



Lesson – 17

THE PONY OF MANIPUR

NOTES:

Summary:-

According to the mythology of Manipur, the powerful God Soraren fell in love with a beautiful girl of earth name Konthoujam Tampha. They got married and have a son named Khoriphaba, Tampha desired to go down and meet her parents and relatives so she requested Soraren. He gave permission on the condition that she should not eat with the humans on earth. She left her son and came down with the help of a magic ladder. But she ate with her parents thinking Soraren could not see her but the divine saw everything and with great resentment decided to part with Tampha and pulled up the ladder. The separation left Khoriphaba completely disconsolate and then finally God Marjing of the North-East consoled the child by giving him a beautiful young pony. In addition to this there is the story of God's Thangjing, Marjing, Koubru, Wangbren and others playing Sagol Kangjei or polo in the mystical past of Manipur. Again in the legend of Khamba and Thoibi, there is also the popular episode of Thoibi riding away very fast on a horse of Nongban to reach the house of Khamba. And even today at Heingang at the shrine of God Marjing people make offerings of statuettes of winged horse. From all the mythical, legendary and ritual facts we can safely conclude that Manipur and its people have been associated with the animal called horse for centuries. Throughout history most of the old civilization of the world like the Chinese, Japanese, Romans, Mongols, Arabs, Mughals was associated with horse and its power. The same is the case of Manipur and its history. This land locked region has age old stories of its association with its pony which is an indigenous breed of horse born and nourished only in Manipur. The famous game Sagol Kangjei is believed to have started in the mythological past of Manipur with the help of its ponies. The formidable Manipur Cavalry armed with Arambai caused havoc in the river valleys of Chindwin in Burma and Barak in Assam thereby proving the innate qualities of the small but tough ponies of Manipur. Compared with other ponies of the world, the ponies of Manipur possess a more developed and stronger hind quarters with compact and very muscular bodies. Their hooves are closed and very strong and

shoeing is very rare in Manipur and these ponies have tremendous and time tested power of endurance. In other parts of the world ponies are used for ploughing, carrying heavy loads and pulling carts but Manipuri ponies are mainly used for carrying riders on their backs. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research regards the Manipuri pony or Meitei Sagol as one of the purest and most prestigious breed of horses of India. It is also the original polo pony of the world.

WORD MEANING:

1. Mythology - a set of widely held but exaggerated or force beliefs.
2. Devine - having to do with God or a god.
3. Resentment - a feeling of bitterness about something unfair.
4. Disconsolate - very unhappy and unable to be consoled.
5. Legend - a traditional story from long ago which is not definitely true.
6. Statuette - a small statue.
7. Cavalry - the part of the army that fought on horse back.
8. Sturdy - strong and solidly built or made.
9. Shoeing - fit a horse with a shoe or shoes.
10. Endurance - the ability to do or cope with something painful or difficult for a long time.



মিগাওংসোংল থেং নসুংমোল (থোং)
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)
Government of Manipur