

# Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## N. Boljang RELIEF CENTRE

New Boljang Village, Lamka

Managed by  
Kuki Khanglai Lawmpi  
General Headquarters (KKL GHQ)

**Total Inmates Registered: 138\***

Male: 76

Female: 62

\*As on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2023



## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 25.11.2023



**153**  
DEATHS



**200+**  
VILLAGES BURNT



**7000+**  
HOUSES BURNT



**360**  
CHURCHES &  
SYNAGOGUES BURNT



**41,425**  
DISPLACED  
PERSONS

Thingkho Le Malcha (charred wood tied with chilli): A war symbol; a pre-arranged secret code agreed upon by the Kukis to inform the people about the commencement of war and on receiving this, one has to remain alert and be ready for the battle.

## 88 UNCLAIMED AND FOUR UNIDENTIFIED BODIES STILL LIE IN MORGUES

The Manipur government under the directive of the Supreme Court of India has appealed to the general masses to identify four unidentified dead bodies presently lying at the state government-run Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS), Imphal.

The Apex Court also directed the state government to undertake the burial process of the unclaimed bodies by December 12, 2023, if they were still unclaimed.

The body of a man and remnants of three burnt human bodies are lying at JNIMS mortuary, Imphal, the state officials said on Wednesday.

There are 175 dead bodies of which, 171 have been identified.

Eighty-three of these bodies were claimed by the relatives or the next of kin, 88 were unclaimed and the remaining four bodies were unidentified in the mortuaries.

For the unidentified bodies, the court directed the Manipur government to carry out the burial or cremation process keeping due observance of religious rites.

The state government has also been directed to collect DNA samples of all bodies as many deceased persons were part of numerous criminal investigations.

The Supreme Court Bench comprising Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra passed directions based on a report prepared by the committee led by Justice Gita Mittal.

The committee formed by the Supreme Court on 7 August 2023 has the humanitarian aspects such as compensation and rehabilitation of victims of the Manipur violence that erupted on May 3, 2023.

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## CM DESIGNATE LALDUHOMA TO TAKE MANIPUR ISSUE TO CENTRE

Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) chief and Chief Minister-elect Lalduhoma on Wednesday said that he would soon take up both the Myanmar refugee crisis and the Manipur unrest with the Centre. Chief Minister designate Lalduhoma, speaking exclusively to Northeast Live, informed that he had had a telephonic conversation with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar the day before and that he would visit New Delhi at a convenient time and discuss the issue with him.

In regards to the Separate Administration demand by the Kukis in Manipur, the ZPM chief said, "All of them are Indian citizens. They are our brothers and sisters and we will take care of them. I spoke to Union Home Minister Amit Shah yesterday regarding the issue. We will soon sit and discuss the matter face to face."

Earlier, the CM designate, a former IPS officer, also assured that his government would continue to provide shelter and assistance to refugees from Myanmar and those displaced from Manipur. Mizos share strong ethnic ties with Manipur's Kuki and Myanmar's Chin tribes. Since February 2021,



nearly 35,000 Chin refugees from Myanmar have crossed over to the state. Around 12,000 Kuki-Zo people from Manipur have also fled to Mizoram after ethnic clashes between the Kuki and Meitei communities broke out in the state in early May.

After emerging victorious in 27 out of 40 seats in the state, the Zoram People's Movement has said that the state's position on the issue of refugees would not change. "The issue is humanitarian," Lalduhoma, a former Indian Police Service officer said.

## SINZAWL VILLAGERS DECIDE TO UP THE ANTE OVER POSSIBLE LANDING OF STATE FORCES ON VILLAGE'S HELIPAD

Growing suspicious of the Meitei state government to militarize the hill areas by landing state forces using helicopter, the Sinzawl villagers under Thanlon Sub-Division in Churachandpur district today planted wooden poles at the Helipad in the village, in order to fence off any attempted move by the Meitei government to station the Meitei Police Commandos at the border between Lamka and Mizoram.

As per inputs, the villagers were alarmed about the possible deployment of Meitei Police Commandos in the border village by airlifting them from the state capital. This has raised suspicions among the locals that the helipad will be used during the airlifting process. As such, the villagers in a show of strong opposition against the proposed move, planted wooden poles at the helipad.

