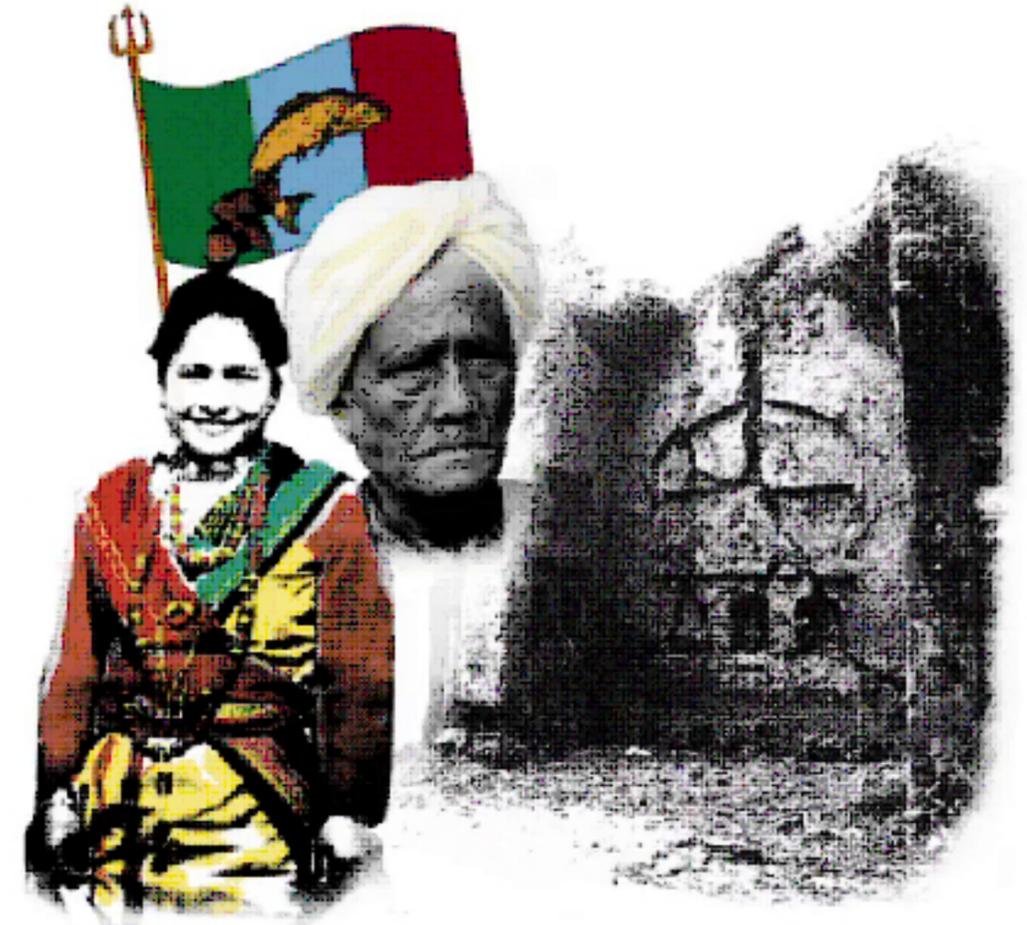


Project III 23rd May 2021

The Jaintia Kings: Information Visualization of Jaintia History and Culture

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2. The Information
3. Ideas
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1. *Introduction*

- Historical data of the tribes of Meghalaya exists mostly as **textual form**.
- Credible sources are **not easily accessible** to the general public from outside the tribal community.
- Usually **meant for scholars and historians**

1.1 Aim and Objective

- Create a visually rich narrative about a part of history within this tribe.
- Understandable to the general public with no prior knowledge needed.
- Accessible to a wide audience.

1.2 Visit to Museum

- Visit to the museum showed a lack of "**Intangible Heritage**".
- UNESCO defines Intangible Heritage as:
 - "living experiences inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants, such as **oral traditions**, performing arts, **social practices**, **rituals**, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts."
- Show that **folklore can be a rich source of data** and insight.
- Myths and legends intertwined with historical facts



Source: Author(above), below (dbcic.in)

1.3 Design Brief

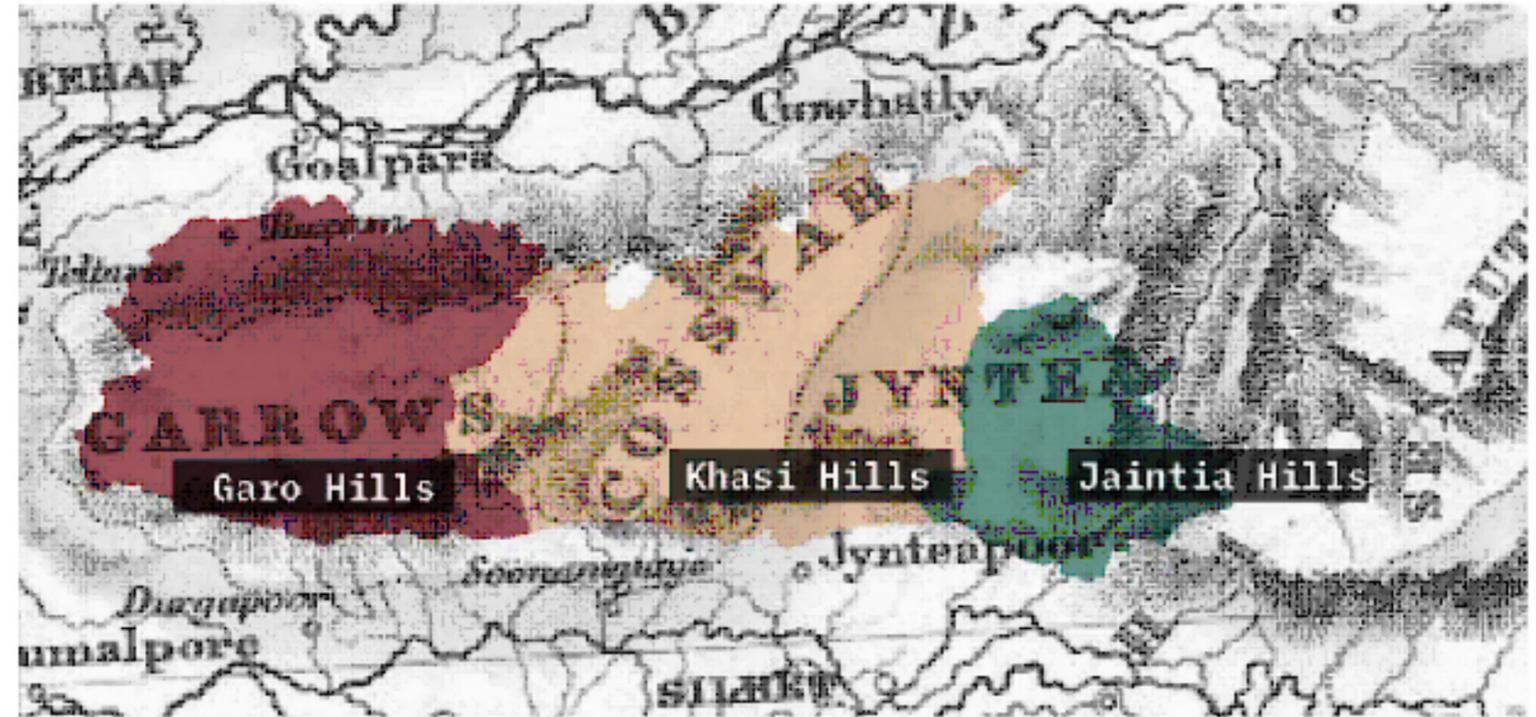
- **Communicate the intangible heritage**, the stories, customs and history surrounding the Jaintia Kings to an interested audience with no prior knowledge.
- **Audience Goals**
 - To **learn or to understand** an unfamiliar subject
 - To be **entertained**
- **Author Goals**
 - To **communicate, inform and educate** through a visual medium
 - Present **credible sources** about a relatively unknown subject and to **clarify misconceptions**

2. The Information

- Data Sources
 - Books and Papers by prominent historians and scholars in suggested by
 - Mrs. Betty Laloo who is a Research Officer in the Department of Arts and Culture Meghalaya.
- **Why** talk about the Jaintia Kings?
 - Diverse culture of both tribal and hindu influence.
 - Exchange of customs between the hills and the plains relevant to current scenario.

