



INTACH

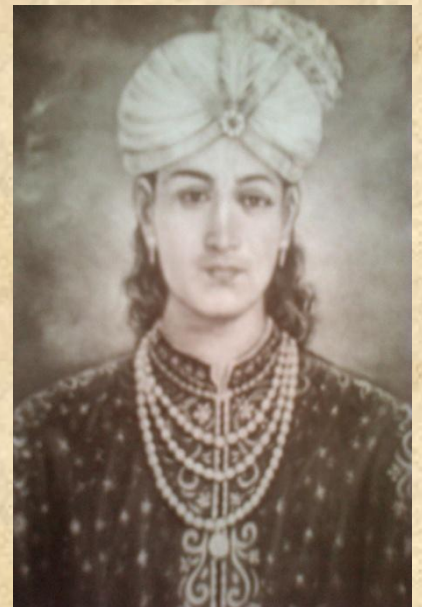
# FASCINATING LEGENDS MANIPUR

## KAINA: THE SACRED HILLOCK



### HISTORY

The Kaina Hill is situated about 14 kms to the east of northeastern state of Manipur. It was known by the name Lakhai Phandong Ching in ancient days. The Vaishnav followers among the Meitei community call it **Bhashmukh Parbat**. According to one legend, Shri Govindjee once appeared in a dream of his devotee Bheigyachandra, Maharaja of Manipur, and ordered him to build a temple enshrined with his image carved out of a jackfruit tree growing at **Kaina**. The king interpreted the dream to be a boon for his kingdom and ordered his royal sculptor to identify a **jackfruit (Theibong)** tree that grew on this mountain range of Kaina and carve out the deity's image. But there is a fascinating story behind this event as well.



### LEGEND BEHIND THE SREE GOVINDAJEE TEMPLE

The story tells about a man belonging to the Pangambam community once cracked open a jackfruit to offer it to the deity. But the fruit had only two seeds inside. He kept the two seeds in an earthen vessel and placed inside the kitchen of his house. Upon sprouting, the man planted it at a place near the eastern slope of the mountain. In future, it grew into a beautiful Theibong tree.

As it was a blessed seed, the jackfruit tree grew into a healthy tree with its well spread branches on all the sides. The tree was quite popular and people came from all over the state to admire its beauty. There was a woman belonging to Lisamluk village who frequented the hillock for collecting firewood. During one of her such trips she happened to see a good looking innocent boy playing in the vicinity. The woman gradually grew fond of him. One day the little boy approached the woman and said that he was hungry and wanted to eat. The kind woman offered him food thereupon whenever she bumped into him in the slopes. This meeting between the old woman and the little boy got reported to the king one day. In the meantime, the King dreamt again of Sri Govindajee and was reminded of his promise of sculpting of his image from a jackfruit tree. The king could connect the dots and understood that the little boy is no one else but the Lord himself. Soon he ordered for his army to hunt for the special jackfruit tree on the Kaina Hill. The old woman was also interrogated about the appearance of the young boy. The woman showed them the direction in which he used to appear from. Upon reaching the place, there were no traces to be found of the young boy. After many days passed, they happened to locate a large defied Jackfruit tree. When the king was informed about the location of the tree, the king at once believed that the tree was the Lord himself, Sree Govindajee. Upon consulting the court council, an auspicious day was chosen to cut down the tree. After performing certain rituals, the tree was given a volley of axe blows. But the aftermath was shocking to one and all present there. The tree oozed copious amount of blood from its trunk. The king was horrified and consulted the scholars about a remedy. Accordingly it was advised that the jackfruit tree to be uprooted rather than struck. The citizens helped transporting the tree across the mountain range, set afloat in the River Iril. But after sometime the tree sank into the water. Various techniques were applied to get the tree back on the surface of the water. Upon hearing so much of delay in getting the auspicious tree to the palace, the King reached the bank of the river and prayed to Sree Govindajee to help him in this ordeal. Suddenly the tree emerged on the surface of the water without much ado. Everyone hailed the deity and the honest praver of the king. The tree was left for a year to dry and

### DID YOU KNOW?

The place where the jackfruit tree sank came to be known as 'Urup' and where the place a prayer was offered to Sree Govindajee to get back the tree is called 'Arapti'. Both the places have become a pilgrimage site.

## ACTIVITY

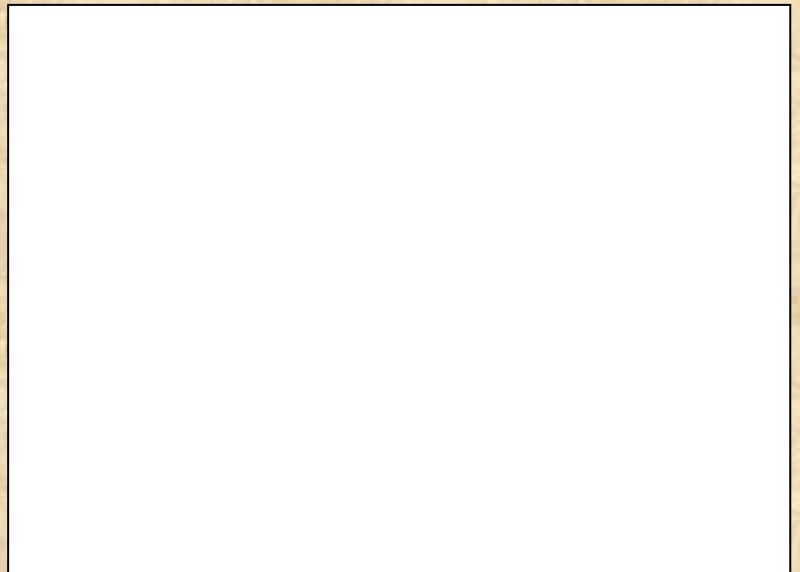
1. The Meitei community follow which sect of Hinduism.

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2. Find out any similar legend or folktale behind the temple of Sree Govindajee.

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3. Make a sketch of Sree Govindajee Temple in the space given below.



**CREDIT:**

[http://www.epao.net/epSubPageExtractor.asp?src=manipur.Arts\\_and\\_Culture.Story\\_of\\_Kaina\\_Theibong\\_Cultural\\_History\\_Of\\_Manipur\\_By\\_Ch\\_Jamini](http://www.epao.net/epSubPageExtractor.asp?src=manipur.Arts_and_Culture.Story_of_Kaina_Theibong_Cultural_History_Of_Manipur_By_Ch_Jamini);

<http://kangleipakima.blogspot.in/2012/08/natural-beauty-of-manipur-kaina.html>