It may be noted here that Sinzawl is the last village in Manipur, bordering Mizoram. The famous Guite Road passes through this village. The Guite Road has been a lifeline for the Kuki tribals since the ethnic violence began in the state. The road also serves as a connecting link between the Kuki tribals and their ethnically related Mizo brothers of the neighbouring state. All medical kits, essential commodities and relief materials are transported through this road.



It is highly suspicious that on learning of the importance of this road, the Meitei led state government once again attempted to block the lifeline of the Kuki tribals who have already suffered immense hardships due to the blocking of relief supplies and medical items to the hill districts by the notorious Meira Paibis in the valley area.

That the deployment of Meitei Police Commandos would derail the smooth passage of all essential commodities passing through this road is what the Meiteis perceive, and this would mean economic hardship for the people, which they conceive as one way of suppressing the movement for separate administration.

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## GOC-IN-C EASTERN COMMAND MEETS MANIPUR CM, GUV

Lt Gen RP Kalita, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, General Officer Commanding in Chief, Eastern Command arrived Imphal on a four day visit to the North-Eastern state.

During the visit, GOC-in-C reached Manipur on December 6 and interacted with the Governor of Manipur, Anusuiya Uikey and Chief Minister N Biren Singh. GOC-in-C was accompanied by GOC, Spear Corps, a press release issued by PRO & Spokesperson, Ministry of Defence, Manipur, Nagaland and Southern Arunachal Pradesh informed.

During the meeting, Kalita discussed the current security scenario in the state of Manipur and further various aspects related to strengthening cooperation and ensuring security for the people of Manipur were discussed, the press release stated.



# MPCC'S DOUBLE-STANDARD EXPOSED OVER THE KILLING OF 13 MEITEI MILITANTS

The double standard of Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) has come to light in the backdrop of the killing of 13 Meitei insurgent cadres in Tengenoupal district on December 4.

When unarmed Kukis and civilians were ambushed, waylaid, tortured, brutally raped and murdered by the Meitei militants including the radicalised groups of Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun, the Manipur Congress remained silent, uttering no words of condemnation. However, when Meiteis were killed as a result of a retaliatory strike by the Kukis, the Manipur Congress organised a press conference condemning the killings. Such is the double-standard of all Meiteis irrespective of their party affiliation.

The Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) on Wednesday expressed deep sorrow and condemnation against the brutal killing of 13 Meitei youths. Addressing the media during a press conference held at Congress Bhavan today, K. Meghachandra, MPCC President, said that the MPCC and also the AICC strongly condemned the brutal killing of 13 unarmed youths at a place which is in close proximity of an Assam Rifles post and called it "genocide."

Strongly condemning the government of India for their inactiveness towards ending the seven month old crisis of Manipur, the President of the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) K. Meghachandra also expressed skepticism as to how long the people of Manipur would continue to suffer due to a conflict which is more likely to be a genocidal mission.

He said that Prime Minister Narendra or Home Minister Amit Shah didn't utter a single word on the brutal killings of 13 (thirteen) youths of Manipur at a place which is in close proximity of an Assam Rifles Post in Tengenoupal District on December 4.



## K. Meghachandra needs to answer the following questions:

1. Does MPCC have a close relation with the Meitei militants who were killed due to their mischievous mission?
2. Why did the militants go to the interior part of the hills in the midst of the ethnic war between the two communities?
3. Did the MPCC ever condemn the brutal killings of Kuki civilians by the Meitei militants?
4. Are the lives of the Meiteis more precious than that of the Kukis?

With the deep divide of the state under the BJP-led government, the Manipur Congress must learn to rise beyond partisanship politics.

While urging the three MPs from the state to put up the grievances of the people due to the ongoing crisis during the upcoming parliament session, Meghachandra also claimed that India is playing a double game in the Myanmar violence which is having an impact on Manipur and other neighbouring states of India.

# TANGKHUL FRONTAL ORGANISATIONS ISSUE STERN WARNING TO MEITEIS, SERVE 48-HOUR ULTIMATUM

The Tangkhul Frontal Organisations today through a Press Communique issued a stern warning to the Meitei community over the case of assault on three persons from the Tangkhul community by the Meiteis, serving a 48-hour ultimatum to the state government to book the culprits.

