rewarded. My place and my mother region are at your control and we are under your captivity. I have known that you have hunted us not to be your friends but only to be caged. Remember Gambhir Singh who cried out, but now for what? Your ill-inflicting behavior and mistrust for friends is another story, and the strength of your arm has protected Manipur from the Burmese Awa colonizers during the Seven Year Devastation, keeping in mind about your help we surrendered our trust to you by handling the precious Kabow valley on grounds of trust. My disbelief about your loyalty has now proven right as we are all under your ugly feet at present. But one thing that you should swallow in your mind is that we don't feel terrified of you. You can kill me, and it's just my body that can be decomposed, but not my pure soul. No one can ever control my soul, as I am not under anybody. (Laughs).....how long can you control us? You will get exhausted. Finally at this very day General Thangal would pledge that, if today Thangal dies, there will be many hundreds of

Thangal born the next day. The furious fire of revolt would be gigantic, and will you have the powerful supremacy to control the rage of fire? (Thangal dreams of the past)

ACT-III

Place: Chandrakirti's room, Cachar Malugram

(Thangal, Kumudini, Chandrakirti, Balram and Nepra sit on a discussion.)

Kumudini: All my great friends, what shall we do now? My son Ningthempishak has turned 11 and it's been seven years since we have migrated here. King Devendra, the present king of Manipur is also not liked by anybody. Now the Sahebs are turning towards my son Ningthem and planning to take him to Dhaka. So what should be the solution? I don't understand the hidden intentions of the Sahebs, it can be harmful for us too. There is no hope left for Chandrakirti and his ideas of safeguarding his mother region.

Balram: Your highness, strong action has been taken regarding the protection of your son. He shall be carried to flee far away through the canal route.

Thangal: Your Highness, everything is the Sahebs trick. They are all cunning fellows and they are responsible for the loss of our Kabow valley and Ningthem Pishak is also held here on exile. So we have to be very cautious and attentive because they are watching our every movement. Now we have to stand united and wrestle against our enemies.

Balram: Yes yes..... , my friend.

(Loud thunderstorm with loud shrieks)

Thangal: We still contain some lucky charm.

Kumudini: How would that be possible Thangal?

Thangal: Your highness, now we have to flee expertly. It's becoming dark and we should look for the suitable time to run away from here without the intervening of the Sahebs. Now, god has given us the appropriate time and we should not misuse it.

Kumudini : Yes Thangal, my anxiety won't help us , rather we should position ourselves for a proper escape. This precious chance of possibility should not be overlooked.

(Nepra enters looking troubled)

Nepra : Your highness, the boats of the Sahebs have not turned up.

Thangal : It's ok Nepra. Right now we should make a move. You go and make proper plans to flee.(Nepra leaves the scene)

Balram: What has happen to the Sahebs? We should watch them at least for a second. We should not provide them any chance to come across that we are breaking away from this place. I will go and take a look.

Thangal: You go and make it fast. It's about to rain heavily.

Balram: I will come back sooner, your Highness.

Kumudini: Yes please go. (Balram bows his head to the majesty and leaves the scene).Oh Thangal, today we are getting a precious chance to escape and we should not miss it. We should make it possible today. I am now surrendering my Prince Ningthem on your shoulder. From his childhood onwards, it is you who has taught him how to walk. I hope you will also make him lead his future with brightness and hope. Please take care of him and today at this very day my son is at your trust and company.

Thangal: Your Highness, Thangal is always there for your protection and care. As long as I am alive I would always lend my arm for your protection and care. My only aim in life is to bring back Ningthem to the richly state of Manipur and attain liberty from the enemies.

Chandrakirti: We were incapable to notice the hidden wickedness of the Sahebs.

Thangal: Yes, Ningthem. The Sahebs are planning to make something happen and do something of it. We never knew their plans and arrangements of taking you to Dhaka which were made by the Sahebs. But now we understand everything, as the chance is in our hands and we should, make proper use of it. Go and prepare yourself. Now I will just leave and check the situation.