2.1 Meghalaya

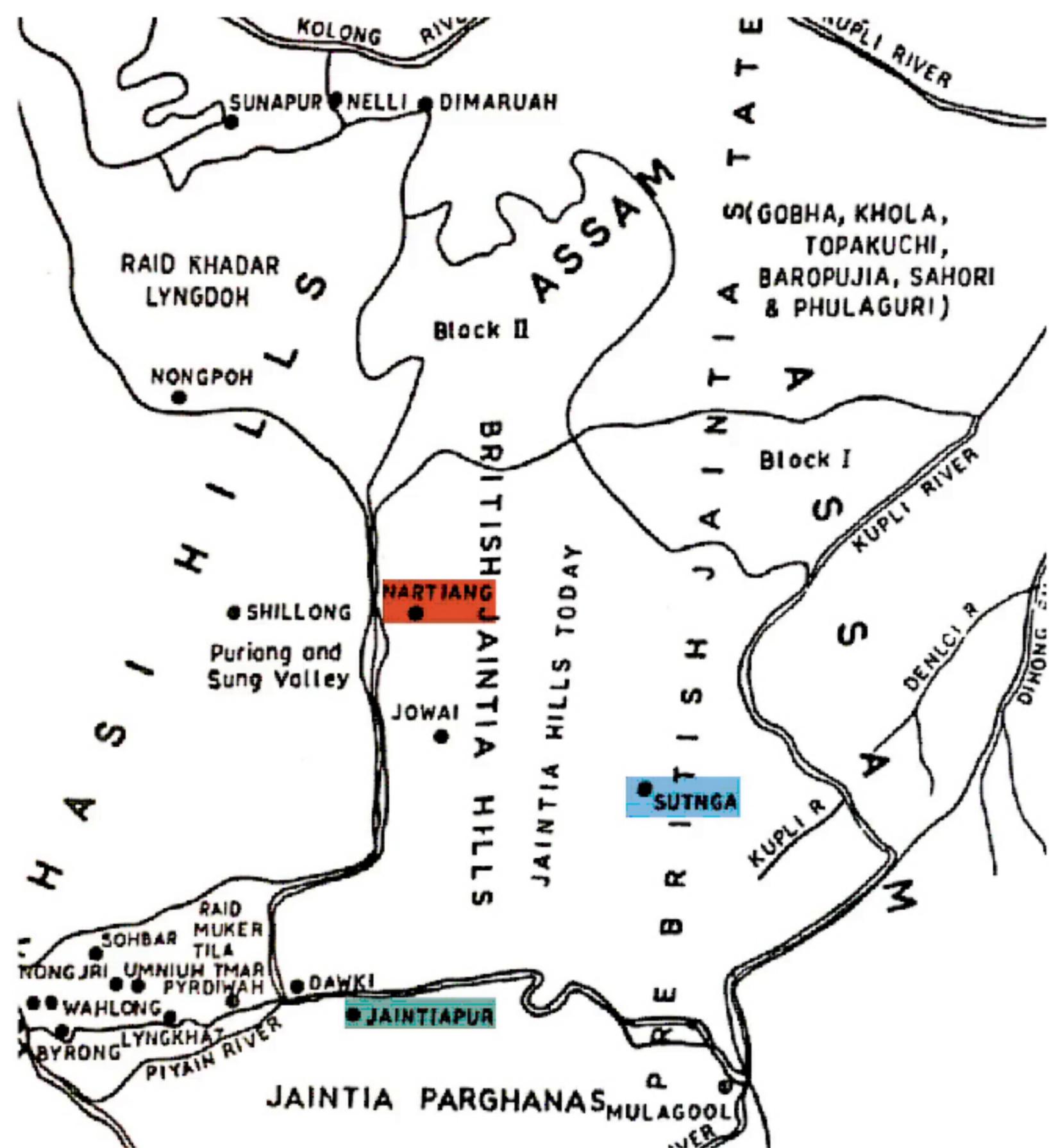
- Abode of Clouds
- One of the 8 Sisters of North East
- Three Major Tribes
- Jaintia Tribe in Particular
 - Also called the Synteng or Pnar



Source: Wikipedia

2.2 The Jaintia Kingdom

- Jaintiapur: Became the Winter capital of the Jaintia Kings
- Sutnga: Where the kingdom started and origin of the Sutnga Clan
- Nartiang: Summer capital of the kingdom and location of the Durga Temple



source: a map by Prof. B Pakem

2.3 Sutnga Kings Origin

Two versions of the Mythical Origins of the Kings

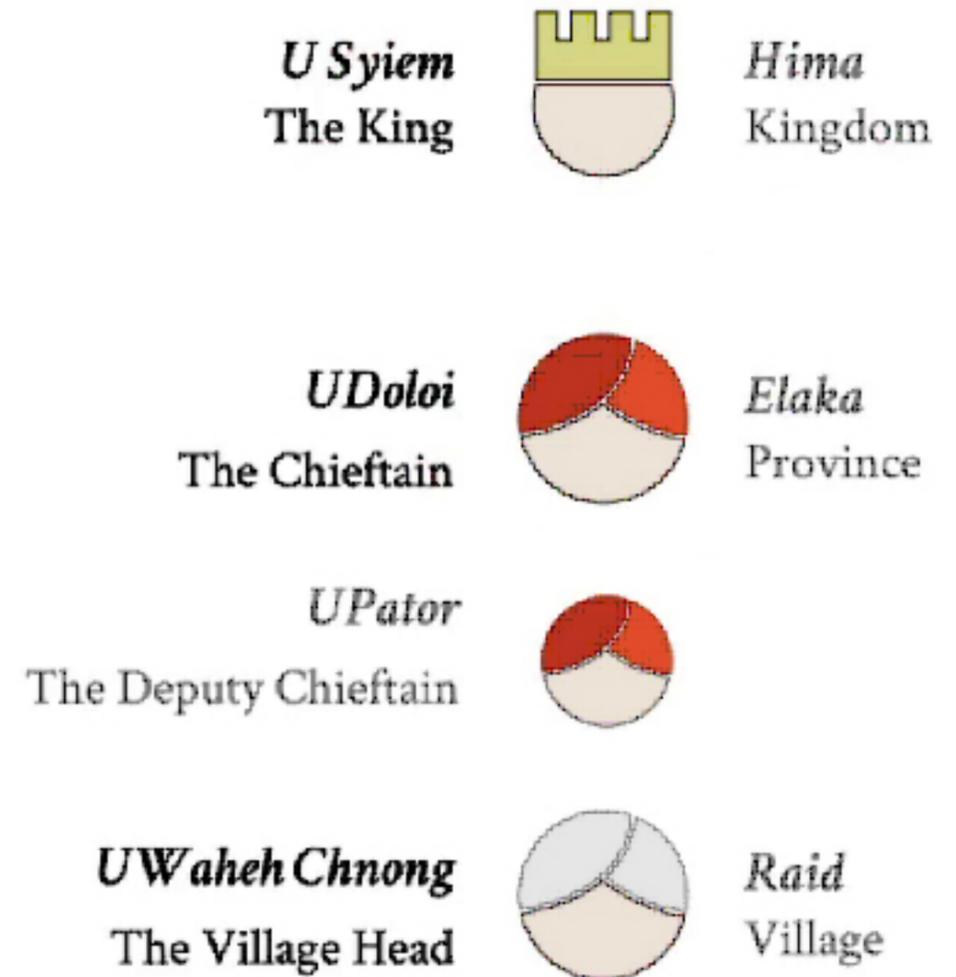
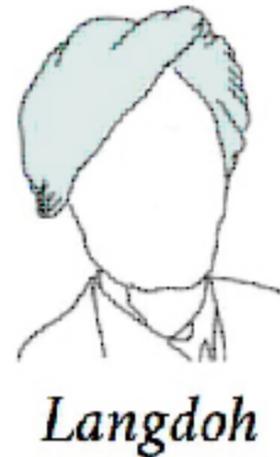
1. Oral Tradition of the Hills
2. Records found in the Assam Chronicle, during the time of the Ahom Kingdom

Both sides attribute the ancestress to be of divine origins related to a mermaid.