Strongly condemning the callous act meted out against 3 (three) persons from the Tangkhul community heading to Ukhrul from Imphal on 3rd December 2023, the Tangkhul Frontal Organizations' PC said that the victims were stopped at Sawombung by around 30-40 Meira Paibis and inquired as to their identities. Thereby they produced their Aadhaar cards and were thus verified. However, before they were relieved, one gypsy with 5 armed men came and took them to a place of about 5 mins travel distance from the place where they were stopped initially. Then, they were kept separately at a distance, interrogated and blamed as informants of Kukis, beaten severely and threatened to be killed by having guns pointed at them and being told that their bodies would be disposed of in the river. Then they were again taken to another location and continued to be terrorised and asked to run, which they refused saying that they had done nothing wrong.

"The atrocious act inflicted on the innocent citizens is inhumane and unwarranted." The Press Communique continues, "Such incident has accustomed in the name of safeguarding the community interest or mistaken identity. In many such past incidents, the community in good faith has tolerated enough with the sense of forgiveness. However, the repeated atrocities meted to the innocent citizens have once again broken the secured feelings and called our attention to question the intention of the specific community i.e. the Meitei. Therefore, in the light of this matter, we condemned the Meira Paibis working hand in gloves with the armed groups.

"We demand the state government to act and book the culprits within 48 hours and ensure the safety

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

6<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

The Tangkhul Frontal Organisation(s) strongly condemned the callous act meted against 3 (Three) persons from Tangkhul community heading to Ukhrul from Imphal on 3rd December 2023.

As communicated, it is learnt that the victims were stopped at Sawombung by 30-40 Meira Paibis and inquired their identities. Thereby, produced their Aadhaar card and thus verified. However, before they were relieved, one gypsy with 5 armed men came and took them to a place of about 5 mins travel distance from the place where they were stopped initially. Then, they were kept separately at distance, interrogated and blamed as an informant of Kukis, beaten severely and threatened to kill by pointing their guns saying their bodies will be disposed at the river. Then, they were again taken to another location and continue terrorising them and asked to run which they refused, saying they have done nothing wrong. The atrocious act inflicted to the innocent citizens is inhumane and unwarranted.

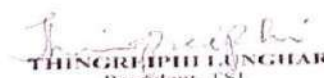
Such incident has accustomed in the name of safeguarding the community interest or mistaken identity. In many of such past incidents, the Community in good faith have tolerated enough with the sense of forgiveness. However, the repeated atrocities meted to the innocent citizens have once again broken the secured feelings and called our attention to question the intention of the specific community i.e. the Meitei.

Therefore, in the light of this matter, we condemned the Meira Paibis working hand in gloves with the armed groups.

We demand the state government to act and book the culprits within 48 hours and ensure the safety of the Commuters along the Imphal - Ukhrul road.

We also demand that the traumatized victims should be compensated.

Failing which, this shall be considered as a wilful act carried out in congruence with the state government and we shall act accordingly.

  
THINGREIPHI LUNGUARWOSHI  
President, USL  
President  
Tangkhul Shanao Long (TSL)

  
THEMASO TALLANAO  
President, TMNL  
President  
Tangkhul Meira Ngala Lon  
Tangkhul Youth Council

  
SARAMGANING  
President, TNWL  
Tangkhul Naga Wungnao Long  
Tangkhul Meitei's Association

  
RAMRECHAN KEISHING  
President  
Tangkhul Khatimao Sanglong  
President, TKS

of the commuters along the Imphal - Ukhrul road."

The Tangkhul CSOs also demanded that the traumatized victims should be compensated. Failing which, it would be considered as a wilful act carried out in congruence with the state government and that they would act accordingly, it warned.

# TENSIONS ESCALATE IN TAMU REGION OF MYANMAR; HUMAN CASUALTIES, BURNING OF HOUSES REPORTED

In response to the ongoing pro-democratic resistant forces' offensive being launched in several places, the Myanmar's military regime on Wednesday has escalated its campaign of atrocities over civilians at Htantapin – a Mizo village, located six miles away from the Tamu township, thereby killing four persons and razing about 200 houses to the ground.

In recent weeks, while the pro-democracy groups have been successful in capturing various strategic locations, the Junta forces and the Valley Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs) from Manipur, India, started launching retaliatory strikes against the pro-democracy forces, attacking Htantapin village in Sagaing Region leading to the burning down of 200 houses in the village.

Amidst the escalating tension, the People's Democratic Force (PDF), who were stationed at Khampat, also came under heavy attack by the Pro-Junta Combined Forces. The Combined Junta Forces captured six PDF cadres, two of them escaped while the rest have been killed mercilessly by the pro-Junta forces.

