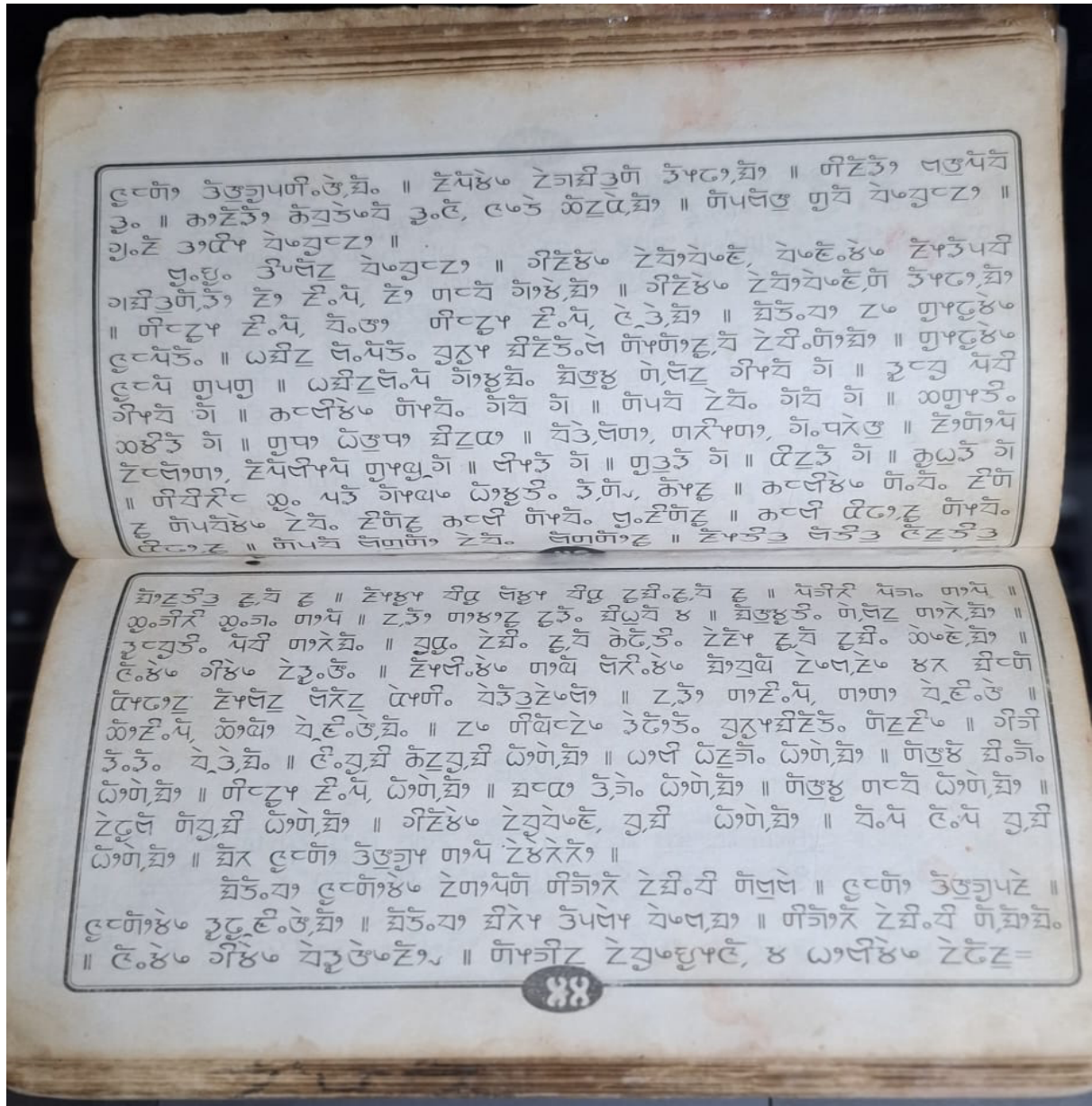


Holy Book of Kirat



The holy book of the Kirat people is called *Samjik Mundhum* (Kirat Veda), which is the primal, eternal, and sacred doctrine of the Kirat community. It is written in the Kirat script using the ancient Kirat Yakthung language.

