



LESSON- 9

THE LEGENDARY RIVALS

NOTES:

A mukna-kangjei match was held between the king's side and the king's brother. The king's side had a handsome young man Nongban, who was a champion wrestler and mukna-kangjei player. There is no match for him in Moirang where the game took place. In the corner of the field, somebody spotted a stout and handsome young man and asked him to join the game. The young man replied that he has no proper clothes for the game. The man offered him his clothes. The crowd were happy to find a match for Nongban. The young man defeated Nongban and he was much more than a match for Nongban. The game was over with a wild cry of joy among the crowd.

After the game, there was a wrestling match called "Mukna", and Nongban had been undefeated for 7 years. In this game also, the unknown man defeated Nongban and became the new champion. The news of the defeat of Nongban reached the house of minister. He called the young man and asked his name to which the man replied that he was a very poor man and has no name. The minister was angry and about to punish him but a young beautiful woman came running and fell on her knees before the minister not to punish him, who was her brother. She told the minister that his name was Khamba and she was Khamnu. They were orphan and their parents were Puremba and Ngangkhareima. The minister starts weeping upon knowing that they were his friend's children that he was trying to trace them for a long time. They were brought up by Kabui Salang Maiba. Khamnu was married to minister's son Pheiroijamba. All the people of Moirang were happy. The wrestling match of Khamba and Nongban has become immortal. Even now, Mukna is a popular Manipuri style of wrestling.



Word Meaning

- *Legendary* : *very famous and talked about*
- *Swinging* : *swaying*
- *Politely* : *showing good manner*
- *Humility* : *humbleness*
- *Scored* : *sent to the goal*