Among the four slain cadres, one of them belongs to the Kuki community, and hails from Janglenphai village. It has also been reported that the pro-Junta forces made their way from Khumnoi village.

The attack against the pro-democracy force came against the backdrop of the November 20



attack on Junta Army and Manipur Valley Based Insurgent Groups' camp at Myothit and Thanan and its subsequent seizure by the KNA (B) and PDF.

The attack against pro-democracy forces also came after unknown miscreants had killed 13 PLA cadres at Leithao village, under Machi Sub-Division in Manipur's Tengnoupal district.

The VBIGs and the pro-Junta forces have been currently using civilians as human shields at Tamu town and waging war against the pro-democracy forces.



**The only thing worse than a liar is a liar that's also a hypocrite!**

— Tennessee Williams

# ZPM LEADER LALDUHOMA TO MEET MIZORAM GUV TODAY TO STAKE CLAIM TO FORM GOVT

After winning the Assembly polls in Mizoram, Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) leader Lalduhoma, who is also the Chief Ministerial candidate of the party will meet the state Governor today and stake claim to form the government.

Lalduhoma will meet Governor Hari Babau Kambhampati at Raj Bhawan in Aizawl today at around 10:30 am.

ZPM registered a landslide victory by winning 27 out of 40 assembly constituencies in Mizoram, of which results were declared on December 4.

After leading ZPM to a landslide victory in Mizoram, party chief Lalduhoma, who is set to take over from Zoramthanga as the next chief minister, said the state's youth were fed up with the incumbent, the Mizo National Front (MNF), and wanted a new regime to come in with fresh ideas and principles.

"This is the blessing of God & the blessing of the people for which I am very happy & thankful. We had been expecting (such a big win) right from the previous year. We know the mood of the people. We know that they are in our favour..."



There is no contender at all...They had already selected me last year. It was already announced to the people that if ZPM returns to power Lalduhoma is going to be the CM. That is known by the people right from the previous year. There are many issues, as a government we have 45 departments looking after various things... After the swearing-in ceremony is over, I am going to have a press meeting for the first time as the CM. I am going to announce our top priorities" the CM designate said.

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## MNF REJECTS ZORAMTHANGA'S RESIGNATION AFTER ELECTION DEBACLE

The MNF, which was trounced in the Mizoram Assembly election, Wednesday rejected the resignation of its president Zoramthanga and agreed that he will continue in the post, party sources said.

The national core committee and political affairs committee of MNF rejected Zoramthanga's resignation and lauded his gesture of taking the moral responsibility of his defeat, MNF senior vice-president Tawnluia said.

The meeting felt that the election outcome is the collective responsibility of the party and not of the president alone, he said.

Zoramthanga, who served as chief minister of the state for 30 long years, had put in his papers following the party's debacle in the election. The counting of votes was held on Monday.

"The MNF failed to win the state assembly polls. In this regard, I take moral responsibility as the party chief. Considering that it is my obligation as the MNF president, I do hereby tender resignation from the president post and request you to accept the same," Zoramthanga said in his resignation letter to Tawnluia on Tuesday.

Zoramthanga has been the MNF president since the death of Laldenga in 1990.

The 79-year-old MNF chief has so far successfully contested assembly polls for six times in 1987, 1989, 1993, 1998, 2003 and 2018. He served as chief minister between 1998 and 2008 and 2018 and 2023.



**LAMKA REGION** GIVE WARMTH THIS WINTER TO SOMEONE IN NEED

# WARM HEARTS

A CHARITY DRIVE FOR THE DISPLACED  
DECEMBER 4-15, 2023

**Unleash the Santa Claus in you!**

Nothing makes decluttering easier than knowing your clothes are going to a worthy cause- or at the very least, not going to the dump. A small gesture of yours will be a boon for the displaced persons in relief camps.

Your unused shoes are not useless unless they are beyond any scope of repair. A simple act like donating a pair of shoes to someone in need and the joy that you give to yourself costs nothing.

You can also make a pecuniary contribution by donation whatsoever amount you could.