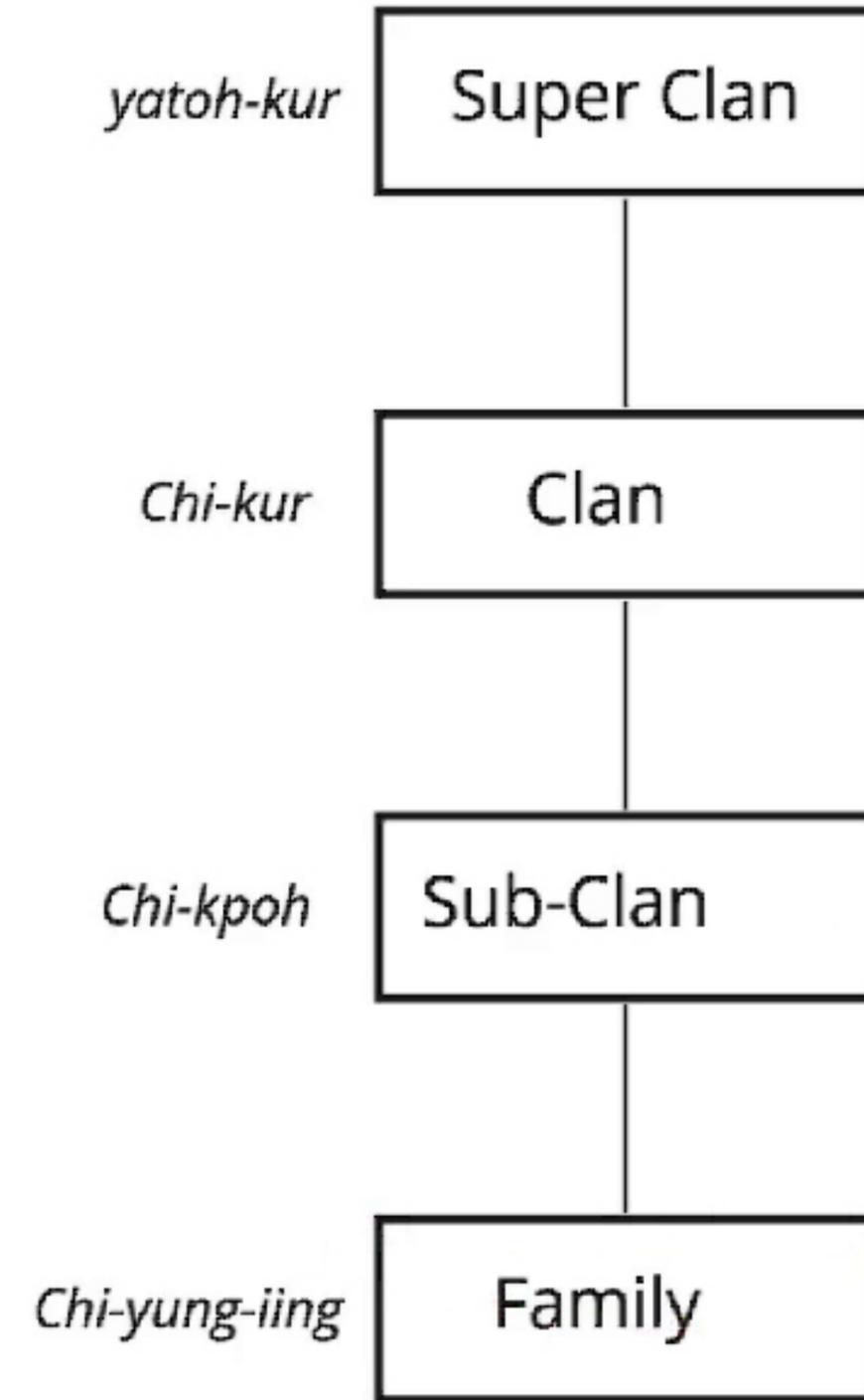
2.4 Political Structure

- Three Tier structure with an intermediate tier when there was too much for the Daloi to handle.
- The respective Elakas or provinces were given autonomy.
- The King only looked after foreign affairs and attending religious rites.



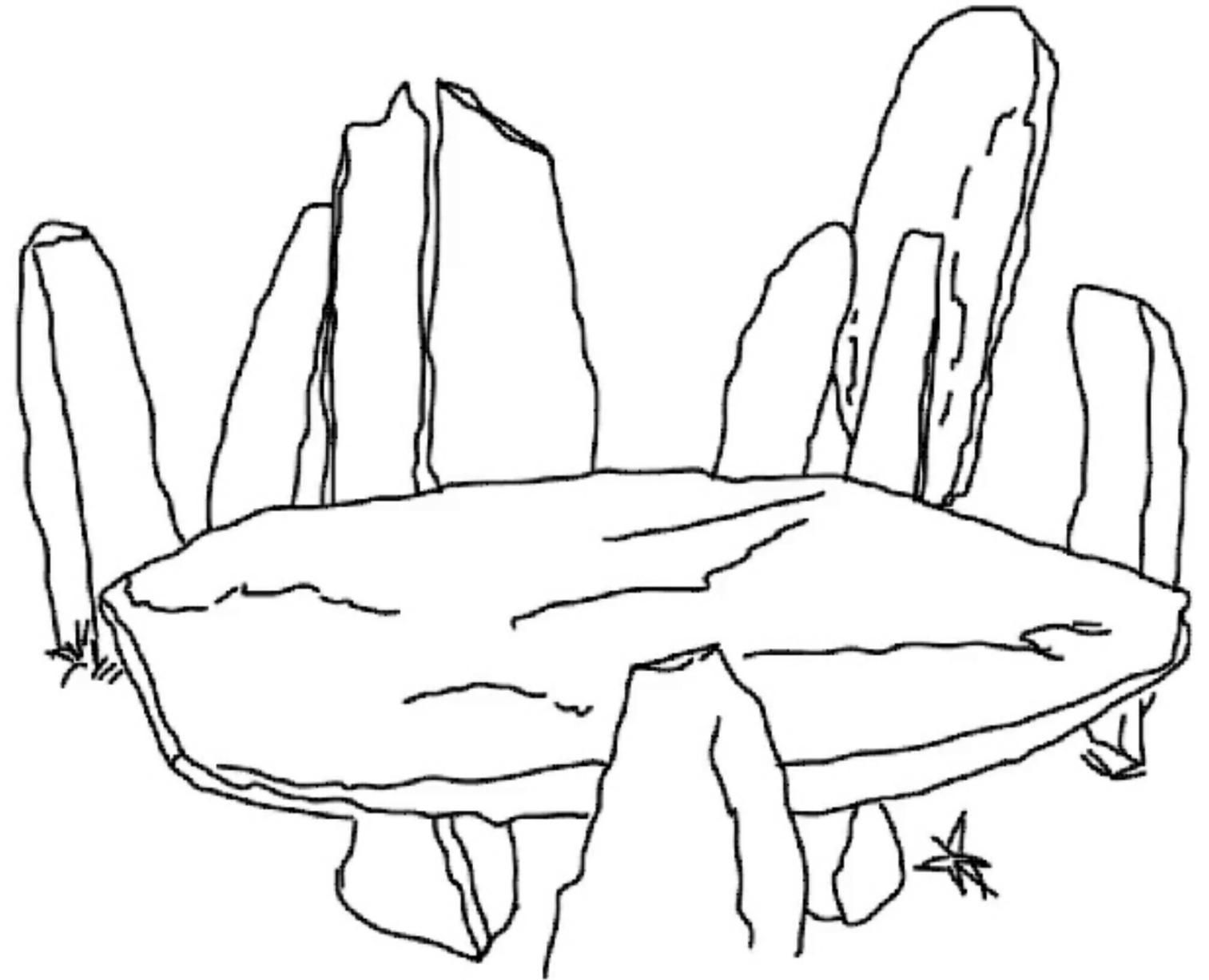
2.5 Familial Structure

- **Chi-Kur** means One Clan and is most important in the case of familial structure
- The rules of residence are matrilocal, meaning that the husband usually moves in with the wife's family.
- The Mother is the custodian head of the family
- Ancestry is traced through the mother
- In the event that the mother dies, the property goes to the youngest daughter.



