**A Brief introduction of Sanyak Limbu**

According to historical records, the Sanyak Limbu is considered one of the oldest descendants specifically in the Chaubise areas of the Dhankuta district. The Chaubise area is a small segment of Yakthung Laje in historical context. Located in the eastern part of the Dhankuta district, it is regarded as the original homeland of the Sanyak Limbu.

The specifics of how and when different Limbu and Kirat groups settled in this area remain unknown. Determining the earliest inhabitants of this region is challenging. However, historical records suggest that the Sanyak descendants were among the first settlers in the area. The Sanyak Limbu is also known as Khammbongba and Lumbongba within the Chaubise area.

It seems that early people preferred riverbanks when choosing routes for movement, as rivers provided essential resources for quenching hunger and thirst. Narrow paths along the riverbanks served as natural highways at that time. Rivers were the paths to eternal destinations, and many of the world's greatest civilizations were established near coasts and riversides.

The process of moving northward from the lower plains of the Chaubise region, following the Saptakoshi River, had been for thousands of years. As people moved uphill from the Arun and Sunkoshi areas, they would follow the banks of the Tamor River. They used to settle slightly above the section between the Raghuwa and Chharuwa Rivers, passing through Mulghat in the Dhankuta district. At present, the social conditions of the castes and tribes, particularly the Majhi caste, who have lived in this region for thousands of years, have been disturbed by modern developments, including the construction of the Tamor Corridor highway.

A long time ago, a group of humans arrived at the same place following the Saptakoshi River. Coincidentally, each of the four brothers in this group had a son born to each of their four wives. In the Limbu language, giving birth is called "Sa+Dhapma," and the place where children are born is called "Den." Therefore, this place was named "Sadhapmaden" (Sa+dhapma+den).

This place is located about 8 km north of the Mulghat Bridge on the Tamor River in Dhankuta. The Shanehang genealogy records that these four brothers then continued their journey north and east along the Tamor River.

Gobinda Nayanghang, a searcher of the Nayanghang lineage, states that three of these brothers continued further north from Sadhamtar, while one remained in Sadhamtar, and his clans spread at Chaubise. Among them, the eldest son was known as "Sanyakpa," followed by "Thaksuba," "Langbeba," and the youngest, "Nayangba,".

According to the "Mundhumi Locations Study Report-2075" by Prof. Amar Tumhang (Amarjung Limbu), he investigates the Bhoomiputras (indigenous people) of the Chaubise region and refer The Yakthung Limbus have a Mundhumi tradition for cutting the bamboo that carries the corpse and buying soil for digging graves for the burial of the deceased.

In this Mundhum, the original proto-Mundhumi name "Sanyakpa" is mentioned along with other names as follows: "Sanyakpa, Kattawa, Loliba Namyoba, Chiappa Thalangwa, Nayangba" (according to Aithang Sutlung, and Samba/ Yeba of Taplejung). From this, it can be assumed that the primitive inhabitants of Kurletenupa Yak were the castes now called Sanyakpa and that the tombs belonged to them.

According to Amarjang Limbu's report, Kurule Tenupa Yak has been completely destroyed, and a school building has been erected on that site. During the construction of the said building, gunshots and garlands of Pulik (a type of flower) were found in the ground.

Interestingly, there is still a tradition among the Limbu society, except for the Sanyak Limbus, to request permission with Sanyak Limbus and their clans when buying land for digging a hole to burry a deceased. According to a conversation with a local inhabints named Bhakta Nembang, "the original inhabitants of Kurle Tenupa Yak were the Khambongba Lumbongba tribes, now known as the Sanyaks. It can be assumed that the tombs found at the site belonged to these indigenous Sanyak communities."

**Settlement Area of Sanyak Limbu**

According to Mundhum (oral tradition) and history, the place of origin of the Sanyak Limbus is the Chaubise area. There are 14 subgroups of the Sanyak Mingsra, but only 6 of them are currently in existence. The remaining 7 subgroups are almost extinct. Among the six existing sub-groups, the most prominent ones based on population size are Tumsa, Tumba, Nayangba, Thaksuba, Yongsingba, and Langbeba.