UPI ID: mangpimas365@okabi

**Scan, Verify, Donate & Share to 9366588474 (Mangpi Mate)**

9366588474 (Mangpi)  
7085604509 (Mimin)  
8787894835 (Lunboi)  
6009406153 (Henry)

**Donation Centre:**  
**Warm Hearts Charity**  
Opposite Nute Kailhang  
Tuibong Bazar, Lamka

**For more, please contact:**  
9366588474 (Mangpi)  
7085604509 (Mimin)  
8787894835 (Lunboi)  
6009406153 (Henry)

An Initiative of  
**Kuki Students' Organisation**

**DONATE TODAY**

## WARM HEARTS

### A Charity Drive for the Displaced - An Initiative of Kuki Students' Organisation

As part of the KSO's ongoing commitment to supporting those in need within our community, we are excited to announce the launch of the Clothing Drive in aid of the Internally Displaced Persons. Therefore, we invite everyone from all walks of life to join us in this journey of compassion and kindness! Your generosity fuels hope and creates lasting change in this challenging and tumultuous time.

#### What You Can Contribute:

**GENTLY USED CLOTHES:** We welcome donations of gently used clothing for all ages. (Donation of Summer Wears will also be accepted).

**WINTER APPARELS:** With the colder months approaching, warm clothing items such as coats, jackets, and blankets are especially appreciated.

**MONEY:** Your generous contributions will directly support in meeting the needs of miscellaneous items which are being missed out. Every donation, no matter the amount, plays a crucial role in achieving our goal.

#### Donation Centre:

Warm Hearts Charity  
Opposite Nute Kailhang  
Tuibong Bazar, Lamka

## THE BUZZ SOCIAL MEDIA



**Arijit nobody**  
@phoenixpaul2023

Where is human rights, where is women's rights? Manipur is a hell hole where they went back to the cave ages where they implement torture against anyone who disobeys them. Arambai tenggol and meira paibis r eating out country

#Manipur  
#Arambai\_Tenggol



**ANALYSIS**

**Has the Meiteis' Dream of an Independent Manipur Come to an End?**

On 29th November, 2023, the Home Minister of India, Shri Amit Shah, shared on his twitter post that the oldest insurgent group in Manipur, UNLF, had signed a ceasefire agreement with the Government of India. This was also enthusiastically shared and trumpeted by Biren Singh and a grand reception was held at Kangla Fort for the surrendered rebels. There was also news of people bursting fire-crackers in Imphal in celebration. Little did they know that their 60 years of independence movement just went up in smoke. Keeping aside the BJP Karyakartas who would have wanted to show that Biren had done something great, the common people among the Meiteis and sections of their intellectuals would have viewed it with mixed feelings. For one, thousands of Meiteis have lost their lives fighting for an independent Kangleipak. For them, it would be a betrayal to lay down their arms now.

Interestingly, the founders of the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) even had a Kuki and a Naga in their top ranks. Much water has flowed down the Imphal River and Kukis and Meiteis have now become such staunch enemies that it is unlikely that they will ever live together again.

For the BJP leadership in Delhi, it would have been more about theatrics than substance as they wanted to show that the BJP could do what the

Congress could not! The mainland Hindu vote-bank would not understand anyway that it was just one faction of one Meitei armed group amongst the many.

BJP might rejoice when one faction of UNLF signs a ceasefire. Meanwhile the other faction of UNLF, PREPAK, PREPAK(Pro), PLA, KYKL, etc. must be watching, and either laughing at their 'innocence', naivety and media stunt, or some might even contemplate joining the ceasefire bandwagon given their precarious situation in Myanmar! However, it might not be easy to give up the idea of 'independence' for those who had laboured for it for the last many decades. Unlike politicians who are interested in protecting their 'Musical Chairs', there are those who had genuinely joined the independence movement believing in its ideals.

Had Meitei politicians not fallen into the trap of thinking that Manipur belongs only to them, the independence movement might have had some takers even in the hills. In fact, Kuki undergrounds were willing to even have a solution within Manipur. Alas! Things have gone too far now. Biren did not foresee that his hatred for the Kuki-Zo would not only harm the Kuki-Zo but also the Meiteis, his own people. The ethnic cleansing that started on 3rd May, 2023, has not only led to the death of hundreds of Meiteis and Kuki-Zo, it seems that the dream of Meiteis' independent

*Contd.*

Contd.

Kangleipak kingdom has also come to an end. Biren succeeded in ending what thousands of Meiteis had laid down their lives for! What they laboured for 60 years comes to an end fighting the Kukis. In a sense, it might be even shameful for the remaining Meitei secessionist groups to join the ceasefire because it will be considered that they are doing so only for fear of the Kuki-Zo! However, Biren has already ploughed the road open, and if the other groups refuse to join, chances of a civil war within the Meitei community cannot be ruled out.

