

Origin of Tani

In the beginning there was nothing except cloud and water. Then fire was borne and there was a war between fire and water until fire surrendered and beautiful land emerged out of the destruction. Fire was hidden in stone and wood, remain there forever.

Abo-Tani was born out of the soil. He was not born in the present form and passed through many stages of evolution until he reached the present form that is called NehaTani. Mythology reveals the different epochs of Abo Tani as uhilemba, eh pryolemba, Mudolemba and Subunglemba. During these earlier epochs Abo Tani married the females of plants and creatures around him like the dove, leech, crow, and the leopard. He also married Plume Byinyi, the god of fire, but his private parts were burnt so he had to go to the tall mountain crest to recover in the cool breeze.

In another stage Abo Tani had the power to transform himself from one form into another. This was how he turned himself into a squirrel and visited the secret place of the gods to learn their plans. There were many pre-existing deities and they fought one another for land and territory. Abo Tani was also capable of fighting with gods and deities as he had koga-miiri, a third eye at the back of eye. He also had ludu-piimi, or two spikes, one each at the end of the heels. He could see everything at once with the help of the third eye; and with the help of two spikes as powerful weapons Abo Tani battled with gods and goddesses. In this way he captured almost all the fertile land, the gentle river, the useful trees and plants, and chased away all.

Later on Abo Tani married to Chiya Yeny Biny, daughter of Sun. from there, the whole human being came into being. As per the oral tradition, Abo Tani had a son called Nyia. from Nyia born Harin, Har, Hagung and others and now Tani People and presently tribes in Northeast and China, viz- Adi, Apatani, Galo, Mishing, Nyishi, Tagin, Puroik. In China they are known as Lhoba(Adi, Apatani, Galo, Mishing, Nyishi, Tagin, Puroik, Aka, Miji, Bugun, Mishmi).