

Naga Day - Easterine Kire

This is our story:

In 1929

The Naga Club

Submitted a memorandum to the Simon Commission

The first written record

That stated 'Nagas are one'

They made it clear

They did not belong

To any other but the Naga race

Not to the Indian

Not to the Burman

But to themselves as decreed by their maker.

This is our story

We were free before the British came

And we set aside

The years of village wars

The hunts for heads

The joys of battlesport

And pitted our dormant oneness

Against a common enemy

This is our story.

We repeated that in the Fifties

We defended our borders

With no other weapon than unity

And Indian tanks rolled in this time

And armies tried to oppress

Our hills, our fields, our spirits

Yet so long as we wielded our unity

The invasions were held off.

But when we fell

Our defeat was self-made

We warred against ourselves

We should have known better

But people seldom learn from history

We abandoned solidarity and community

And embraced tribe, the individual, the self-centric

We exchanged integrity for deception

Substituted brotherhood for its opposite

And filled our streets with brother-blood

This is our song

A sad song of defeat, melancholy dirge

May others learn from it.

Yes, this was our song.

But the Naga story is not over yet.

We have another song to sing

We still have a destiny to step into

A legacy to inherit

When our created identity is restored.

At this crossroad

Of our shared walk as a people

Do we look back or

Do we look to the future?

Perhaps we should do both

For the answer lies in both directions.

The strength of the Naga past

Was in our oneness - unselfish,

Noble, sacrificing, unswerving - from

The common Naga good.

This was our strength

This can be our strength again

As we come together

Recognising each other

As part of the bigger Naga family

Embracing each other

With the love that politics had wiped out.

This is our strength now

We know the Son, He sets us free

From our inability to forgive

To set aside past hurts, and to love again

This is our strength now

He sets us free from ourselves

He makes unity possible, even Naga unity

He makes our story possible

When we step beyond ourselves

And become one in Him

To start our story anew through Him.