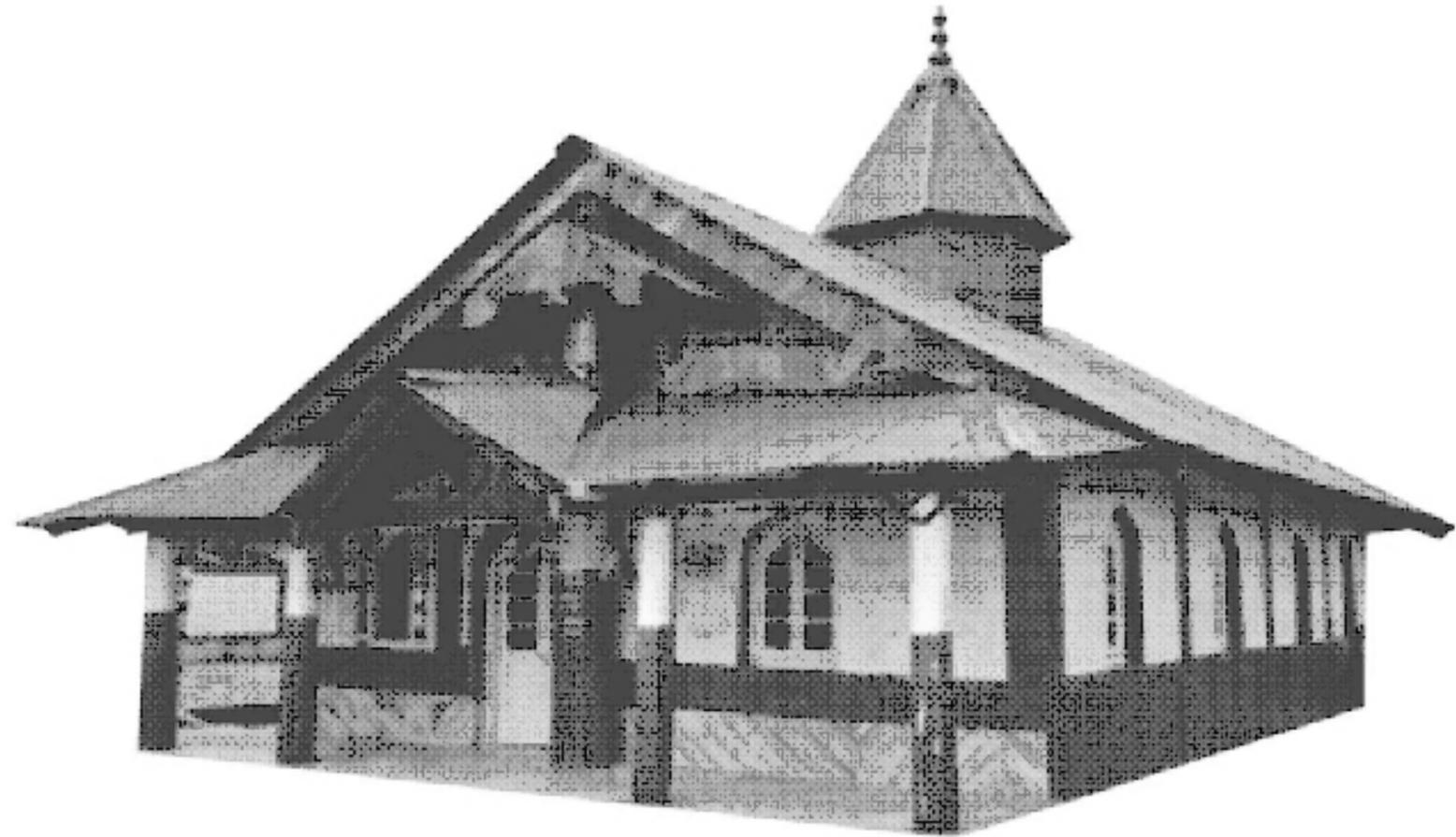
2.6 Megalithic Culture

- Usually the megaliths in other parts of India are built on burial sites. In the Khasi-Jaintia hills, they serve as commemoratives. When a market is established.
- Two important places
 - Megalith Garden in Nartiang
 - Stone Bridge on the road between Jaintiapur and Nartiang



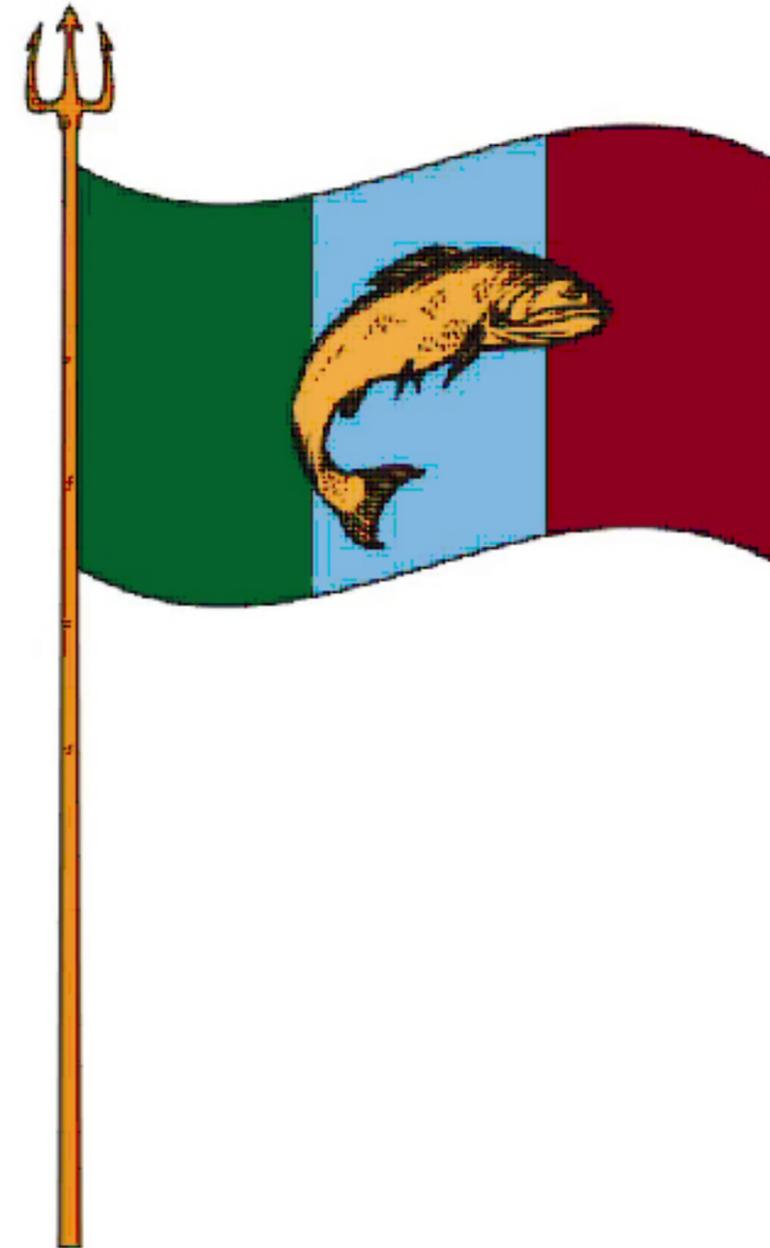
2.7 Hindu Influence

- Nartiang Durga Temple
 - One of the 51 Shakti Peeth. Said to have been where Sati Devi (an incarnation of Durga) fell.
- Hinduism among the people
 - Abstinance of consuming beef among the people upto this day
 - Naming of offspring with Hindu names.