The British historian Eden Vansittat has identified 12 sub-groups within the Sanyak Limbu. In addition to the sub-groups mentioned above, Vansittat also listed Ligden, Lokpeba, Paksang, Thokpeba, and wayam Khajung as part of the Sanyak sub-groups. However, the latest research suggests that these additional sub-groups mentioned by Vansittat may not actually be included within the Sanyak sub-groups. It is assumed that this discrepancy may have arisen because the British citizens heard the Nepali dialect spoken by a Limbu individual living in a remote corner of Nepal.

The Sanyak Limbu claim Bodhe (also known as Padhe Yak) as their Mangena Yak (Ancestor's place) and also pronounce paralally to Kurule Yak in their rituals by Phedangba Phejari. Moreover, The Phedangma Phejaari ( Sanyak Priest) Pronounce the Kurule Yak at first and Padhe after as " Kurule Yak- Padhe Yak".

According to the history, the ancestor of Sanyak Limbu was Cheswihang, one major king among the "Eight Kings" of very earlier stage of Limbuwan. One remarkable and historic ancestor of Sanyak Limbu was Soiyok Ladohang, emerged as a brave king who participated in the fierce battles between the "Ten Limbu Kings" and "Eight Limbu Kings" in the 8th century. Soiyok Ladohang had ruled over the Chaubise region after the ending of the war between ten and eight Limbu and he had constructed or renovating Sangori Yok, (known today as Sanguri Gadhi). This stronghold played a crucial role in defending against enemies from the southern plains. The ruins of the old palace of the brave King Soiyok Ladohang (pronounced as "Laido Sanyak hang" by the Sanyak Phedangba Phejari) is laying as a living proof at the present day, approximately 8 km north of Dharan Municipality and 2.5 km from the scenic spot of Bhedetar.

Presently, the Sanyak Limbus primarily inhabit the Chaubise area, which is divided between the Chaubise and Sangurigadhi Rural Municipalities. The key settlements of the Sanyak descendants include Namphuwa, Sirubani, Todke, Serjemba, Nibhara, Khopigaun, Tokromba, Chapmabung, Malbase, Aambote, Bhirgaun, Kerabari, Deurali, Siddipur, Sogum, Surungi, Bodhe, Budhimorang, Bhedetar, Mahabharat, Sanguri, Khwaphok, Sapten, Maden, and Sano Hambekla. These areas are predominantly inhabited by the Tumsa and Tumba clans.

The general information and records shows, the Sanyak Limbu have migrated to outer districts from Dhankuta are Sankhuwasabha, Terhthum, Panchthar, Taplejung, Ilam, Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, and Bhojpur, as well as to Kathmandu Valley. They have settled abroad since ancient times in Assam, Bhutan, Sikkim, Myanmar (Burma), various parts of India, Hong Kong, UK, and USA

Social surveys indicate that Sanyak descendants are involved in professions ranging from police and military service (including in India, the UK, and Singapore) to various businesses, although fewer have attained senior positions.

Here is presented the list of famous ancestors of the Sanyak Limbu descendants:

1. **Cheswihang** (5th century): A courageous king of ancient Yakthung Kingdom, one among the eight prominent kings.
2. **Sadingge Tingehang** (late 5th century): Sadingge Tingehang (late 5th century): A mythological ancestor of the Sanyak Limbu, and call out by priests in the various rituals invoking his name during rituals Pronouncing "Kurule Yak, Padheyak, Khamhelaa, Ambepaja, Sadinge Tinge Hang Kuru Wamisa" (Son of Sadinge Tingehang)
3. **Soiyok Ladohang (Laido Sanyakhang,** 8th century): Soiyok Ladohang (Laido Sanyak hang, 8th century): A brave Sanyak king who played a crucial role during the war between the "Ten Limbu Kings" and "Eight Limbu Kings."
4. **Naamedohang** (9th century): Another mythological king of Sanyak Limbu ancestors, known for his bravery and supports to his brother Sanyak hang.
5. **Nam-Nam and Ya-Ya**: Ancestors of the Nayanghang lineage, renowned for their bravery in battles against enemies.
6. **Maharange King** (14th century): A courageous king of Sapten, known for his leadership. There is a mythological story that a standing stone, approximately 8 feet tall, located in Sapten is a notable landmark. According to the story, this was the place where the Maharange king kept tied up his elephants.
7. **Morange King** (14th century): A brave ruler from Budhi Morang, known for his rivalry with Maharange King.
8. **Saambithang** (15th century): An ancestor of the Sanyak Limbu descendants from Bodhe. Legend has it that after his death at the age of 80, people took him for his funeral in the Tamor River, but he miraculously revived and lived for another 24 years.
9. **Khanbekhang** (1560 A.D.): A courageous figure from Bodhe who married two wives. The Tumba and Tumsa subgroups into Sanyak group were born after his death. Tumba was the first son from his second marriage, while Tumsa was the last son from his first wife.
10. **Suna Ray (1774 A.D.): Known for signing an agreement after the war-peace between the Gorkha and Limuwan in 1831 B.S.**
11. **Aasik ram Ray (1794 A.D.)**
12. **Chatursing Ray, Padi Ray, Dhanbir Ray, Subhamukhi Ray (1820 A.D.): Received "Subhangi" in different places of the Chaubise area during the reign of King Rajendra Bikram Shah.**
13. **Bajansingh Ray, Baghajit Ray (1866 A.D.): Received "Subhangi" in different places of the Chaubise area during the reign of King Rajendra Bikram Shah.**

According to the land boundary measurement in Bikram Sambat 1997, The Sanyak Limbu descendants who were received Subhangi ( an authority to collect tax etc) in between Bikram Sambat 1997 to 2032 are as following table. The Subhangi authority received area were Tamor River east, southern part of Mahabharat, North of Namphuwa, Lohakil hight, west from Nawakhola (River) Chharuwa and Jaruwa Khola ( River), Kurule, Sogum and Bodhe and Mikluk area.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.N** | **Name of Subba and Ray** | **Place of Subhangi** | **Time period** | **Remarks** |
| 1 | Ray Dillishowr Limbu | Todke | B.S 1997 | The central authority was submitted 30 Muri soil from Ray Dillishwor Limbu |
| 2 | Subba Udaya Bahadur Limbu | Khoppigaun | B.S 1997 |  |
| 3 | Subba Raamri Limbuni | Kurule | B.S 1997 |  |
| 4 | Aage Subba Jangadhoj Limbu | Khoppigaun | B.S 1997 | Aage Subba |
| 5 | Subba Hark Bahadur Limbu | Sogum | B.S 1997 |  |
| 6 | Subba Runcha Bahadur Limbu | Sogum | B.S 1997 |  |
| 7 | Subba Dil Bahadur Limbu | Tokramba | B.S 1997 |  |
| 8 | Subba Hark Bahadur Limbu | Bhirgaun | B.S 1997 |  |
| 9 | Subba Aas Bahadur Limbu | Bhirgaun | B.S 2032 |  |
| 10 | Subba Khadg Bahadur Limbu | Todke | B.S 2032 |  |
| 11 | Subba Kali Bahadur Limbu | Serjamba | B.S 2032 |  |
| 12 | Subba Ranglal Limbu | Maalbase | B.S 2032 |  |
| 13 | Subba Bir Bahadur Limbu | Sogum | B.S 2032 |  |
| 14 | Aage Subba Bhupalsingh Limbu | Khuwaphok | B.S 2032 | Aage Subba |

Prepared By: LR Sanyak, Main Source: Sanyak Limbu Genealogy- 2081 ( unpublished)