

IN
MEMORIAM



BACHASPATIMAYUM
JAYANTAKUMAR SHARMA



Design by: Nongamba Sorokhaibam

CONDOLENCE



1935 - 2015

No words can express the immense loss we suffered at the demise of prominent writer and lyricist Bachaspatimayum Jayantakumar Sharma. For years, he has been a guiding light in imparting cultural knowledge. We will always remember him as a cordial man, whose warmth and humility won the affection of one and all.

Being an accomplished lyricist, Bachaspatimayum Jayantakumar Sharma devoted his life in defining Manipuri literature and modern Manipuri music. He will be remembered as an outstanding figure in bringing about the lyrical renaissance in our state.

His lyrical words gave soul to the songs and his thoughts and poems oozes joy and pleasure. His beautiful words, his guidance and his memories will always show us the way ahead. His great contributions to Nanao's Naashum Eshei and Phungawari will be cherished. Though, we will miss his physical presence, his legacy will continue to enchant and entertain us.

Treasured in our heart, he continues to live amongst us.

*Nelson Elangbam
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BACHASPATIMAYUM JAYANTAKUMAR SHARMA: A BRIEF CHRONICLE

by **Dr. R.K. Nimai Singh**
Editor-in-Chief
neScholar Magazine

Bachaspatimayum Jayantakumar Sharma, popularly known as Eigya Jayanta, whom I had the privilege of knowing him for nearly fifty years was the eldest son of Bachaspatimayum Angouba Sharma and Bachaspatimayum (ongbi) Noubi Devi. Born on 14th January 1935 at Brahmapur Nahabam Bachaspati Leirak, he matriculated in 1953 from C.C. High School. He completed both Intermediate and Graduate from DM College under Gauhati University. Even before his graduation in 1958, he started teaching and continued in this vocation till he was appointed as Staff Artiste of All India Radio, Gauhati in 1961. He was promoted as Producer at AIR, Imphal in 1972 and became Assistant Station Director, AIR Kohima in 1989 from where he superannuated in 1991.

He is the greatest lyricist Manipur has ever produced, having penned more than 1,300 lyrics some of which are extremely popular with most Manipuris knowing at least some portion of the lyrics. Who can forget some patriotic songs like “Sana Leibak Manipur; Manipur”, “Ho Ema Poknapham Ema”, “Khomlang Laman”, etc? His ability to pen lyrics on any topic is outstanding. I recall when we requested him to write a lyric for the theme song of Sangai Festival, he immediately came out with an excellent piece. Probably his last lyric “Hada Samudon Ayangba” the theme song for the 8th International Polo Tournament sung by Mangka is another example of themed lyrics. Such was his talent that when Manipuri language was included in Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India, the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore conducted a workshop to develop nursery rhymes in Manipuri and a team led by Eigya went to Mysore and his talent was recognised there and he was invited for the National Workshop on development of nursery rhymes in Indian languages. The Workshop Director over phone then mentioned that Eigya’s ability to develop lyrics on any topic is uncanny and he is gifted in rhythm.

After his retirement from service, he devoted his time in writing lyrics, books, articles, poems besides participating in a number of seminars/conferences where he contributed immensely. How can one forget his running commentary during “Kang Chingba” over AIR, Imphal? His uncanny sense of drama and his deep knowledge made the listener want for more. During his lifetime he had written 26 musicals and 5 radio plays. I recall an incident which happened in the early eighties when I visited his home in the morning, he was composing the music of one of his lyrics and directed his younger brother BM Sharma, now Professor

in Manipur University, to sing accompanied by his youngest brother Gokulchandra on the tabla and he on the harmonium. He does not have a good singing voice but has an exceptional ear for music. He was associated with the Educational Technology Unit of SCERT for production of educational programmes which was broadcasted every Thursday and Saturday and his contribution there was immense.

He also composed music for many of the top artistes of the State. Nongmaithem Pahari, Tombisana Sharma, Asem Bimola, Ayekpam Kamala, etc have all sung songs composed by him. His contribution towards the development of modern Manipuri light songs was exceptional and without him its growth would have not been as it is now. Some of his Manipuri films songs are still in the lips of many.

He had also contributed immensely in the field of creative writings. He has got 15 books of different genres published. When I heard that Eigya is translating Haggard's Cleopatra, I enquired about the progress now and then as it was quite surprising for me that anyone in Manipur is attempting to translate this lyrical work. I was grateful to him to invite me in this book release function held at Lamyamba Shanglen. Even though there are certain issues regarding the pronunciation of Greek names, his translation was found not a mere simple translation but really a musical version of the original with tremendous contribution from the translator.

