

Medieval Sources and Its Perception about Few Tribes of Assam

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Abstract

It is a fact that Assam accommodate a number of tribes of India. The studied which have been done related to various tribes of this region, established the fact that mostly these tribes of North East India and specially Assam have immigrated from Tibet and Burma (Myanmar) regions during different phases of historical period. Generally, the tribes of Assam don't have tradition of history writing and that is why oral history plays an important role for the construction of the tribal histories of Assam. However, in this paper I have made an attempt to construct history of few tribes of Assam in the light of the Persian sources. The history of the tribals is quite rich and to know about their culture, society, polity and economy are also interesting.

Assam was a dangerous place inhabited by the people on the both sides of the river Brahmaputra situated in the north-east of Bengal. The river Brahmaputra flows through its middle from east to west. In the north-south region of Assam the different tribal communities like Mikir, Miri, Majmi (Mishmis), Dafla and Landa (Naga) live to the Naga hills is about a distance of 7-8 days of hill journey.¹ The few tribes are *Mikir* (Karbis), *Majmi*, *Dafla*, *Naga*, *Mishi*, *Khasi*, etc., about whom I have discussed in this paper.

The Karbi or Mikir are the principal tribal community in the Karbi Anglong district of Assam, a district administered as per the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India, having an autonomous district of their own since 17th November, 1951. Besides Karbi Anglong district, the Karbi inhabited areas include North Cachar

1 Shehabuddin Talesh, *Tarikh-e-Aasham*, tr. Mazhar Asif, Guwahati, Department of Historical & Antiquarian Studies in Collaboration with the Raushanara Education Foundation: 2009, p. 46.

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