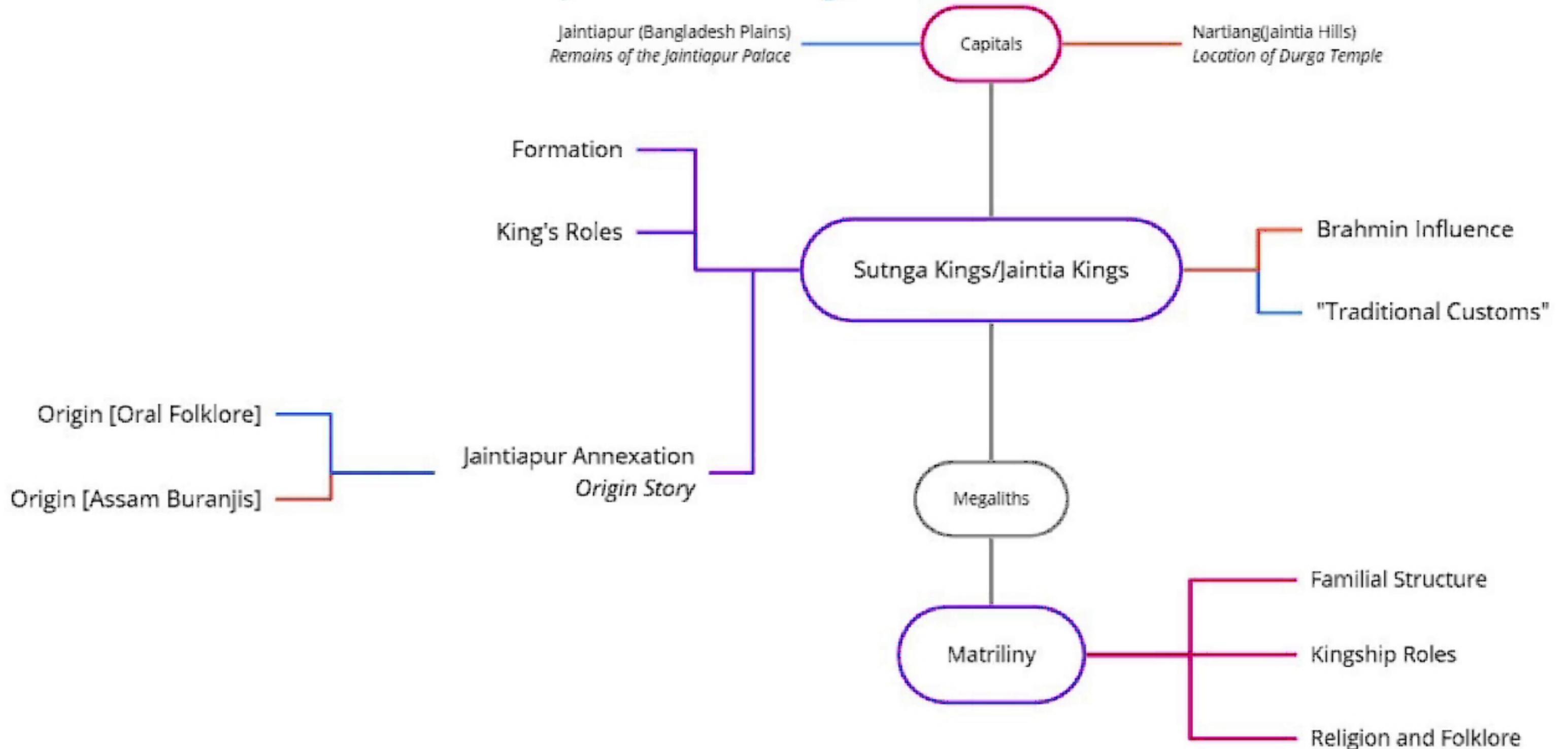


2.8 The Flag of the Jaintias (Before)

- Prior to the arrival of the British, the Jaintias had a flag
- Three colors, Green, Sky Blue and bright Red. The Colors standing vertical. A golden fish was the emblem facing the right.
 - The yellow trident stands for the religion of the royal family, i.e. Hinduism
 - The green for agriculture and the Muslims, who were from the plains as well
 - The Sky blue signifies, truth, honesty and also for the religion of the people from the Hills i.e. *Niam Tre*

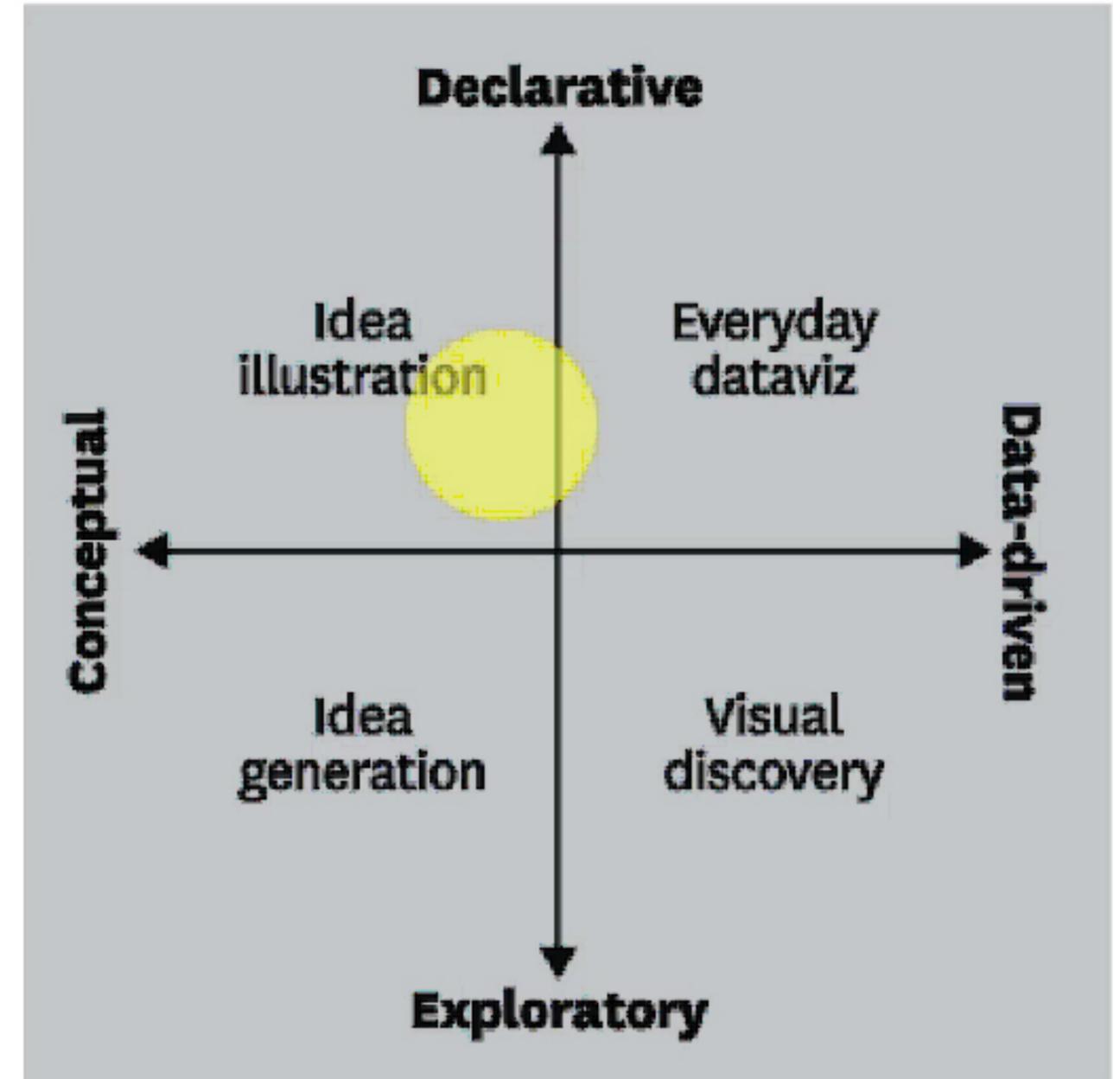


2.9 Themes around the Jaintia Kings



3. Ideation

- More conceptual rather than data driven
- Explain first then explore approach.
- Infographic rather than a datavisualization.
- Author driven and audience driven.
 - Interactivity
 - Linearity