Kumudini : That's right, Thangal, you go and set things properly.(Thangal leaves).My son, when you were a small child, I got you here. From that time on, the Sahebs have never allowed you to do anything on your own .you have been held as their captive since then. Thangal is right; the Sahebs have protected you for their own selfish motives. Now it should not take any longer to release you. You have to hurry away from this dungeon.

Chandrakirti: Yes mother, we shall now hope for the finest positivity.

Kumidini: Today, you are grown up my son . Now you should employ your strength and powerful arm, and the people who guided you are all powerful and dominant people. Fix up your mind to shape your future. If there are any doubts and difficulties left, then enquire about it from your fellow brothers. Be wise and clever, success comes only after hard work, so work determined for your success. Be conscious of the meaning of time and place.

Chandrakirti: Mother, I was so young and tender when everything happened. So I don't remember anything about the past. I really don't know anything about my region, my past and my state. But now as I am grown up, I completely understand my place, even if there are few ways for me to understand deeply about my place. Now the time has finally arrived for me to know my state. I want freedom and I need freedom.

Kumudini : Yes, you should be liberated from this confined world and should work for the cause. You should keep up your father's words and promises, and live your life happily. You should be very careful; and be attentive of the Sahebs.

Chandrakirti : Mother a real king is different from a selfish king. I want to be the real tiger of Manipur. Now, I shall give my strength for the interest of my people and state.

Kumudini : Yes , that is right. I am overwhelmed at your response and from today my mind will be really rest in harmony. I have been traumatized for the past several years.

Chandrakirti : Mother please have a rest. Your son has set his future only for the benefits of the state.

(Thangal, Balram, Nepra enters)

Thangal: Prince Ningthem, here is your way. We can escape narrowly through this thunder storm shower. Your highness, we shall leave now. (Everybody leaves)

Chandrakirti: Gets blessings from his mother.

Kumudini : My dear son, if your mother's heart is pure then you will succeed in whatever you do. My best wishes are always there for you. Be strong and courageous, and never lose your faith and hope. You should bring back your fathers golden era of name and fame. Every one of you should be successful. Now I release my dearest son in the hands of the trusted people. (Everyone leaves the place).Oh almighty power, forgive your child. Give us your blessings so that we can serve our motherland, our great mother, it is very surprising that you have always been worried about your children. There is always a deep pain in the heart of mothers when she sends her children to the battlefield. My son Ningthem, I am worried only about you. I am worried about every one of you. My son, you should always work for the welfare of the people. The question of your being dead or alive will mark the aftermath of the citizens. Now I have to be hard-hearted. Oh my sons, for the sake of your happiness I should hold back my feelings and hide my emotions.

(Two Britishers enters)

Officers: Maharaja Gambhir Singh of Manipur and his wife Kumudini can never understand our thoughts. We are not handling them as our captives, and applaud the ruling power of the present Devendra Maharaj. The hope and task of taking Ningthem to the land of Dhaka has nothing with ill-inflictions and selfish intention. Our aim is just to provide Chandrakirti with the basic knowledge of how to be moulded as a king. They really don't understand this because Manipur is not a land of educated elite but just of uneducated people. (One British officer holds Major Nepra and presents him) .The dream of our Britishers is now fully drowned. Bring him out, hey you courageous person-Hey Nepra, I have given you the responsibility to look after Chandrakirti but you turned out to be a traitor. Where have they gone- Balram, Thangal, Chandra.....Nepra.

(Lights off)

ACT-IV

Place- The Palace of Manipur (Time- Morning).

Kundo : Johnstone Saheb always hands over his personal letter to me, through which has been passed on to you secretly. I am very worried and if Thangal discovers these secret letters, he won't be delighted about it. Why am I not liked by Thangal? The only thing which I do is that I work under the British Officers. But it doesn't mean that I am getting involved with the social political affairs of the state. I am more pleased by the way you treat me Maharaj.

Chandrakirti : Any news?

Kundo : Eigya, your majesty, the golden period of our state is reflected only by you and after you acquired the throne of Manipur. The relationships between the British and the natives are also improving and balanced..... Seeming so.

Chandra: Kundo what more news?

Kundo : These letters.....

Chandra: Keep those letters. Then what did they say.

Kundo : There has to be some work on tea plantation at Manipur. It is not pleasing to import everything from outside.

