

SOWING THE SEEDS OF PATRIOTISM IN KANGLEI SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT:

The name Manipur for Manipur State was coined on 1714 AD at the time of Pamheiba Maharaj. Heretofore She was christened as Muwapalli, Tellikoktom, Meitrabak, Taipongpan, Kanglei or Kangleipak etc. She has a long journey of civilization with full of bravery, sacrifices and a rich cultural heritage on its peregrination. Kanglepak Kingdom has rich cultural heritage right from the melodious tune of Pena to the eternal love story of Khamba and Thoibi. Kings and Princes of the small Kingdom of Kangleipak had fought innumerable battles to defend the Kingdom. Though with time, the modern era has set in the land bringing innumerable changes, the essence of the rich cultural heritage remains unchanged even at the face of modernity. On the other hand Patriotism is practical nationalism. It includes a sense of dedication and sacrificial spirits. A true patriot's motto will be "Life for lives' Sake". A sacrificed nationalist is a patriot. The seed of spirit of nationalism and patriotism shall be sowed at right place to be germinated on time at right environment of our motherland.

KEY WORDS:

Kangleipak, SharoiKhngba, Lamtaithangja, Moderate Patriotism, Deflated Patriotism, Ethical Patriotism, Negative Patriotism, Extreme Patriotism, Robust Patriotism, Nationalism Jannaneta, NongdaLairen etc.

INTRODUCTION:

The fertile soil of mind is the active energy generated from our inner self to transform ourselves nationalist or patriots. Energy lodging to every individual is one and the same. The only difference is our concentration in a single dimension of our responsibility and duties for us or for the cause of the nation. If one sacrifices his/her selfhood for the cradle or for the masses then he/she shall enshrine as a nationalist. On the other hand if he/she sacrifice his/her soul for the good cause of the people and country then he/she shall be lifted up to the pedestal of Patriots. So to give rise to the spirit of nationalism and patriotism requires concentrating our mental energy to a single deed of national concern without any diversion in body and mind. This concentration demands the historical pace of our forefathers who are worshipped as Patriots or Nationalist. India has many such historical legendary figures. Kangleipak has numerous historical heroes sufficiently. We should scan our heroes and think over about how they could sacrifice for the nation to attain our energy of dedication and renunciation. .

OBJECTIVE OF THE PAPER:

To awake the youths of India especially of Manipur, enlightening and sharpening their dormant energy to serve the nation in right time and right situation. Our Modern men are required to be recalled the historical bravery of our forefather kings, noblemen, service providers etc. Historical value and significance should be mesmerized to generate our hidden talents and capacity. To be attainable a little knowledge of the spirit of nationalism and patriotism by the youths is the target of this paper.

SCOPE OF THE PAPER:

The scope of the paper encircled to highlight the concept of patriotism and nationalism to the youth. It also encompasses to signify the cardinal part of the history of Kangleipak to young generation. Motivating them to be waked up their energy for the nation in order to reach the celebrity of nationalist and patriots is also the opportunity to deal with.

METHODOLOGY OF WRITING THE PAPER:

Collecting various books, journals, royal chronicles, Meeteipuyas in manuscript/ in publication and related literary magazines are manoeuvring as Secondary Resources to chalk down this Paper.

OUR MOTHERLAND:

We have a moral obligation towards our country because we are indebted to her. We owe our country, our life, our education, our language, and, in the most fortunate cases, our liberty. If we want to be a moral person, we must return what we have received, at least in part, by serving the common good. **-Socrates**

“I came rushing down the stairs in despair to save my life during an unprecedented earthquake, (sometimes people hurt their hands or legs and even die in the process), only to realise when I reached the ground floor that I forgot to wake up my wife and children. I forgot to take them down along with me in my run for safety!”

Saving oneself in the face of adversity is a natural phenomenon. "Flight or Fight" is a primal instinct. People conceive those who failed to take action to save themselves or their people first as an incapable person. Nationalism and patriotism spring from this primal instinct. Since evolutionary history, humans have defended themselves from wild animals and other challenges for survival. However, in a society, a single person cannot survive alone. Hence, man is a social animal (man minus social character equals animal).

Each person is a unit of a society. Individuals form nucleus families which eventually build a society. The process is not as simple as it sounds. Society over the years becomes a civilization which encompasses geographical boundaries, political conventions, culture and mores. Safeguarding these unique heritage generations after generations builds a civilization, the most

advanced stage of human social and cultural development and organization. Nationalism and patriotism spring from these rooted identities. Each individual's character becomes the character of a society. Along with this come two distinct approaches. First, the I-We Centric Theory and the second is the He-They Centric Theory. The I-We concept has a sense of belongingness which is different from the He-They concept. These two theories don't follow the same code. Each has their own social code. Special affection for one's own country, a sense of personal identification with the country, special concern for the well-being of the country, willingness to sacrifice to promote the country's overall welfare are the inherent qualities of a true patriot.

NATIONALISM VS PATRIOTISM:

Rationale thoughts lead to sensible actions. We often follow four basic steps in achieving a goal in a reasonable way. For example, for a hungry person, first is the feelings of hunger, second is the want to eat or drink a particular food item, third one thinks about how to acquire the food and fourth, the person acts so as to reach the goal. Feelings, wants, thoughts and actions lead to achievement of goals. Nationalism refers to the stages of feelings and wants. When a person attains all these four stages, he or she owns the sense of true patriotism.

Patriotism is practical nationalism. It includes a sense of dedication and sacrificial spirits. A true patriot will not shy away from making sacrifices. Their motto will be "Life for lives' Sake". Though Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi freed India from the shackles of the colonial yoke, he is not revered as a patriot but people revere Bhagat Singh who had sacrificed his life in the freedom struggle as a Patriot. Likewise, people revere Bir Tikendrajit who sacrificed his life for his motherland as a true patriot unlike the much honoured Bhagyachandra who fought many wars with the Myanmarese for the Kingdom of Kangleipak. A sacrificed nationalist is a patriot. There is no living patriot as such.