Bertino Classification of Data visualization

3.1 Points of Interest

Frames or Points of Interest

Jaintia Kings
Origin Story

Role of the
King

Matrilineal
Society

Lineage of
the Kings

Jaintia Rituals

Sutnga

Jaintiapur
Palace

Moving from
Sutnga to
Jaintiapur

The Bridge

Formation of
Syiemship

Plain Hill
Relation

Two Capitals

Megalith
Significance

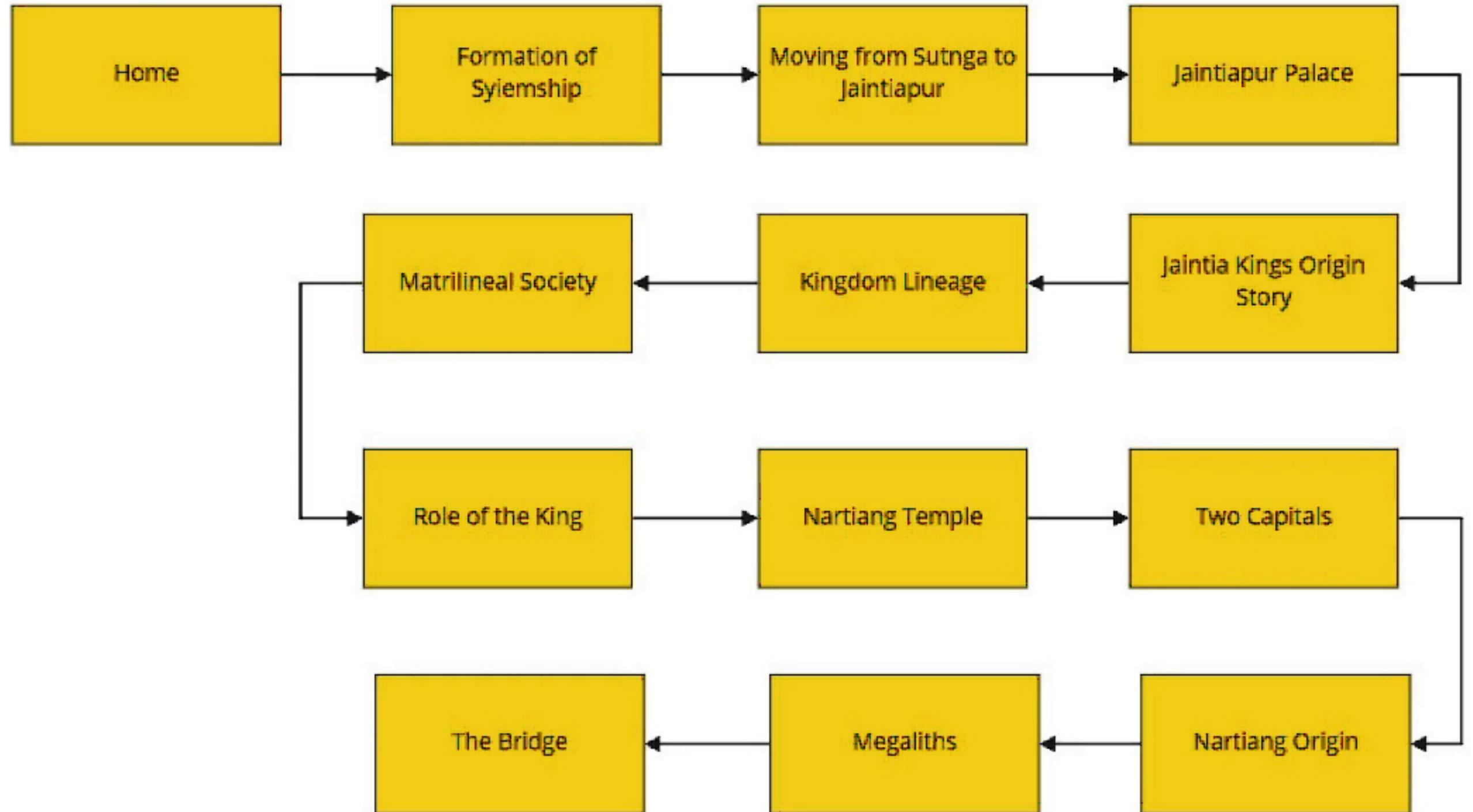
Nartiang

Nartiang
Temple
Origins

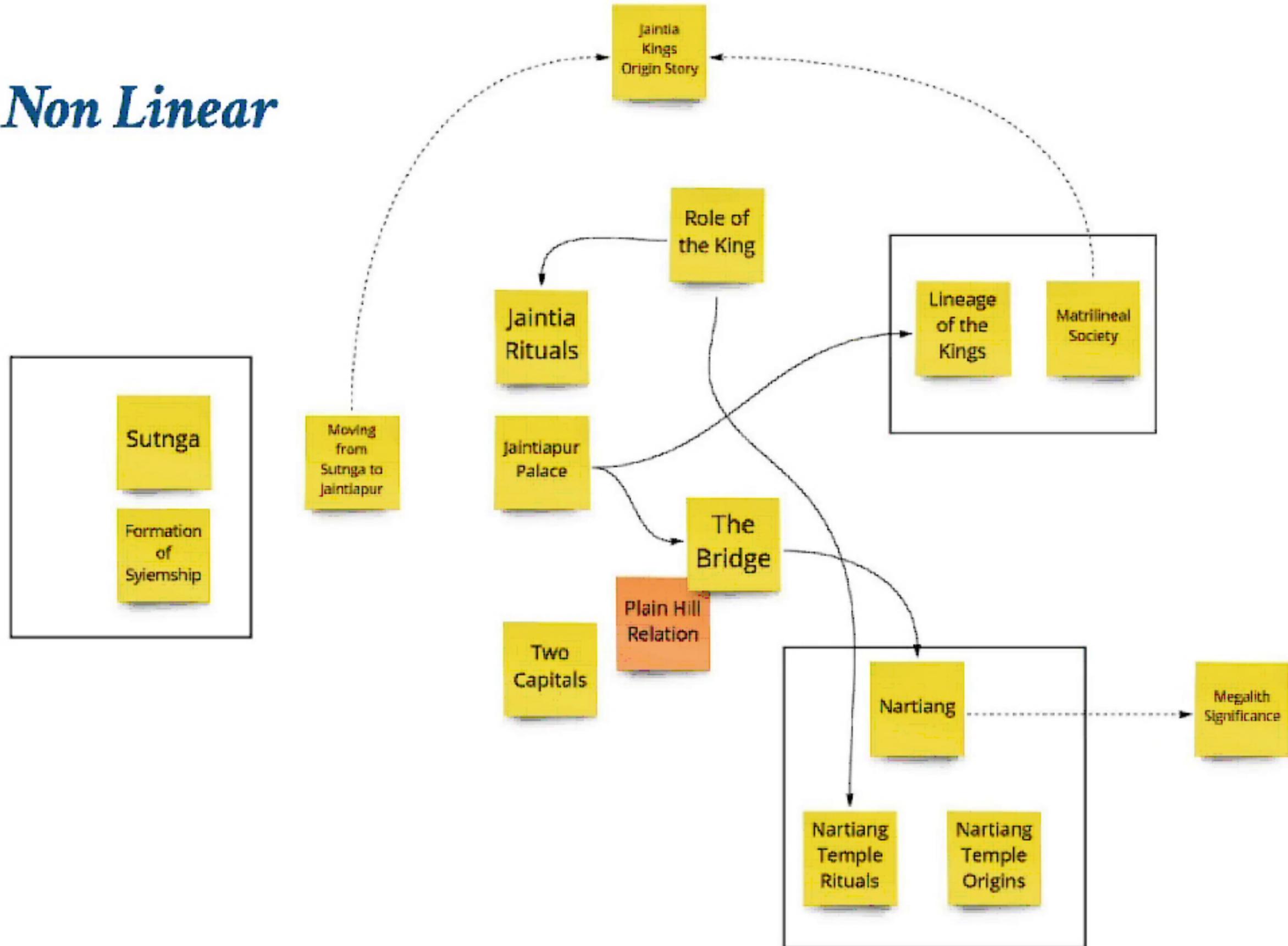
Nartiang
Temple
Rituals

3. Ideas- Linear

Interaction



3. Ideas Non Linear



Concept 1

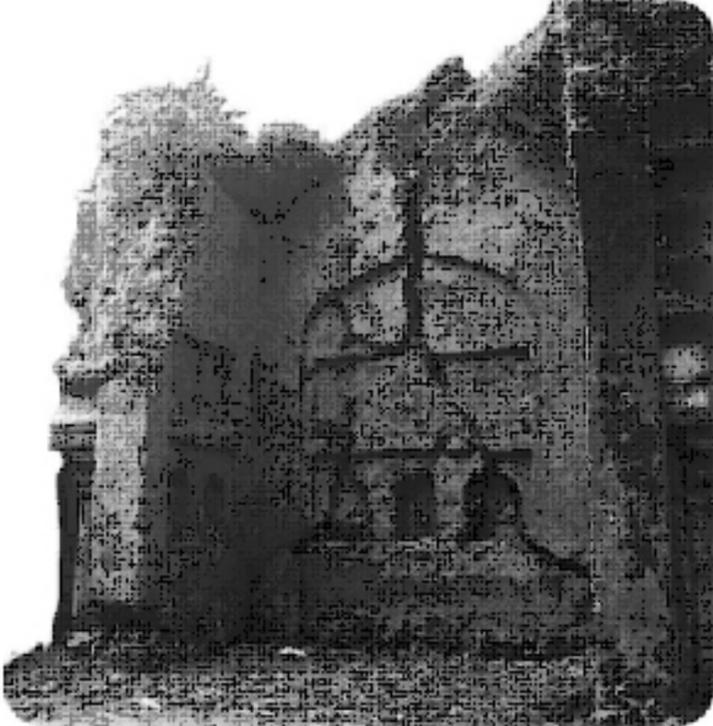
- Linear Narrative
- Dramatizing story
- Limited user interaction

1500 King's Record 2000
1500 AD

From Sutnga to Jaintiapur

From the 1500 up until the arrival of the British, we have the list of the Kings of the Jaintiapur Kingdom. It's origins however are quite mythical in nature. Sutnga lies almost geographically between Nartiang in the Hills and Jaintiapur which is in the plains.

Prior to being called the Jaintia Kings, the Kings originated from *Sutnga*, a place in the hills. After the inception they moved to the plains of Jaintiapur which is in present day Bangladesh in the Sylhet District. It is believed that they moved because of the ruggedness of the soil in the hills. The origin of the Sutnga Kings as told by the [oral traditions](#) of the Jaintias is slightly different that that told in the Assam Chronicles who had some [Arabian influences](#) to them. Yet there are some common patterns in these stories.



[BACK](#) [NEXT](#)

Concept 2

- Non-Linear Narrative
- Factual focused
- Higher user interaction

Inheritance to the throne

It is actually the King's nephew who inherits the throne, or the elder sister's son. In the case where there is no suitable heir the nearest maternal son. In rare cases if there were no males, then the elder aunts and eldest daughters would step up to the throne. This was common among all the Kingdoms of that Khasi Jaintia region.