Chandrakirti : Then go and tell Johnstone Saheb to wait for an answer. I don't answer without the consent of my people.

Kundo : Oh then again Eigya, I should leave.

Thangal : Ningthem....Kundo came for what?

Chandrakirti : After I got the throne, I have always felt that the Britishers are not intending to harm us anymore. But I am aware of the fact that they don't accept our challenge.

Thangal : That is obvious Ningthem. They have the power to capture the whole earth. They have the dominating and the threatening power also. But we should not fear them. Their main aim is to develop friendship with us and maintain for their benefits.

Chandrakirti : Why?

Thangal : Because their relationship with the Burmese is not healthy. If they happen to occupy the whole power of Burma, then their next step is to have an eye on us. But for that, we should challenge them with our bravery and strength.

Chandrakirti : That is true, and we should be very cautious about their attitudes and should never provide them a chance to employ their powerful arms upon us.

Thangal : Sure, We will never give them any chance. And one thing, because of their powerful armed forces we should not fear them. For any man, the ultimate need is to get liberated. It may be a short while for them to be under the dominating power, but once they are done with their exploitation they will come up as successful men.

Chandrakirti : But they are still supporting us.

Thangal : Yes they have to support us. And the most difficult thing is that even if we don't like them, we cannot throw them away. They have the full power to occupy the whole country, we have to handle them and befriend them.

Chandrakirti : It is because of that idea, that I accepted the civil war and supported it.

Thangal : But supporting them doesn't mean everything. Every civil war is always against them.

Chandrakirti : The Sahebs has proposed the plan for the tea plantation. From the district of Mao till Senapati district

Thangal : Huh from where? No tea plantation Ningthem. We are planting tea without their help. How much quantity of tea do they need...I will provide that. But there should be no tea plantation.

Chandrakirti : Anybody there..?

Ministers : Yes your majesty

Chandrakirti: Go and call major Sanayamba.

Ministers : Yes your majesty

ACT-V

Place – Johnstone Saheb's office

Time- Afternoon

(Thangal's resting time. Kundo enters)

Kundo : Khurumjari Angamba

Thangal : Oh Kundo, come. I will tell you something.

Kundo : Yes, please tell.

Thangal : What are you doing in my personal work? I have been trying to punish the guilty people but you are acting as a spy for the Sahebs.

Kundo : Ah, I don't have any botheration for the people but I am dealing only with one or two Britishers.

Thangal : Yes, I mean those Britishers. Why are your British people acting so harsh at Manipur? There is always a punishment for every wrong people in the state.

Kundo : You need not feel infuriated. The whole state of affairs of the Britishers is dealt only with the political agencies.

Thangal : Why should I not be angry? The peacemakers should give up their work and handle only the whole affairs of the state. You are serving the Sahebs and working for them in order to feed your family. I don't really care for that. Don't overestimate yourself with your high attitude.

Kundo : Ash, you are so furious.

Thangal: I know everything; the Sahebs are trying to impress you people for their own personal benefits. They ultimately want to make you all as their captives. You feel contented about it but you are responsible for becoming servants. You are the only true servants of the Britishers. There have been establishments of many educational institutions in our state. Every one of you desire only for power and not freedom.

Kundo : What is all this? You have misunderstood me. I have done only my duty. I have told you before that the ultimate desire of anybody is to satisfy their hunger...

Thangal : Yes I will think about it. You are very busy filling just your belly, and there is also every possibility for your mother and children starving out of hunger. But I don't mind filling

their stomach. There is always starvation in your state, but your place was a state filled with wealth and richness. In this rich and wealthy state, you are born just to erase our peace of mind. Keeping all this in mind, you are still trying to reflect your authoritative power in this place. Listen carefully to what I am saying now.

Kundo : Please don't get angry, I am serving just as a clerical employee. Working as a clerk has made me understand the whole social and political affairs of the state. I am merely performing my duty. The work and orders given by the Britishers has to be maintained only by me. The British officers have been trying to extract more about the political and social affairs, and I have been trying to help them out. I have my duty only as a clerical employee.

