



Lesson 2

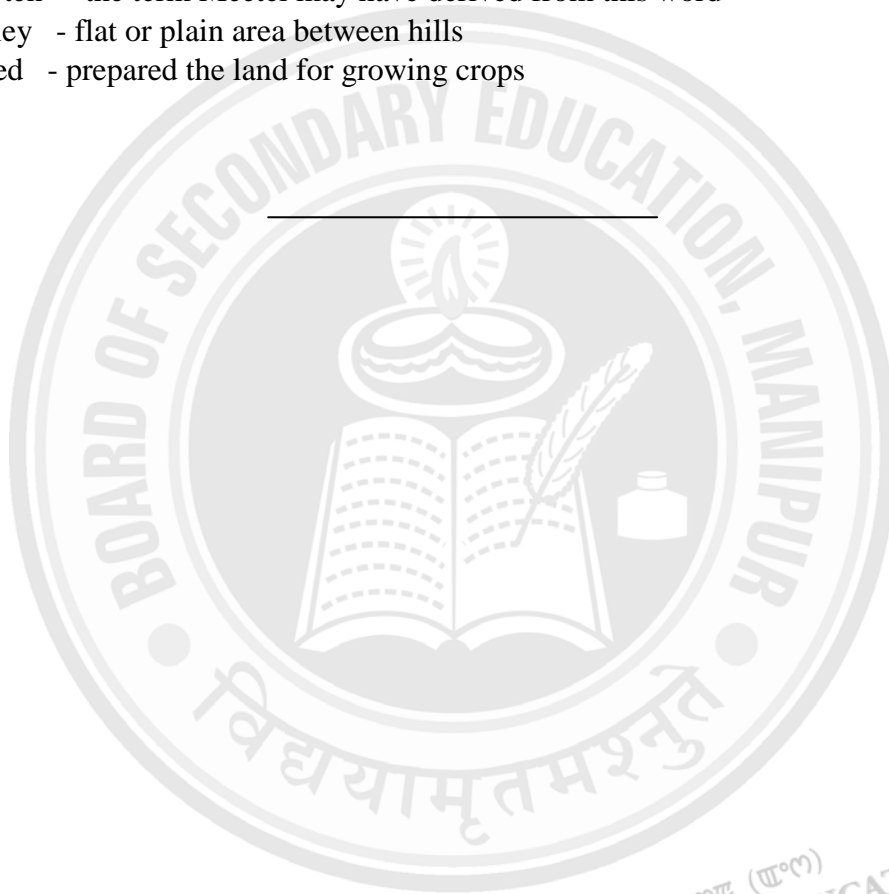
The Daughter of the Hundung Chief

Summary:

The story is a Tangkhul folk-tale. It is about a beautiful girl, the only child of the chief of Hundung village. Once on her way to the field alone, she was impregnated when a butterfly came and sat on her navel. She was afraid to tell her parents, so she spread out her karouphi at the field one day, she requested the one who had made her so miserable to come and sit there so that she could see him. A God came in the form of a serpent and sat on her karouphi, the serpent turned into a handsome young man. They began to meet secretly at the field every day. As time passed, she could not hide her condition, so her father asked her furiously to bring whoever did that to her. And she will be killed if she could not do so. But the God could not appear before other people, so the God asked her to run away from her house and go to Huimei village where the God would be waiting for her. She gave birth to two sons and brought them up alone in the same village. The younger son insisted that he would go and see the valley. So, the mother gave her son a female ok, a piece of yaingang and some paddy and he started his journey. He decided to take some rest at a place, his female ok met a male ok and this place came to be known as Ukhrul. After travelling for some time, at a further place, his female ok gave birth to a piglet and this place came to be known as Okpokpi. He planted the piece of yaingang at a place which came to be known as Yaingangpokpi. He reached the valley and built a house and lived alone. A Kabui brother and sister once approached for shelter for a night when it rained heavily. He felt in love with the girl and they got married. The young couple worked hard and grew various crops. The wife gave birth to a son whom they all agreed to call Meeteen as the child belonged to the two communities. Legend has it that the Tangkhul man and the Kabui woman got married and settled in the valley this way.

Glossary

- Navel - small depression on the belly left by detachment of umbilical cord
- Serpent - snake
- Karouphi - a traditional clothe used by Tangkhuls
- Furious - very angry
- Nongmangkha - a plant with herbal qualities. Even today, the leaves are used for the treatment of cold and cough
- Ok - a Manipuri word for pig
- Yaingang - a Manipuri word for turmeric
- Meeten - the term Meetei may have derived from this word
- Valley - flat or plain area between hills
- Tilled - prepared the land for growing crops



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