

## Chapter – 9

Naga Motifs and their Meanings

Exercises.

**A. Answer the given questions:****1. What are the common Naga motifs that you see in Nagaland?**

**Ans:** Some motifs are of animals such as Mithun head, tiger, elephant, hornbill, snakes, lizard and monkey. Motifs if stars, moon, geometrical patterns, human figures, human head and breast are also frequently seen.

**2. Why is Mithun motif important to Nagas?**

**Ans:** Mithun head is a sign of marking a rich man or feast giver's status in society.

**3. Which is the most important bird motif you find in Nagaland? Where can you see the image of this bird or its feathers?**

**Ans:** Among the birds, Naga hold the Hornbill in very high esteem. The hornbill is a sign of power and high status. Most Naga tribes, especially men while wearing their traditional costume put on hornbill feathers as head adornments.

**4. What does the tiger motif symbolize? Who is eligible to wear tiger's teeth necklace?**

**Ans:** The Tiger motif stands for courage, strength and protection. Tiger's teeth are worn by warriors as necklaces to indicate their bravery and prowess in war. Often these necklaces are awarded after head taking achievements.

**5. Where can you find motifs of geometrical patterns in Nagaland?**

**Ans:** Geometrical patterns are mostly seen in the shawl and mekhala designs. Different coloured yarns are inter woven to bring out the pattern in them, giving these body clothes a lot of aesthetic appeal.

**6. Which tribes practice the art of tattooing?**

**Ans:** Tattoo is practiced by the Konyak, Chang, Phom, Khiamniungan, Pochury, Ao, Sangtam and Yimchunger tribes.

**7. What are some of the common reasons for which men got tattoos?**

**Ans:** Tattoos in men were like a military medal given for bravery in battle. When boys come of age and take part in a head hunting raid, tattoos were made to mark this rite of passage in their lives, in some groups, facial tattoo is given to a man only when he has taken a head.

**8. What are some of the common reasons for which women get tattoos?**

**Ans:** For woman, tattoos mostly spoke of her life cycle. In some tribes, girls get a tattoo when they come of age. Some even go beyond that and give another tattoo when the girl gets married and yet another one when she becomes a mother. Tattoo was even given at times, as a mark to protect her from falling prey to wild animals, particularly the tiger.

**B. Match the following:**

- House horns or Y-post with carved mithun head – **Feast Giver.**
- Tattoos in men – **Equivalent to military medal.**
- Women's breast – **Stand for fertility.**
- Bed carved with hornbill – **Angh or king of the Konyak.**
- Tiger motif – **Stands for courage, valour and bravery.**
- Women tattoos signify – **Life cycle of the person.**

**C. Tick the correct answer:**

- 1. A girl with a tattoo on any part of her body.**
  - a. **She has reached maturity.**
  - b. She is a warrior's wife.
  - c. She is the daughter of a tattoo artist.
  
- 2. In some Naga groups tattoos were given on the face or chest of a man**
  - a. **Only when he has taken a head in a war or raid.**
  - b. When he got married.
  - c. When he became a village chief.
  
- 3. Tiger motifs are usually seen on**
  - a. Village chief's house and shawl.
  - b. **Village chief's house, morungs, village gates and men's shawl.**
  - c. Every rich man's house.
  
- 4. Common Naga symbols of fertility are**
  - a. Monkey, tiger and geometrical patterns.
  - b. Geometrical tattoo patterns on women's chest.
  - c. **V-shaped wooden erections, human figures, women's breast.**
  
- 5. The carvings on the front panel of the house, morungs and village gates**
  - a. Were randomly chosen for their aesthetic appeal.
  - b. **Were made with important meanings attached to them.**
  - c. To show case the wealth of the village.

## **Chapter – 10**

### **Shilloi Lake**

Exercise:

**A. Answer the given question:**

**1. Describe Shilloi Lake in brief?**

**Ans:** in the heart of the Patkai range, bordering Myanmar ridges is a beautiful pristine lake, shaped like a human foot. It is the Shilloi Lake. It is the largest natural lake in Nagaland, situated in Lutsam village of phokhungri area under Meluri sub – division, in Phek district. The lake is spread over an area of 0.25- 0.30 sq km. Shilloi's landscape is breathtaking because it is nestled in a valley surrounded by hills of pine forest.

**2. What was the original name of Shilloi Lake? Why was it called so?**

**Ans:** The actual name of the lake was "Lutsam" meaning 'stagnant water', owing to the water's still and motionless appearance. The Britishers called it "Shiloh" but today it is officially known as 'Shilloi'.

**3. Why was Shilloi Lake considered the home for spirits?**

**Ans:** The locals consider the lake to be the abode of the spirits because of the many supernatural tales surrounding it. The lake is supposed to have a guardian spirit called the 'queen of the lake' by the people there.

**4. According to the legend of the lake, where was the missing baby girls eventually seen?**

**Ans:** The baby was seen in the middle of the lake, being held up by a pair of hands coming out of the water.

**5. Why was the draining of the lake given up?**

**Ans:** After the village chief had dream, in which he was warned by a voice that many more lives would be lost if they continued to drain out the lake.