Thangal : Yes that is excellent . Work hard so that you provide your masters properly. But I should tell you that the Sahebs should not be found doing any mischief and not try to break the regulations and conventions of the society. This is my order to the Sahebs. You should be held responsible for everything and face the outcome of it.

Kundo : Oh the condition is turning too extreme. How can I handle everything?

Thangal : You can do it. You have to listen to their worries. Do not appear innocent Kundo. I know the whole hidden relationship amongst you people. I assure that your Sahebs will not last any longer here. We also have our own potentials. There should be an open combat between us. Try your best.

Johnstone : Khurumjari Major

Thangal : Yes, Khurumjari Johnstone Saheb

Johnstone : It's a heartfelt welcome for You. I am very pleased to see you.

Thangal : I am hearing only through you...

Johnstone : We should think about it.

Thangal : That's all right. Any discussions or any other matter?

Johnstone : Have you met the representatives of the Burmese government?

Thangal : Yes

Johnstone : I received a letter from the Burmese government. The letters states that some of the Manipuri's have been killed by the Burmese people. What do you think about it?

Thangal : What would I think about it? I have not heard about it, not really seen it.

Johnstone : But now the news is in front of you.

Thangal : What do you want to do about it?

Johnstone : The concern has become severe because it is related to the government of the place.

Thangal : If they don't say about it, then it's not serious

Johnstone : We should get the information about it. You are a prominent person, so you have to come along with me.

Thangal : Going or not going is not in your hand. What is the purpose of having the police department?

Johnstone: I have released the news to the government.

Thangal : Then ,do release the news of the Awas (Burmese)

Johnstone : This has come to me.

Thangal : Yes it has come to you.

Johnstone : That issue cannot be related to the Awas(Burmese)

Thangal : Sahebs, cant you tell it through the Sahebs who are residing in Burma?

Johnstone : I want to use the story for an effective purpose.

Thangal : Why is there nothing happening about it?

Johnstone : The whole issue has been written to me because, at present I am serving as a political agent of the state.

Thangal : (furiated)...Then it's alright. Our words have to be written down only in recorded papers, and other words have to be taken into account. If you want to go, you can but don't expect me to come along with you.

Johnstone : I mean of taking you to Burma.

Thangal : I am the prominent person here. If I am sensing something fishy with wrong happenings, then I choose not to go for that work.

Johnstone : Ok, then I will speak about it to the king

Thangal : Yes, carry on. (Exits)

Kundo : What has happen?

(Lights off)

Act – VI

Place- Iroisemba (A hilly place or hilly location)

Chorus 1: There is a revolt against Maharaja Guruchandra by Sana Borachaoba.

Chorus2: Paona Brajabasi has stood in support of Sana Borachaoba.

Chorus3 : We will save, there should not be a battle

Tikendrajit: Oh father, there is a lack of army support on your side. What shall we do about it?

Thangal : Senapati, we should not instill fear in our soldiers. We should never lose convictions in ourselves. The hilly area of Iroisemba is fully occupied by Paona Brajabasi and it is providing a suitable situation for Borachaoba.

Tikendrajit : The troops of soldier should not come out of this hilly regions. We should not make them reach the royal palace.

Thangal : Yes that's right. Let them be only at the hilltop. We should make Borachaoba understand about us.

Tikendrajit : Oh father, we should be very careful and be in a safer place to stay.

Thangal : That is right. Senapati, we should formulate it faster. People will lose their faith and fear from fighting against them. There has to be strong troops from both sides. You should be on one side and I will be on the other side.

Tikendrajit : Ok father we will make it happen that way. You can properly manage that way. Meanwhile agent Sahebs will be sending some armies from Langthabal. The soldiers have to be sent at the earliest and message has been sent to them.

Thangal : Yes , we have always helped them. They can also help us. You should be here and I will just move to see the required needs.

Tikendrajit : Ok father you can leave. If there is any news for urgency, then please let me know about it. I will be always here.(Thangal exits)

Messenger bows head

Oh Senapati, We have won the battle.

Tikendrajit : I am ecstatic about it. Go and give the news to Thangal. He is present among the troops of soldiers.