Eigya was associated with many cultural organisations like Roop Raag, Sangeet Mandal, AMMIK, AMMA, Writer's Forum as founder member and he was also the President of The Cultural Forum, Manipuri Sahitya Parishad, Sangeet Mandal, AMMA, and working President of AMMIK. For his contribution in the field of culture in Manipur, he has been honoured with many awards including the Manipur Statehood Award for Culture, 1991 and the Manipur State Kala Akademi Award for Music, 2011. He was associated with Manipuri films not only as a lyricist but also as Music Director and also as jury member for selection of films for awards.

Eigya was associated with NE Brothers Entertainment Private Limited as Editor of "Nanao" a collection of Naosum and Angangee Esei based on Traditional Manipuri Children's lore, Game songs and Lullabies and without him, the project would have been very difficult to complete. His knowledge, dedication and skill were instrumental in bringing out the CD and the booklet, which is a bestseller in the sense that 900 copies was sold off in just thirty days. His sudden demise on 9th April, 2015 after a very short illness, has left a few uncompleted projects, which the publisher, I hope, will endeavour to complete in his memory.

His sudden demise has left a void which will be difficult to fill up in the field of culture in Manipur. I personally feel that if his mother tongue was either Hindi or Urdu, his name would have been mentioned along with Gulzar, Sahir Ludhviani, etc. A soft spoken person who lived his life in a very simple manner but produce works of outstanding quality is liked by everyone and there is no one who can say a bad thing about him. Even though he is no more physically with us, he will be with all of us for years to come through his works.

May the soul of Eigya rest in peace with his Master.

(20)

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ସନା ଲେଖାଉ ନାହିଁକୁ-

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Lyric:- B. Jayanta Sharma

Theme:- Shyam Sharma

Artist:- Rupa Rao.

1967

হো ইমা পোক্‌ফম ইমা

হো ইমা পোক্‌ফম ইমা নঙগুস্বী লৈতে ইমা
কোয়না থিদুনা লাপ্পা চতুনা নঙগুস্বী ফংলোই ইমা।

য়োইবু য়োইহেনবা নপারী ঐখোয়নি
নঙগীদমক হিংলি ইমা
নমোম ঐখোয়নি মৈতৈ চনুনি
নঙগীদমক লৈরি ইমা।
লাইরা অনং পুস্বা করিমত্তা থিরোই ইমা
নঙদি ঐখোয় পুস্বগীনি নঙগীদমক হিংজবনি।

অহিং-নুংখিল অনীদা, নঙবু খঙৈ কসম পেলহনগনি,
নোংলৈ-নুংশিং অকি-তুজুংলক
নীংহন্নজরোইনে ইমা,
নঙনা উৎপিয়ু অপান্সা তাকপীয়ু
লৈবাক্‌কৈগুম খাঙজগেনে।
অরা-অনা পুস্বা কোক্সনু নঙগী ইমা
নঙদি ঐখোয় পুস্বগীনি নঙগীদমক হিংজবনি।

শৈরেংবা : বি জয়ন্তকুমার শৰ্মা
শৈশকপা : রূপরাগ

(22)

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(১১)
(সংগীত শিল্পীর স্মৃতি)



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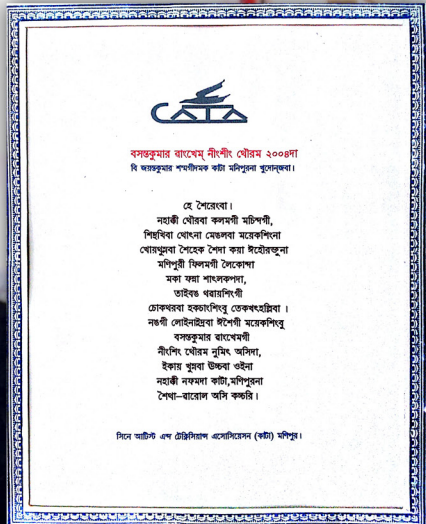
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His last song "Hada Samaton" (Original lyrics) in his own handwriting.
Courtesy: Family of Bachaspatimayum Jayantakumar Sharma

SOME OF HIS ACHIEVEMENTS



(92)

ମୁଖି ସାଥୀ ଗୋଟିଏ ହେଉବା ଗୋଟିଏକାକ୍ଷର
କାନ୍ତି ଲେଖାଯୋଗି - 1

କଲ୍ୟାଣ କେତୁ ଗୋଟିଏ ଆନନ୍ଦେବା ଗୋଟିଏକାକ୍ଷର
କାନ୍ତି ସାଥୀଯୋଗି ॥

ସଦା ସାଥୀ ଗୋଟିଏକାକ୍ଷର ଗୋଟିଏକାକ୍ଷର
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Lyric :- Jayanta

Tune :- Primal

Artist :- de -