It would also be interesting to watch how Delhi reacts if some in the Meitei community continue to fight for independence. It would obviously go against BJP's nationalist rhetoric, and they would be seen aiding a community that wants secession against a (Kuki) community that has always been loyal.

Lastly, coming to the role of the Arambai Tenggol, the original Arambais of the 19th Century at least fought valiantly even though they could not protect the Meitei kings against Burmese invasion. The present day Arambais now ignorantly declare war on Kukis who had helped defend Manipur during that said Ava War. Today, the Arambai Tenggols could not stop their Chief Minister from nailing the final nail in a coffin of a gradually weakening independence movement that seeks to re-write the Merger Agreement. There would obviously be whisperers in the corridors of power in Imphal and market places that their 60 plus years of independence movement came to an end simply because an elected Chief Minister foolishly declared war on the Kukis. Biren ignominiously earned himself the badge of the man who brought down the curtains of the once powerful and glorious 'Manipur kingdom restoration movement'.

**COMMON PEOPLE'S VIEW VERSUS MANIPUR GOVERNMENT'S VIEW**



**THE TWO CONTRASTING VIEWS ON MANIPUR VIOLENCE**

**Post  
MORTEM**

# Ties of Culture

It was a silent summer end;  
In the hidden shade-  
The hills of barren mist shrunk as the moving shadows of their masters returned.

Spreading toe and nail, some climb uphill;  
their bamboo-woven bungs filled with gifts of the forest- sijou, aigetil, siengjol and a  
lump of aipah on the side.  
Names you will never hear of,  
Flavours you will never know of.

While the rest return from their jhum fields of lush greens,  
The birds of the horizon catch wind of the Chavang harvest up east and follow the family  
of a village busy beating paddy,  
sharing laughs, folding time and embracing the small glimmers from the fresh giggles.

Gliding through the raindrops,  
Running beneath the clouds,  
The hill-people of the far east and near west meet at the river below,  
They navigate through the red cliffs and the dark cities of artificial light  
And enter the sacred ancestral realm of their stolen culture.

For the most part of the year-  
They ploughed and dug their tuchas into the soil,  
Long and hard, beneath the wailing sun,  
pressed their fingers together  
And grew from their lands; fruits of arduous labour.

It was now time to unlearn the hallowing habits and bask under the twinkling stars.  
It was now time to build fires, sit by them and gossip of the eerie winter tales.  
By design, the skyline too tuned the marvellous sunset into an outburst of yearning  
colour.

The women of great beauty came down,  
An elegant embodiment of the khichong around her neckline, wrapped in the glorious  
Saipikhup, she sat next to another covered in the marvellous fashion of the Khiangkawi  
who complimented her sister's glowing red Gangte Puondum.  
One by one, the daughters of each clan gathered around the fire,  
And watched the youngest- With her hair braided and white daisies behind her ear,  
gracefully twirling round' the fire with her gentle Puanlaisan.

Contd.



Contd.

Their murmurs traverse across as humorous songs,  
The smoke of their timbres are like sweet-smelling esters,  
Their footprints draw a map of their hearts.  
The stains on their cups, the broken glass outside their doors, the  
painted wooden boxes;  
Are little reminders of their age-old roots.

The scent of fresh changal-pah from the rusted chimney of the  
mud-huts,  
The pale blue neighbourhoods that run through the rocky trials;  
the Unseen havens of buried grief,  
Cry out to the night-watchers and skyscrapers.  
The empty graves,  
The forgotten souls,  
The bones of the hill-people  
Draw their lines inside their maps,  
They wave goodbye to the bulldozers,  
They plant flowers on the cement creaks,  
So before the daffodils wilt, come hear of the ties of Culture,  
come witness the last of undying resilience scattered across untowed  
lands of the sturdy hillmen,  
For it is here where life blooms  
And it is here where life ends.

- *Abigail Misao*

**Postscript-**

*What little I could weave of the many words, I have laid them out  
bare.*

*The small and easy stories, the everyday struggles and joys, the rich  
and powerful sense of belonging in lands of stolen identity,*

*We find the hard grip of Cultural identity and the deep regard for  
who we are and the need to preserve that.*

*For we are who we are because our culture binds us, because we are  
tied by our culture.*