(Messenger exits)

Tikendrajit : Borachaoba, you have been looking for this opportunity. It will be better if I happen to get some chance. You have strengthened your troops of soldiers. I know that you have been watching keenly for the palace.

Soldier 1: Senapati, the Sahebs have to lend their armies for their help.

Tikendrajit : What.....go and inform father.

(Messenger exits. Tikendrajit is very angry and restless. Thangal enters)

Tikendrajit : Father, the Sahebs has refused to send us their soldiers.

(Thangal laughs bitterly)

Ha ha ha ha Senapati, is that true?

Tikendrajit : (both of them stare at each other) True father.

Thangal : The Sahebs don't like us. They want to break our unity and strength.....ha ha ah ...they want Borachaoba to win over Tikendrajit, so that Tikendrajit leaves the royal palace. ha ha ha

(Senapati and Thangal laughs loudly)

Tikendrajit : Father

Thangal : Now the true meaning of the relationship between the Sahebs and us has come to the forefront. There has to be an open combat sooner. We should make arrangements for that.

Tikendrajit : Yes father. The only good way to teach Sahebs would be possible only when there is equality, understanding and unity among us. We should strengthen our own people.

(Lights off)

Act – VII

(Thangal dreams)

Chorus : We will end the war, we will end the war

Thangal : There is war among the same blood people, among brothers and the best example is Borachaoba's war. And now the combat between Kullachandra and Gurachandra today...Guruchandra absconded.

(Thangal sees Gurachandra in his dream)

Thangal : How is the condition of Ningthem ?Are you doing well without any warrior?

Gurachandra : Father, I am doing well by god's grace. But I got hurt in my head. They shot me at the right side of my head. I feel so lucky, I am saved now.

Thangal : What are your further plans Ningthem?

Gurachandra : Father , I feel restless. I am also sad in one way. We are born from the same blood and now we are now standing apart. I feel shameful on my part. My younger brother is very unhappy with me that they even started using arms against me.

Thangal : So what is your next step?

Gurachandra : What do you feel it should be ?

Thangal : Ningthem, we will move back to our royal palace.

Gurachandra : So sweet of you Father, I just felt that there is no one who is interested in me like the way my Britishers are. But you can really understand me.

Thangal : Ningthem, I will tell you something, listen carefully. I am a very old minister and I have been selected as the minister of the state's kingdom from the period of your ancestor. I am

very sad about the situation which happened yesterday. But gone by are gone by. The only thing that I want to tell you is that, you are the eldest son of the royal family. So you have to occupy the throne accordingly. But there is no need for any clarifications from your younger brother. There has to be a war and a revolt against them and you should prove your way towards the royal palace.

Gurachandra : Oh father , I am very happy with your love and support. I am very excited about it. But one thing which always makes me feel dejected is the enmity which is between our brothers, has now affected the people leading to bloodshed and violence. I feel that I should fulfill the wishes of my brother and would wish for your motivation and care. I yearn for peace to my state again. I will be happy if you people support me. I will leave the palace and go somewhere probably to Brindavan- a holy place.

Thangal : Are you sure about it?.

Gurachandra: I think it should be alright.

Thangal : Then it's ok. If you have the plan to leave for Brindavan then my words are of wastral. But for me, as long as I am alive, I will serve my motherland.

(Lights off)

Act – VIII

Place- British Residency

Time : March 22,1891, Afternoon.

(In the British residency, the entry of Maharaja Kullachandra, Bir Tikendrajit, Thangal General for a meeting, and the British officers and the Gurkha rifles are watching carefully for the arrest of Bir Tikendrajit. The representative of Manipur is not allowed inside the Residency. The anger of Tikendrajit is reflected here because of the delay in meeting chief commissioner Quinton).

Tikendrajit: Is anybody there?

Messenger: Yes, Any help.

Tikendrajit : Is your entry not allowed, just ask

Messenger: Yes (Messenger goes to the gate, he ask to the rifleman)

British Army : No order for the entry yet.(messenger comes near Tikendrajit)

Messenger : No order till now.

Tikendrajit : The Sahebs are showing too much of their harsh egoistic attitudes and highly prompts that they are taking us for granted. I won't join the meeting.(Tikendrajit goes out. Political agent Mr. Greenwood comes out and sees Tikendrajit. He informs chief commissioner Quinton about the absence of Tikendrajit.)

