

7

90 ✓

Nat on NAT

8/14
1903

1. Nat (নট)

There are 5 kinds of Nats, they are

(1) Bharatkulia (ভারতকুলিয়া)

(2) Nahit (নাহিত)

(3) Dhodang (ধোদাং)

(4) Kholgayan (খোলগায়ান)

(5) Melagayan (মেলাগায়ান)

Bharatkulia nats are high class nats and are found in Shekial + Gurnugania monzas in the subdivision of Golaghat.

Nahits are found in Harigaon, Jorhat.

Dhodang nats are natives of Raibhoga in Naharani monza.

Kholgayan + Melagayans are the professional dancers + singers found in a large numbers in Deg Dergaon + Naharani monzas in Golaghat Sub. Div.

2. Bharatkulia, nahit + Dhodangs are the endogamous subdivisions of the nats

3. Nats are exogamous, it is Bharatkulia can marry from Bharatkulia, Nahit from nahits, Dhodang from dhodang &c.

The other four divisions of nats do not give their daughters in marriage to the Melagayan nats who can marry.

from their own sect or division.
 Owing to their inferior professions
 they are looked down upon by the
 other divisions.

4. Like the Hindus they observe the
 rules of consanguinity, i.e., that a
 man must marry within the caste
 but must not marry within the 4 degrees
 of relationship from the fatherside + 5 degrees
 from the motherside. A man may
 marry two sisters, provided he marries
 the eldest sister ~~to~~ at first.

- 5.
- (a) yes.
 - (b) yes.
 - (c) yes.
 - (d) yes.

There is no prohibition of inter-
 marriage based upon the above
 status or position.

6. The popular tradition as to the
 origin of the caste runs thus: —
 Jaidas a man of well versed in music
 migrated from Bengal to Hajipur. He was
 the supposed progenitor of the Nats in
 Assam. Some generations after a
 man by name Kusa Ram came to
 Assam Rajas Court with his party.
 He ~~pleased~~ ~~the King~~ He with his songs
 + music satisfied the King. He fell

in love with a Lalung girl - He left
~~three sons~~ + married her + left 3
 sons from ~~which~~ + are known as
 Kholgayan, Bhodang + Mela gayan.
 Bharat Kulia nats are the offsprings
 of those who accompanied Kusakam.

7. The habit of the Caste is
 settled one.

8. They can admit outsiders of
 the upper castes into their own but
 not from the lower castes.

9. Adult marriage is generally
 most general. Sexual license
 before marriage among the
 Bharat + Kapiro is not tolerated
 but the girls of Mela nats are at
 liberty to do everything they like.

10. Polygamy is permitted, polyandry
 not.

11. Paajapalya + Asurik are
the forms of marriage.

विधाय, अश्विनो विधाय, विधाय
(21st) are the binding portions of
the marriage ceremony.

12. Widow marriage is permitted.

She cannot marry her husband's
elder + younger brother. She can
~~ex~~ except such a man with
whom herself + husband has
no ~~with~~ relationship ~~and~~
among whom marriage is prohibited
by the Hindu Sastras.

13. Neither a husband nor a wife
can divorce each other.

14. The members of the Caste
follow the Hindu Law of inheritance.
The law is known as Dya
Dvayakhaga.

15. The religion of the East is Hinduism. Some of them are Baionavas, some are Saikhas & rest are Saklas.

16. The other Gotroos are ~~अथर्व~~, ~~यजु~~, ~~अथर्व~~. They are worshipped for the recovery of some disease. ~~अथर्व~~ are worshipped in the yard by the women only.

17. Yes, they employ Brahmans for their religious & ceremonial performances, & these Brahmans are not ^{other} taken in terms of equality by the Brahmans of ~~other~~.

18. They burn their dead. Ashes are thrown into the river, bones are sometimes taken & thrown into the river Ganges by ^{some} ~~those~~ who can take a pilgrimage to that river.

19. (a) yes?

(u) no.

(e) yes.

Shradha is only performed annually.

20. No.

21. Bharat Kulias are cultivators.

Melanath are professional singer
+ dancers.

22. ~~Are~~ Agriculturists.

(1) no

(2) no

(3) Ordinary Ryots.

(4) No.

(5) Paddy cultivation.

(6) no.

23.

(a) No.

(b) No.

(c) No,

(d) No

24. The musical instruments
are (२१२), (२१३), २१३१, २१३२
now (२१३२), (२१३३), + २१३ १

25. No. The girls of Melanato
are allowed to earn money by
dancing & prostitution. When
they are tired or when they dislike
the profession they are married
by purifying by the Praya Vilas
which costed Rs 24 each.

26. Duck, pigeon, fish, Deer
are the ~~main~~ food of the caste.
Leavings of Brahmans & Gossains
are taken.

27.

(a) No.

t

(a) Brahmans can take
(b) Kachhi + water from
the nats other than Melagayan.

(c) Kalika, Keot + Koch can
Smoke Hoka with nats.

Note: —

Girls are taught to sing +
dance from 6 or 4 years of age.
They ~~are~~ are in the habit of
doing so for 6 or 4 year after
they attain the puberty. During
the period of they are open
prostitute. Even the parents of ~~the~~
~~for~~ do not take anything from the
girl.

Nats were expert drummer
during the Rajas. The Elengmaria
nats of Gurnugania manza in
the sub division of Golaghat are
best ~~of~~ or drummers in Assam.

৩৩৩৩ ৩৩৩ ৩৩৩ ৩৩৩

৩৩৩৩-৩৩৩৩

৩৩৩৩-৩৩৩৩

৩৩৩

৩৩৩৩ ৩৩৩৩-৩৩৩৩-৩৩৩৩

Information given by -

(1) Sriput Dwarika Nath Goswami
of Madhumista Sabra by caste
Brahmin + puruhit of Anurika
Gossain. Nath are disciples of
this Madhumista Gossain.

(2) Bhabu Ram Mokla
Caste — Nat, Bharat Kulia
Occupation — Contractor
Residence — Dhekial
Religion — Hindu, Brahma.

(3) Piyai Nat. (Bharat)
Residence — Gurugunia mose.
Occ — Cultivator.

N.B.

The above informations are
taken down by me personally.

J. Gosain

Dhekial

24-10-03