Etymology of the word Samjik Mundhum and its philosophy:

The term *Samjik* in Kirat consists of two syllables: *Sam* means soul, and *jik* means conscience. Thus, *Samjik* signifies the soul and conscience. *Mun* means movement, and *Thum* means energy in the form of motion. Therefore, *Mundhum* represents the power of great strength in the form of motion. Together, *Samjik Mundhum* means the power of great strength of soul and conscience expressed through motion, which is present in all beings.

Samjik Mundhum embodies the manifestation of enlightenment, subconscious blessings, truth, wisdom, righteousness, peace, knowledge, passion, and love. It contains stories about the creation of the universe, the origin of humankind, the law of cause and effect, and details the sacraments, rituals, and rites of the Kirat people from pre-birth to death. Additionally, it covers many aspects of Kirat culture, customs, and traditions, serving as both the religious scripture and folk literature of the Kirat community.

Types of Samjik Mundhum:

Kirat Samjik Mundhum is recited in two traditions: Thungsap Mundhum (oral) and Pesap Mundhum (written).

Thungsap Mundhum is the original version, theoretically used before the invention of the written script, and is based on Shamanism. The propagators of Thungsap Mundhum were Kirat prophets known as Phedangba or Phedangma, Samba or Samma, Yeba or Yema, and Mangpas, who performed rituals by orally reciting the Mundhum.

Pesap Mundhum is the later version that emerged after the invention of the written script. The written script was essential to preserve the originality of Thungsap Mundhum, and this written form is collectively called Samjik Mundhum. The Mangsewasaba of Pesap Mundhum are Muhingum Ongsi, Tum-Siksamba, Sewasaba/Sewasama, and Samdanggenwarumsaba/Samdanggenwarumsama.

Mundhum Reciters (Mangsewasaba) and their responsibilities:

Muhingum Ongsi, Tum-Siksamba, Samdanggenwarumsaba, Samdanggenwarumsama, Sewasaba, Sewasama, Phedangba, Phedangma, Samba, Yema, Yeba, and Mangpa are the Kirat priests who recite the *Samjik Mundhum* book or orally perform various religious ceremonies, rituals, and rites from pre-birth to death include the following:

Muhingum Ongsi – Not just a human figure, but considered a reincarnation.

Tum-Siksamba – The religious head, Muhingum Ongsi, selects and recognizes a guru who knows the Kirat language, script, and religious practices and appoints him as the principal, called Tum-Siksamba.

Samdanggenwarumsaba and **Samdanggenwarumsama** – Expert and well-versed male and female priests, respectively, who perform ritual activities by reading the *Samjik Mundhum*.

Sewasaba and **Sewasama** – Male and female priests, respectively, who perform ritual activities by reading the *Samjik Mundhum*.

Phedangba and **Phedangma** – The first group of spiritual priests, male and female respectively, who perform rituals orally based on shamanism.

Samba – The second group of spiritual priests, both male and female, who perform complicated rites and rituals orally based on shamanism.

Yema and Yeba – The third group of spiritual priests, female and male respectively, who act to cure diseases believed to be caused by the evil spirits of envy and jealousy. They perform rituals and rites to pacify and eliminate *Sogha–Sugut* (evil spirits associated with unnatural deaths such as accidents, miscarriages, childbirth, etc.).

Mangpa – Spiritual priests of the Khambu (Rai) stock of Kirat origin, both male and female, who perform religious functions similar to Yeba and Yema, pacifying and eliminating evil spirits of unnatural deaths.

Khaik Mundhum (Astrology) – One of the limbs of *Samjik Mundhum*, Khaik Mundhum is the study of the motions and relative positions of planets, the sun, moon, and other celestial bodies, forming the basis of astronomy. It involves casting birth charts and predicting a person's future by interpreting the relative positions of planets, the sun, and the moon at birth. It is also used to select auspicious and inauspicious times for various activities.

Khaiksaba – Astrologer