

# Of eastern Himalayas and its people

Tashi Dema

It's a story about people of eastern Himalayas – of their family and society, forests and fields, and their arts and crafts.

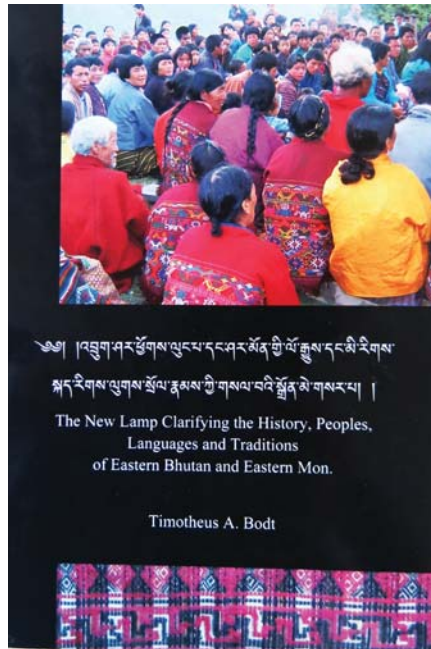
It's for people interested in history, anthropology, language and culture of people of India, Bhutan and Tibet.

'The New Lamp Clarifying the History, Peoples, Languages and Traditions of Eastern Bhutan and Eastern Mon' by Timotheus A Bodt establishes the historical, religious, cultural and linguistic affinities between people of eastern Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh in India.

The book has diverse topics and represents a wealth of knowledge, gathered through the author's personal contacts with the people of Bhutan, from both inside and outside the country.

The book also provides details on Guru Rinpoche's travels to Bhutan and establishment of Buddhism. It also provides history until the advent of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, a version not taught in schools.

Stories of the hidden land of Pemakö in Tibet and its historical links to the area of Monyu are also penned down. The book establishes that unknown to major-



**Book:** The New Lamp Clarifying the History, Peoples, Languages and Traditions of Eastern Bhutan and Eastern Mon  
**Author:** Timotheus A Bodt (Sangay Dorji)  
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ity of people in Pemakö originated from eastern Bhutan and this is reflected clearly in their language and culture.

The author asserts that *Tshangla* might not be a Bodish or a Bodic language but the data is far from convincing. He also tries to state that *Dzalakha*, the local language spoken in Trashiyangtse is a mere

linguistic variety within the wider Dakpa dialect and Dungsam dialects of *Tshangla*, probably representing the most archaic and thus original *Tshangla* varieties.

The book also draws parallels between various people of the eastern Himalayan region against a historic background, the various stages of life, livelihood systems, arts and crafts, including weaving, and religion.

The strength of the book, its comprehensiveness, is at the same its biggest weakness. The wide personal interest of the author and his apparent desire to include each and every facet of the history, ethnology, anthropology and linguistics of this vast and ethnically diverse area in one publication is, to some degree, unfortunately reflected in the book.

The author, Tim Bodt, is popularly known as Sangay Dorji or 'the Bhutanese born in the wrong country'.