The King's sister also called the Syiem-Sad was given the responsibility to look after the Royal House also called Sunon.

The King did not have authoritarian power over the people and was consulted with the other chiefs and the Dallois. He was only expected to perform the rites and rituals at various festivals and perform sacrifices at the temple.

He frequently had to travel to the summer capital Nartiang and to do so he used a megalithic bridge.

4. Initial Feedback

- Too much information
- People might be looking for something specific.
- The created narrative might get overshadow the traditional stories.

5. Final Prototype

a story about
The Jaintia Kings

By Jonathan Sawian



1. HISTORY

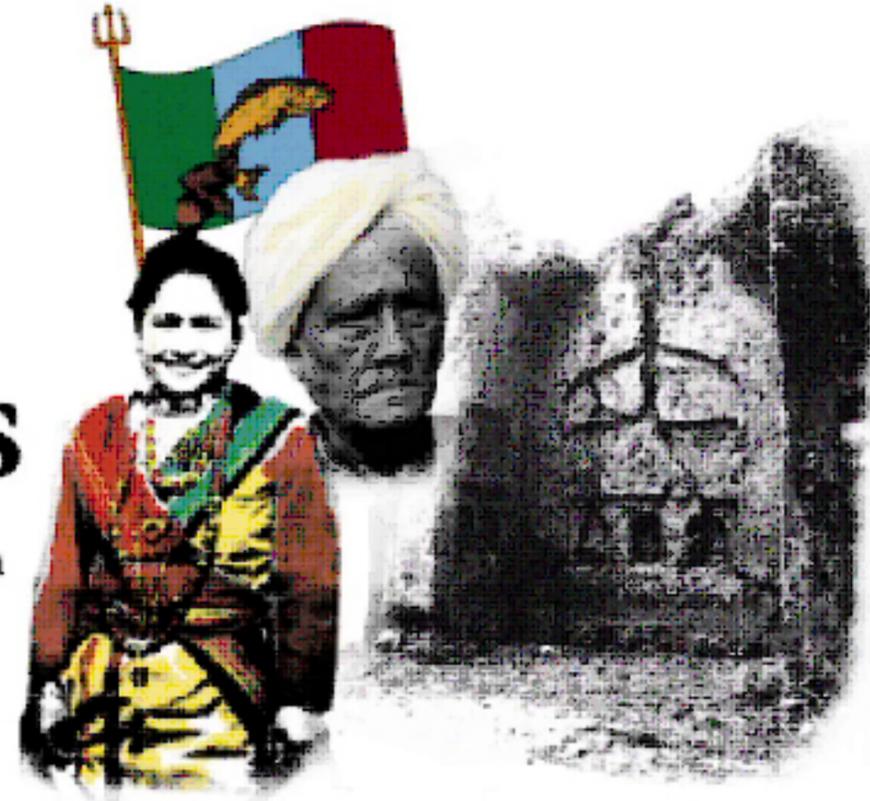
Explore the history about the kings and the culture theme wise. Suited for second time visitors

2. JAINES

Explore the history about the kings and the culture theme wise. Suited for second time visitors

a story about
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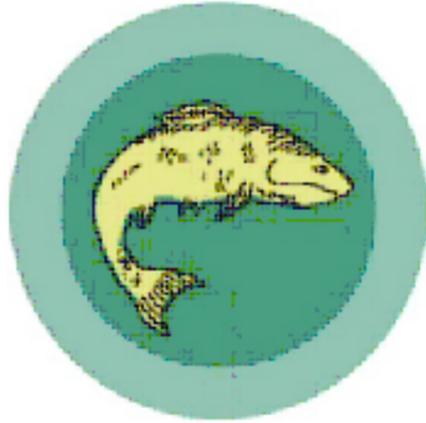
THE STORY

Explore the history about the kings and the culture theme wise. Suited for second time visitors

THEMES

Explore the history about the kings and the culture theme wise. Suited for second time visitors