TYPES OF PATRIOTISM:

Negative Patriotism—Many self-centred leaders are emerging in the state. There are leaders who are willing to give their daughters in marriage to get voters to secure them 5 years tenure of MLA post and there are those who for their personal gains are willing to usher in alien cultures and traditions to build a hybrid nation. Such leaders are what we call leaders with negative patriotism. They are selfish and self-centred as simple as that.

Extreme Patriotism—In this case extreme patriots are those who take their patriotism to an extreme level. It doesn't matter whether they are on the right path or not. For them, it is "Our Country first, Right or Wrong".

Robust Patriotism—Then we have people with another type of patriotism, those who are shrewd and would go to any extent to sabotage the success of others. For example, someone who

can't get first in an exam, masterminds ways to refrain the first good candidate from appearing the exam. (Osama Bin Laden). Robust patriotism fuels those people who for the sake of their motherland sabotage another country.

Moderate Patriotism—People with moderate patriotism prefer to choose the middle path. They not only think for their own country but even their neighbours. They have a sense of obligation towards their mentors. They have a sense of moral obligation towards one's own country and their neighbouring countries. They tend to choose the middle path.

Deflated Patriotism—People with a sense of deflated patriotism are those who are willing to even sacrifice their dignity and their country to gain properties and other benefits for themselves.

Ethical Patriotism—Those who are rational and weigh their every step with a sense of duty and responsibilities towards their motherland are ethical patriots.

PATRIOTS IN KANGLEI SOCIETY:

Kanglei civilization was not formed in a single day or night. The Kingdom of Kangleipak evolved over the centuries. The Kingdom has rich cultural heritage right from the melodious tune of Pena to the eternal love story of Khamba and Thoibi. Kings and Princes of the small Kingdom of Kangleipak had fought innumerable battles to defend the Kingdom. Mythical story of creation the Universe, reign of Pakhangba, Victory of MeidinguKhagemba, and loudness of the Kang Chingba ritual to the deadly silence of SaroiKhangba of the LamtaiThangja intertwined in the unique culture and traditions of the Kangleipak. Though with time, the modern era has set in the land bringing innumerable changes, the essence of the rich cultural heritage remains unchanged even at the face of modernity.

Ancestors had kept these traditions alive for centuries for the upcoming generations. They strived to save these rich legacies for us. They lived for us. Whom are we leaving behind our legacies? Should we not protect and keep these rich cultures and traditions alive for our posterity? How long should we depend on others? Look at the diminishing image of Kanglei society, how sad it is!! We are living like an outsider in our own land. Like a tenant in our own land, we seek permission from others to do what we wish. Should we be competing with the knowledge of innumerable pages of other's constitution just to become heroes who will be eventually buried in the graveyard of media? Will this defend the Kangleipak?

Children are innocent. They are not yet corrupted by the magical aura of the society. They speak the truth; hence we often keep secrets from them. Question is who is sincerely working with responsibility and extending financial aid for the welfare of the society? People question why students are getting involved in bandhs and strikes? Shouldn't they be pursuing education? Who is responsible for their involvement? Aren't those leaders who created the chaos or issues in the first place be held responsible? Students know they need to pursue education above everything

else but yet compelled to stand up for the cause by carrying out agitations. They are not yet corrupted. Purity and innocence still flow in their blood. Why do most people with high degrees after getting respectable posts and those working abroad in big companies for years forget their motherland? How can and how will they protect the Kangleipak from intruders when they have even forgotten their mother language? Are they going to save the motherland?

The cause of this predicament is the existing education system. Though the National curriculum framework includes historically significant events of the state in the syllabus, these are not adequate. Those intellectuals of the state assigned to frame the curriculum should keep in mind not to exclude anything relevant to the Kangleipak. Without knowing NongdaLairenPakhangba, how can one truly love the Kangleipak? Without knowing Gambhir Singh and Nara Singh, how can one recognise his enemies no matter how educated he or she is? It is our responsibility to imbibe children with the rich legacy of the Kangleipak right from their pre-nursery stage. We should find creative ways to educate children with the rich heritage of the Kangleipak. We can engage children with animated versions of the state's folklore, MIL Manipuri should be made compulsory till the graduation level. Why is there a room for Alternative English in the syllabus when all the subjects are already being taught in the English language?

We should never forget that Eastern and Western writers will not appreciate Kangleipak's rich culture as much as we do. We should realise that the reverence of JanetaHijamIrawat will not be shown in their literature as in ours. It is too late to realise that we are already at the verge of perishing. It is time to save our motherland. To be a patriot who can sacrifice one's life for the motherland is simple yet complex. The spirit of true patriotism will be with us when we truly acknowledge our roots and identities, commit ourselves to protect our land and boundaries of the state and embrace our culture and traditions bestowed by our ancestors.

In the bygone years, before the present education system existed, people rushed with their weapons and packed food items at the sound of the Kangla Lan Pung (war-cry) from the royal palace to fight intruders in the Kingdom. A society will always have true patriots as long as it exists. Society will need them and always revere them. A society without a patriot is like a ship without an anchor, like an untamed horse. Can you stay hungry the entire night just because you were capable of staying without food during the day? Maybe one can go on without food for days but what about the innocent child who will be suffering the pangs of hunger? How can I wake up another sleeping person when I am still in deep sleep? Who is there to awaken us to save the Kangleipak? Wake me up from my waking sleepiness, open my educated yet closed mind and let me pay my obeisance to that patriot.

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