**6. Why didn't the villagers use the water of the lake in the past?**

**Ans:** They were scared to disturb the sanctity of the spirit's lake.

**7. Today, if you visit Shilloi Lake, what do you expect to find and experience?**

**Ans:** I expect to find a beautiful tourist spot with exciting experience of the Lake.

**B. Complete the given sentences:**

1. Shilloi Lake is shaped like a Human foot.

2. Shilloi Lake is surrounded by hills of pine forest.

3. 'Lutsam' means 'stagnant water'.

4. The baby girl who disappeared came to be known as the queen of the lake.

5. No one has ever drowned in the lake because of her protection.

6. The missing baby was found in the middle of the lake held up by a pair of hands coming out of the water.

## **Chapter – 11.** **THE SPIRIT'S DANCE**

Exercises

**I. Answer the given questions:**

**1. What did Rotokhi and his son find blocking their path in the jungle?**

**Ans:** They found a huge fallen tree blocking their path.

**2. What happened after Rotokhi jumped and crossed the fallen tree?**

**Ans:** Khumtsa was not to be seen anywhere. He disappeared and Rotokhi was anxiously searching him in the jungle till night.

**3. Who appeared in Rotokhi's dream and what did he say?**

**Ans:** Khumtsa appeared in Rotokhi's dream and said "Father I was standing right next to the tree you jumped across. But you didn't seem to see me anymore after you crossed over".

**4. What happened to khumtsa after he got separated from his father?**

**Ans:** He was captured by the spirit and he was living in the land of the spirit.

**5. What did khumtsa warn his father about?**

**Ans:** Khumtsa warned his father that the spirits would come to their village soon and cause trouble.

**6. How was Rotokhi instructed to save the villages from the spirits?**

**Ans:** To prepare a feast for the spirits and leave it outside. They were then to go inside the house and stay hidden. No one was to look at the spirits, as that would cause instant death.

**7. What happened to those people who tried to watch the spirits?**

**Ans:** Those who tried to watch the spirits hiding inside their home, peeping at the spirits all of them died at the spot.

**8. How could Rotokhi watch the spirits' dance without getting killed?**

**Ans:** Rotokhi took a bamboo sieve and watched the spirits' dance through it.

**C. Complete the given sentences:**

1. Rotokhi and his son khumtsa went into the forest.

2. That night khumtsa appeared in his dream.

3. Rotokhi went back to search for his son with his kinsmen and friends.

4. The young man claimed to be khumtsa.

5. Khumtsa warned his father that the spirit would come to their village soon.

6. The village prepared a feast for the spirits.
7. The spirits dance was never seen before by mankind.
8. Rotokhi watched the spirits dance through a bamboo sieve.
9. Those who watched the spirits would cause instant death.
10. This dance of the spirits was learned by Rotokhi.

## Chapter – 13

### EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING.

#### EXERCISE:

##### I. Answer the given questions:

##### 1. Describe the nature of the bamboo planted by Lijaba, the creator?

**Ans:** The bamboo was so generous and willing and shared its love and goodness with all the creatures on earth. The bamboo grove provided shelter for wayfarers. Those in hunger and thirst, were hospitably treated and fed to their full. Whosoever wanted to live under its kingdom was graciously allowed to live and thus, its kingdom flourished.

##### 2. When the young bamboo son wanted to grow taller and taller, what did the father advice?

**Ans:** The father bamboo advised saying: “My son, one cannot live on this earth simply by following the teachings and advice. We learn better through experience. So, grow up higher as you desire”.

##### 3. Why was the tall young bamboo frightened and shivering?

**Ans:** The young bamboo was frightened and shivering because of the heavy winds blowing and thunder sounding for stormy rain.

##### 4. Why did the father bamboo look up casually when his son screamed for help?

**Ans:** For the father bamboo, the storm was nothing unusual or one that would scare him, and thereby looked up casually at his son.

##### 5. What did the father bamboo ask his son to do when he was frightened?

**Ans:** The father bamboo told the young bamboo, “Son, remove the covering at each node in your body, starting from the height above me till the top”.

##### 6. Why was the young bamboo ashamed of himself?

**Ans:** The young bamboo felt ashamed of himself for being so proud and outgrowing his father without knowing the ways of life.

##### 7. What has the young bamboo learned at the end of the story?

**Ans:** The young bamboo learnt to live in the way his father taught him, and stood by his father at all times, sharing all that they knew and had with the fellow earthlings.

##### II. Say whether the given sentences are true or false:

1. The bamboo grove allowed everyone to live under it. **True.**
2. Young bamboo shoots who began to grow from the bamboo grove did not want to share the bamboo grove with everyone. **False.**
3. Father bamboo encouraged his young son to grow taller as he desired. **False**
4. The tall young bamboo was filled with pride. **True.**
5. The tall young bamboo was strong and brave. **True.**
6. The father bamboo looked tiny because his son was looking down from a great height. **True.**
7. The father bamboo told his son to remove all the nodes in his body. **True.**
8. The son realized that it was foolish to grow tall without knowing the risk involved. **True.**

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