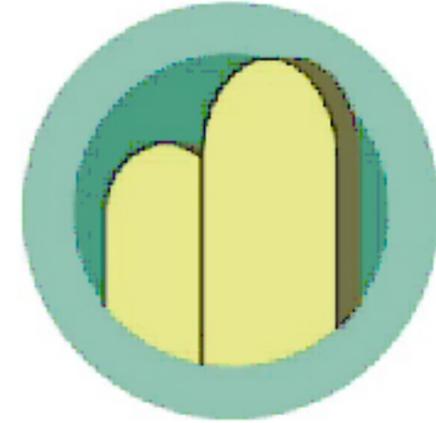
Explore the Themes



The Mythical Origins



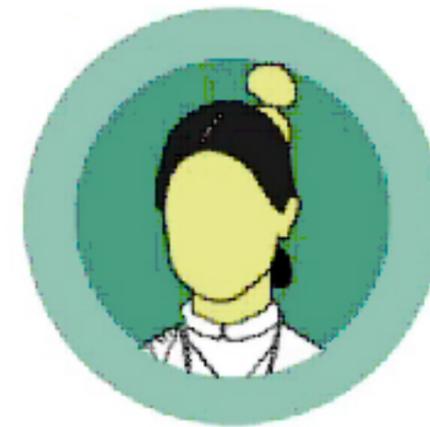
Hindu Influence



Megalithic Culture

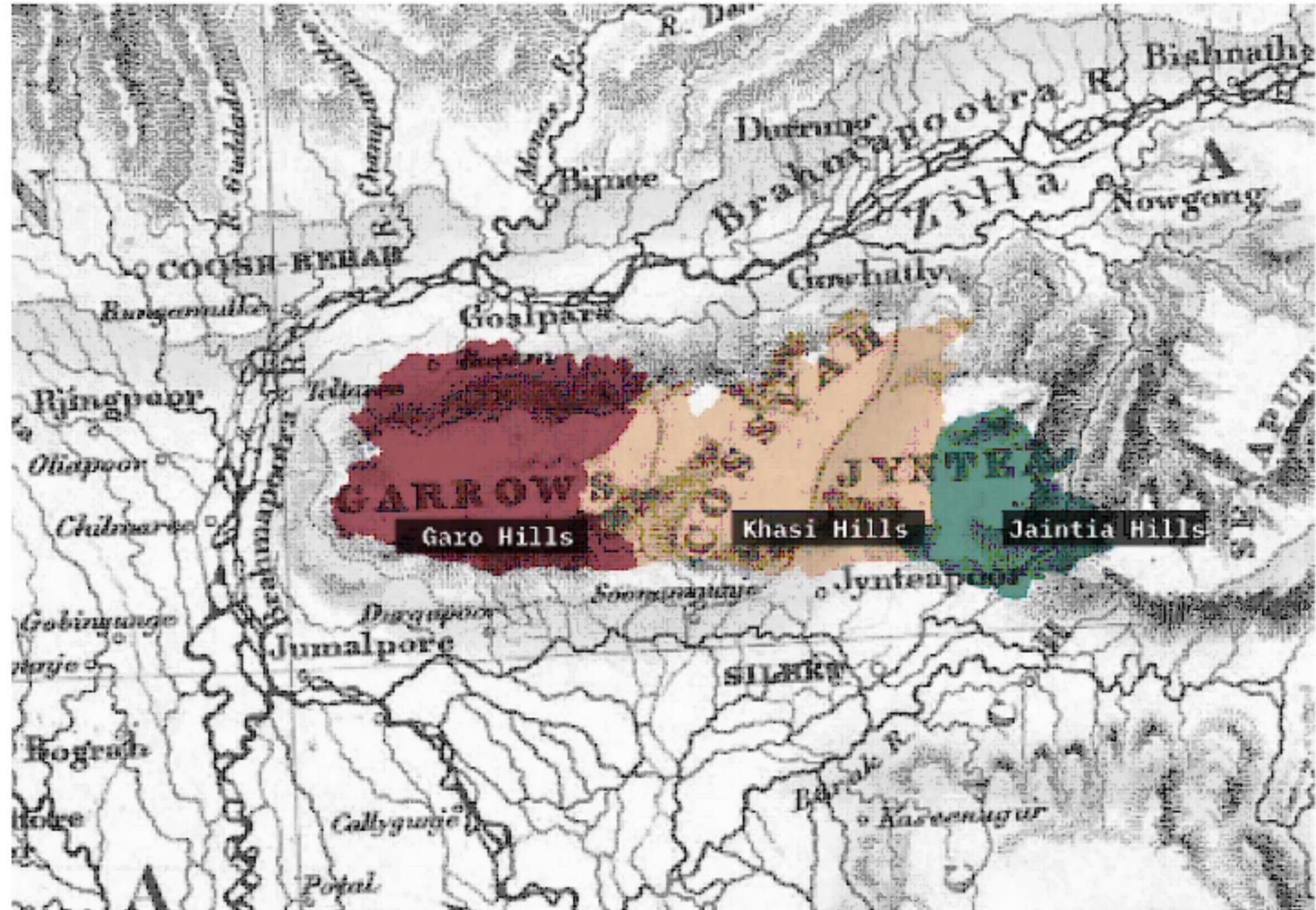


Political Structure

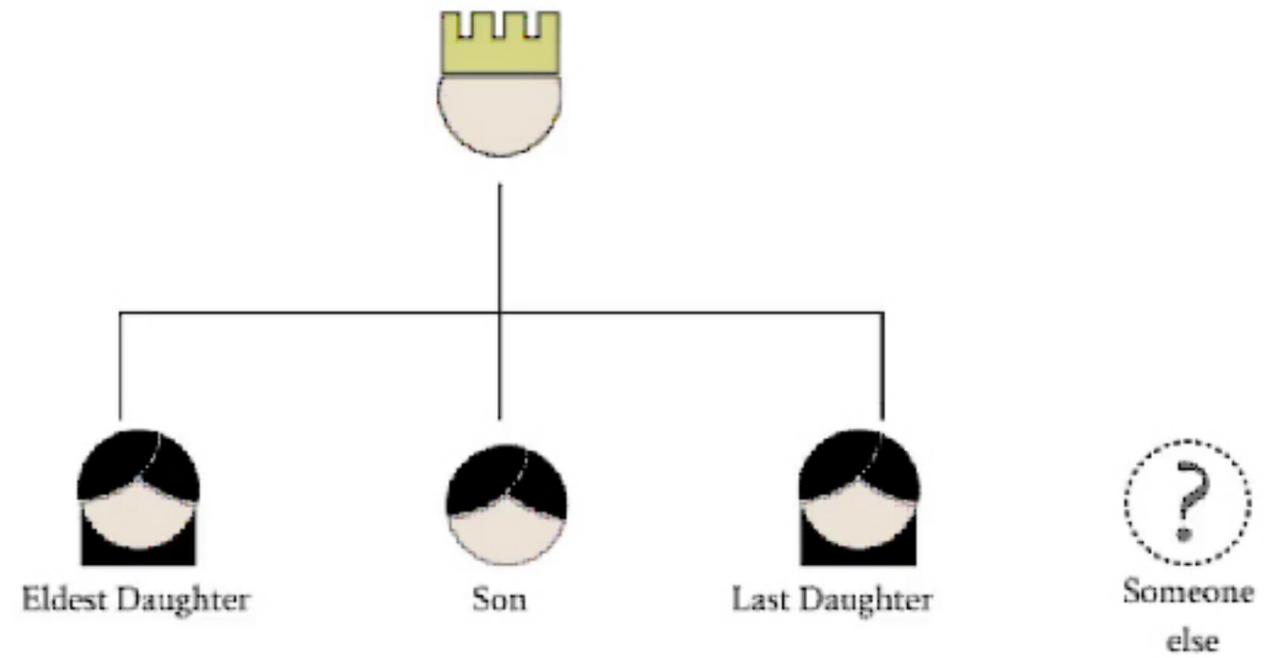


Familial Structure

Up in the Hills of Meghalaya, there are three major tribes, the Khasi, the Garo and the Jaintia. The Jaintia tribe, also go by the Synteng or the Pnar. Like the other two major tribes of Meghalaya the Jaintia tribe is follows a matrilineal society...



The Jaintia's trace their ancestry from the mother's side of the family. Can you guess how the throne is passed from one generation to the next?



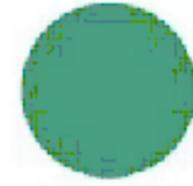
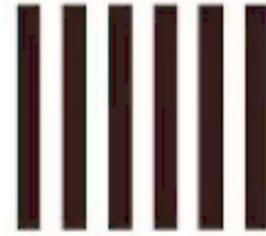
 Who will inherit the throne?



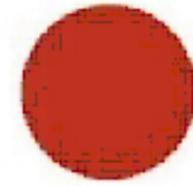
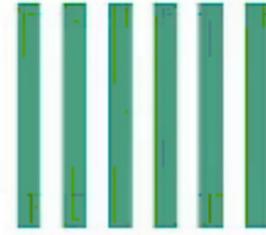
5.1 Visual Style



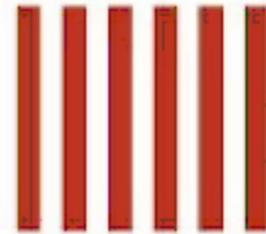
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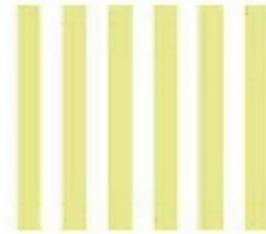
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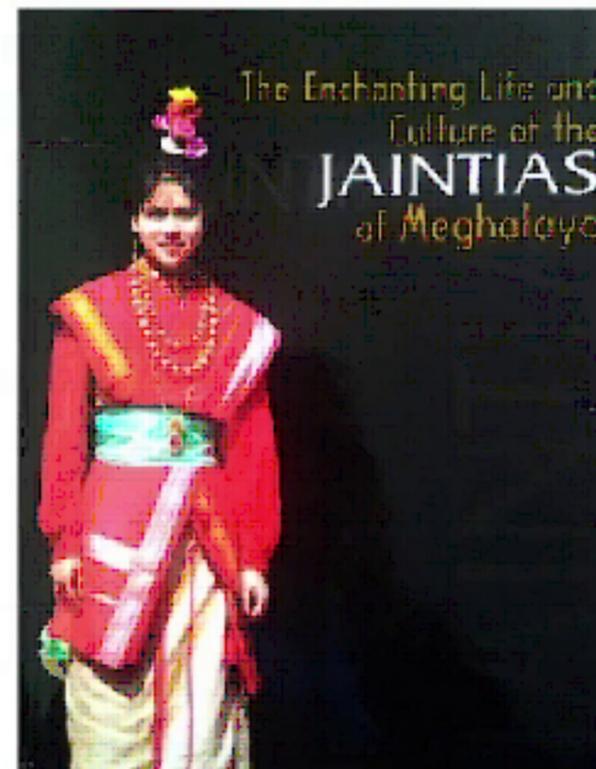
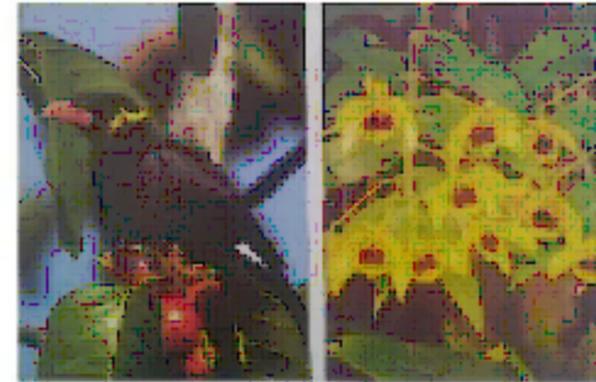
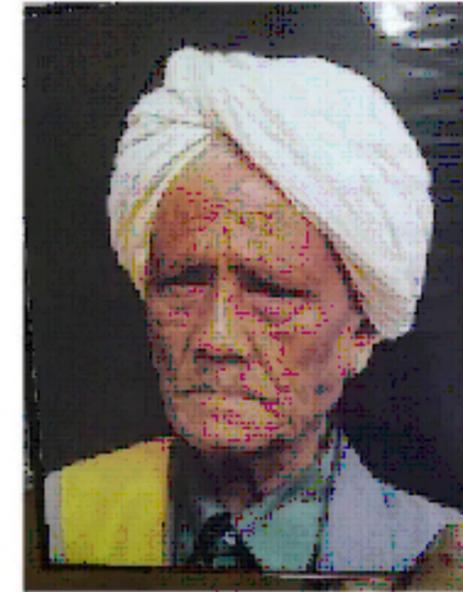
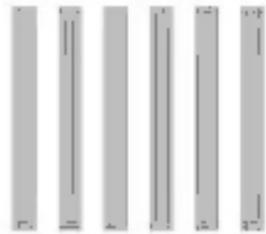
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6. Feedback and Evaluation

- Initial Feedback
- Questionnaire
- Criteria
- Long term Evaluation

7. Future Scope

- Expand on the information to other tribes
- Explore other mediums - Comics, Video etc.
- Exist alongside physical artefacts in museums and heritage sites.



A person checking for information in the
Don Bosco Museum, Shillong