Maharaja Kulachandra : You are right. If this ugly situation has come then we should now try to get away from the palace, why the Sahebs still acting smart and making us are bear this, and we have arrived here for a discussion regarding the relationship between us and the Sahebs. They should be familiar that we are never smaller to them. As they are standing erect on the soil of Manipur, they should realize it its outcome too.

Greenwood : The meeting has to be conducted only with the presence of Tikendrajit. And chief commissioner Quinton has made an announcement to bring back Tikendrajit for the meeting.

(The whole representative of Manipur remains silent. Thangal ponders for a while and then... to a servant)

Thangal : Is there anybody?

Messenger : Yes, any message

Thangal : Go ,, go and give the news to Yuvraj Tikendrajit.

(Messenger exits. There is a message from Mr. Greenwood, British Residency)

Greenwood: Due to the absence of Tikendrajit, the meeting cannot be held tomorrow at the same time as today. The chief commissioner has given a message that the presence of Tikendrajit is very important and he has to be present tomorrow for the meeting.

(Everyone leaves silently and there is discussion between Quinton and Greenwood in British Residency)

Quinton : Everyone are my rat here...he he he...Manipuris are all rats.....is there any leak out on per plan? Why and how is Tikendrajit doubting us? We should be very conscious about it.

Greenwood : Sir, the only way for them to doubt us may be they are angry with us because of our negligence towards them or else there can be an informer among us to provide them their news. I will see to it carefully and find the various issues in it.

Quinton : Greenwood let the soldiers be alert and active. I will never leave Manipur until and unless I catch hold of Tikendrajit-one of the Manipur rats.

Greenwood : Yes sir.

(Lights off)

Act – IX

Place: Tikendrajit room

Time: March 22, 1891, Evening.

(The discussion between Tikendrajit and Thangal)

Thangal : The attitude of the Sahebs is too much. There has to be a revolt against them. What do you feel about it?

Tikendrajit : Oh father, I cannot bear the negligence of the Sahebs.

Thangal : Now it has become serious, they are planning to arrest you. They want to make you as their captives and rule and occupy the whole place.

Tikendarjit : Yes that is correct.

Thangal: Yuvraj, they are very tricky. But we should be careful about it

Tikendrajit : Their attitude is too much....

Thangal : What is their attitude? They should show foolish attitude only to the foolish people like them, they are making tricks in front of our eyes. They want us to surrender to them. But one thing for sure-I will never make Sahebs to occupy us and we should never permit them to make us their shoes. We will never make our motherland come under their feet...we love our motherland—ha jha ha...Yuvraj.

Tikendrajit : Ha Ha Father.

Thangal : They are trying to be clever in front of me.

Tikendrajit: (biting his teeth) Yes, now the right time has arrived. (With anger) If they use their powers, we won't be quiet anymore.

Thangal : Yuvraj, but we should be attentivel. If they are successful with their plans and succeed in arresting you, our courage won't count anymore. So be alert.

Tikendrajit : Father, if there is an open combat now , they will fail because they have only four hundred soldiers and no top bullets.

Thangal : Yes, initially it will be easy but later on it will be a difficult task to get up. If there are any right opportunities, we should see for a fight against them. There should be values and understanding of the words in life when it comes to birth and death.

Tikendrajit : Yes that's true. We should stand strong and firm. We should make proper preparations for that.

Act –X

Place: British Residency

Time – March 23 1891 Evening

(Chief Commissioner Quinton and political agent Greenwood are together dreaming about something....but no conversation between them. There is silence everywhere.)

Quinton : The Yuvraj of Manipur is showing much of his bossy attitudes towards us. He thinks that we are nothing. Greenwood, what did Yuvraj tell you when you went to meet him. Why don't you make him realize our intentions and feelings?

Greenwood : Sir , I have tried my best but in vain.

Quinton : Greenwood, go and make Maharaj Kullachandra be aware about it. I am leaving Imphal tomorrow. They should provide me with hundreds of helpers for my security and want to see the performance of Ras Lila in the British residency today.

Greenwood : The minds of Bir Tikendrajit and Thangal General are sharper than the British officers. We should be shameful about it. (Quinton with anger) Greenwood go and announce that every British officer should come to watch the Ras lila today.

(Lights off)

Act –XI

(There is very loud music in the British residency. There is a performance of Ras Lila and the audience includes Greenwood, Colsqin, Quinton. But the British officers are discussing the topic of some map reading)

Quinton : Oh Colonel Squinton you should accomplished all my wishes before dawn.

Quinton : Yes sir.(Sees the time and screams)

My entire group is ready. Lietenant Bakenburi should prepare for the arrest of Bir Tikendrajit. You should guide your whole army and attack the left side of the Palace Gate. You should also be active and should not make Tikendrajit free from us.

Lt.bakerburi : Yes Sir, everything is ready per your plan

Squinton : Oh Captain Butcer you go along with your troops and attack the back side of the palace.

Captain Butcer : Yes sir.

Squinton : It . Legard, you go with the troops for the attack to be more successful. Chatterm should go and follow the arm of the attack in the western part of the gate.

(Squin, Greenwood and Quinton look very restless and walk up and down. There is a loud thunder and terror everywhere, noise of bomb blast and tear gases everywhere...the war ended slowly. The sun rises)

Quinton : Greenwood, tell us the result of the war.

Greenwood : Sir, our officers were killed by the Manipiuris. Legaard and the others are injured.

Quinton : What ? You cannot even catch hold of those rats. Our people are killed and many of them are injured. Just go and announce a ceasefire.

Greenwood : There will be a ceasefire.

(Ceasefire continues)

Quinton : Greenwood, Col. Squin, Lt. Simpson and some British officers....all prepare yourselves, we should now make a sudden move to Kangla.

Act – XII

Place – Kangla (Palace Compound)

Time : March 28,1891,Morning.

Chorus : Immediately a social meeting. Criminals have to be punished...

(Thangjam Chaoba holds General Thangal and brings him out from the left side of the gate.)

Thangal : Saheb, I disagree with your proposal of entry into the place. Why do you want to create havoc and terror in the minds of the people? Why do you want war which often leads people to destruction everywhere?

Chorus : Who are you? There has to be a social meeting. Yenkhoiba Major. General has agreed to the entry of the Sahebs.

Thangal : What Yenkhoiba? Are you making fun of my old age? That's alright. You do whatever you want and I won't speak anything about it.

(Kullachandra,Tikendrajit, Thangal General and the British officers come in.....and the meeting begins.)

Chorus : Right now there has to be a meeting, criminals have to be punished.

Tikendrajit : Sahebs I should tell you one thing.....you made so many mistakes. Before your mistakes are listed down; please do surrender your valuable arms.

(The Sahebs are silent; Thangal gets up and tries to pull his sword.)

Quinton : We cannot give our valuable arms and weapon to you because these valuables belong to the British government.(everyone is quite and silent).I represent the whole British government and make a request. May be you have achieved in getting our arms today and you may also win. But the surrendering of our arms doesn't end the reign of the powerful British regime. Please listen to us and join us. If you don't agree with our request then you have to bear the action taken up against you. You should be able to bear the consequences. You should make it clear to the whole people that we are not responsible for any of the bad happenings of the state.

Thangal : Sahebs I know you people very well. I can clearly understand your hidden intentions. Don't try to cheat us and please don't fool us. Just surrender your arms and I will let you know your result later.

Greenwood : I don't want to blame anyone. Now we shall speak about it. I won't listen to any of your words, General. The Maharaj is the head of the state. And he has to think about it. Mr.Quinton has requested Bir Tikendrajit to come for a meeting on 2nd march but he didn't attend the meeting. I just think that Manipuri's disrespect us. You should think wisely. We were not wrong on our part. You have to make a statement that we are not wrong at anyways.

Thangal : Yuvraj just notice the selfishness of the Britishers. There is no result.....what shall we do?

Quinton : There has to be a meeting very soon in March.

(The Britishers leave the scene silently.....Thangal keeps screaming to the Britishers)

Thangal : You people don't have the value of human sympathy and simplicity. You want to announce a war and later on you want to stop it. You don't even agree with our respect of handing over your arms to us. You don't want any solution.

(Thangjam Chaoba takes hold of Thangal General. There is a sudden noise outside)

Chorus : Kill.....kill

1. Just see the frustrated people of Manipur; they are trying to attack the Britishers.
2. The depressed and exploited Manipuris revolted against the Britishers and killed Lieutenant Simpson by stoning.
3. The Britishers are puzzled seeing the strength of the Manipuri's and they come back to the meeting hall in order to hide themselves.
4. Mr . Greenwood, the political agent is been pushed away but Nepra major from the steps.
5. Pukrambam Fingang now finally kills Greenwood with his sword.
6. Now the remaining Britishers are trapped in the hands of the Manipuri.
7. Now we should see the law of the judiciary.

Yes, who said that animal sacrifice is bad? Just come and close the lips of the Sahebs.

Carpenter: General, is it the order of Yuvraj?

Thangal: Why you should ask that? Whether it's his order or not.....

(Lights off)

Act – XIII

Time: August 12,1891

(Thangal is reminded of the last civil war of Manipur)

1. Chorus: Father, Brajabasi Paona, Maharaj Kullachandra has appointed Chongthamiya as the major.
2. Yuvraj Haobam Anganghal appointed as the major.
3. Father Longjam Subedar appointed as the knight.
4. Maharaj, the complete preparation to keep the Britishers away is taken into serious account and everybody is ready to revolt against them.
5. Chorus: Long live Shri Maharaj Kullachandra.
6. Father In order to protect Manipur from the group of Britishers and also from the British side, the arrangement has been taken up and Maharaj has sent Yenkhoiba major to protect the whole state along with seven hundred horses.
7. Yuvraj Yuvraj, Jumbuban major has been sent with his soldiers to safeguard Manipur from the Britishers who is asking their way from Kohima.
8. Father, Paona Brajabasi and Chongthamiya Major are now handling the power of responsibility of saving Manipur. They are well alert with their soldiers and to fight against the Britishers heading from Tamu.
9. Yuvraj there is a great combat and war between the Manipuri and the Sahebs.
10. Chorus: Long live Maharaj Kullachandra.
11. Father, even in Kohima there is a big issue and fight.
13. Father, even in Kohima there is a big issue and fight.
14. Father, the group of Laimaton is also destroyed by the Britishers.

15. Father: In the Khongjom War Paona Brajabidu is also fallen apart.

16. We are all defeated.

17. FatherThe royal palace is now occupied by the Britishers.

18. We are all defeated

(Thangal remain silent.....Chaoba comes in.)

Chaoba : Khurumjari, your family members have come to meet you, father.

Thangal : Today , my whole body and heart is burning. Oh lovely Manipur, now your lap is filled with the blood stains of your great sons. Now all our dreams are shattered and turned into ashes. Your flag has been pulled down by the heartless people. Oh mother, we have tried our best to save you from foreign hands but we remain helpless. Mother, we are all defeated now. I am so sorry that I am making my mother become the servants of the hypocritical people. But mother please do guide us in the right path so that your sons won't become a failure. We are here for you and can sacrifice our lives for you dear mother. Today your sons are responsible for your tears again. Mother I cannot bear your tears.

(The British army comes in)

Army : Time up.....

(Chaoba exits.....army reads a letter in front of Thangal)

Thangal General, according to the agreement signed between Maxwell and the chief political officers....a declaration is made that you are a criminal and have committed many crimes against the British government.

1st march, 24 1891, you revolted against the queen.

2nd ...you have killed various officers.....and big officials. Now you have to undergo a capital punishment. You are to be hanged.

A notification is made on the death penalty of Thangal General. The death is scheduled for August 13,1891.(The army saluted Thangal and left the place. The ropes (noose) are shown to him....but he doesn't display any sense of fear and anxiety in losing his life)

He says,

I am frustrated and unhappy

Oh mother Manipur, birth giver, soul giver

I feel depressed of dying for you just once,

I want to die every hundredth time

I want to born only at your lovely and gracious soil

I want to play at your soil

Independently.

The End.

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