

Yumjao Leima

Yumjao Leima
(Old Manipuri: Yumchao Leima)

All time reigning Queen Mother

Goddess of house, household, royalty, rule and power

Member of [Lairembis](#)

Yumchao Leima

Other names

- Yumjao Lairembi ([Old Manipuri](#): Yumchao Lailempi)
- Yumjao Lairemma ([Old Manipuri](#): Yumchao Lailemma)

Meitei

Affiliation [Meitei mythology](#) ([Manipuri mythology](#)) and [Meitei religion](#) ([Sanamahism](#))

Major cult center [Kangla](#) and [Sana Konung](#)

Abodes [houses](#)

Texts [PuYas](#)

Gender Female

Region [Ancient Kangleipak](#) ([Antique Manipur](#))

Ethnic group [Meitei ethnicity](#)

Festivals [Lai Haraoba](#)

Personal information

Children All the [Kings](#) (in spiritual sense)

Yumjao Leima ([Old Manipuri](#): Yumchao Leima) or **Yumjao Lairembi** ([Old Manipuri](#): Yumchao Lailempi) or **Yumjao Lairemma** ([Old Manipuri](#): Yumchao Lailemma) is the [mother goddess](#) of

[Meitei gods and goddesses series](#)

A tableau of [Manipur](#) representing a scene from [Meitei mythology](#) ([Manipuri mythology](#))

[Apokpas](#) (Ancestral deities)
[Imung Lais](#) (Household deities)
[Lam Lais](#) (Countryside deities)
[Maikhei Ngaakpa Lais](#) (Guardian deities of the 10 directions)
[Umang Lais](#) (Forest deities)
[Mythical creatures](#)
[Other deities](#)

Celestial deities

- [Atingkok](#)
- [Haoreima](#) ([Old Manipuri](#): [Haoleima](#))
- [Heinu Leima](#)
- [Imoinu](#)

- [Irai Ningthou](#) (Old Manipuri: [Ilai Ningthou](#))
- [Ireima](#) (Old Manipuri: [Ileima](#))
- [Iyek Leima](#)
- [Khamlangba](#) (Old Manipuri: [Khamlangpa](#))
- [Khuman Pokpa](#)
- [Khunu Leima](#)
- [Khoriphaba](#) (Old Manipuri: [Khoiliphapa](#))
- [Konhoujam Tampha](#) (Old Manipuri: [Chingphulon Konthousu](#))
- [Korouhanba](#) (Old Manipuri: [Kolouhanpa](#))
- [Koubru](#) (Old Manipuri: [Koupalu](#))
- [Koujeng Leima](#) (Old Manipuri: [Koucheng Leima](#))
- [Kounu](#)
- [Leimarel Sidabi](#) (Old Manipuri: [Leimalel Sitapi](#))
- [Lok Ningthou](#)
- [Loyalakpa](#)
- [Marjing](#)
- [Mongba Hanba](#) (Old Manipuri: [Mongpa Hanpa](#))
- [Ngaleima](#)
- [Nganu Leima](#)
- [Nungthel Leima](#)
- [Nongpok Ningthou](#)
- [Nongshaba](#) (Old Manipuri: [Nongshapa](#))
- [Nongthang Leima](#)
- [Pakhangba](#) (Old Manipuri: [Pakhangpa](#))
- [Panam Ningthou](#)
- [Panthoibi](#) (Old Manipuri: [Panthoipi](#))
- [Phou Ningthou](#)
- [Phouoibi](#) (Old Manipuri: [Phouoipi](#))
- [Pisatao](#)
- [Pureiromba](#) (Old Manipuri: [Puleilompa](#))
- [Salailen](#)
- [Sanamahi](#)
- [Shapi Leima](#)
- [Taoroinai](#) (Old Manipuri: [Taoloinai](#))
- [Thangjing](#) (Old Manipuri: [Thangching](#))
- [Thumleima](#)
- [Wangbren](#) (Old Manipuri: [Wangpulen](#))
- [Yangtoupa and Yangtoui](#)
- [Yumjao Leima](#) (Old Manipuri: [Yumchao Leima](#))

Chthonic deities

- [Khamnung Kikoi Louonbi](#)
- [Laikhurembi](#) (Old Manipuri: [Laikhulempi](#))
- [Lainaotabi](#) (Old Manipuri: [Lainaotapi](#))
- [Poireiton](#) (Old Manipuri: [Poileiton](#))
- [Thongak Lairembi](#) (Old Manipuri: [Thongak Lailempi](#))
- [Thongaren](#) (Old Manipuri: [Thongalen](#))

[house](#), [household](#), [royalty](#), rule and power in [Meitei mythology](#) and [religion](#).

^{[1][2][3][4]} She is designated as the all time ruling [Queen Mother](#).^[5] Legend says she assumes a human form in white clothes and blesses kings.^[6] She is one of the divine [incarnations of Leimarel Sidabi](#).^[7]

Etymology

[\[change\]](#) | [change source](#)

In [Meitei language \(Manipuri language\)](#), "Yumjao" ([Old Manipuri](#): Yumchao) means "large house" or "big house".^{[8][9][10]} "Yumjao" ([Old Manipuri](#): Yumchao) or "Yimjao" ([Old Manipuri](#): Yimchao) may also refer to "Royal House". In [Meitei language \(Manipuri language\)](#), "Leima" means "Queen".^[3]^[11] In [Meitei language \(Manipuri language\)](#), "Lairembi" ([Old Manipuri](#): Lailempi) means "goddess".^[12] The [Meitei language \(Manipuri language\)](#) word "Lairemma" ([Old Manipuri](#): Lailemma) is also another term for "goddess".^[13]

History

[\[change\]](#) | [change source](#)

An illustration of a temple dedicated to goddess Yumjao Leima ([Old Manipuri](#): Yumchao Leima) built in [Meitei architecture](#).

Meitei King [Naothingkhong](#) (c. 7th century) of [Ancient Kangleipak \(Antique Manipur\)](#) built a temple dedicated to goddess Yumjao Lairembi ([Old Manipuri](#): Yumchao Lailempi).^[14]

Mythology

[\[change\]](#) | [change source](#)

Goddess Yumjao Leima appears in a human form in white clothes to come to bless her son, the King of the kingdom.^[6] Even during the death of a king, she came to the place in the form of a mortal being. She controls the life and the death of the kings. She is the chief of the household and the guidance of the kings.^[5]

Yumchao Leima

Relationship with the Queen Mother

[\[change\]](#) | [change source](#)

According to beliefs, Goddess Yumjao Leima is the divine representation of the [Queen Mother](#) (Royal Mother) of the kingdom. All the powerful queen mothers were integrated into goddess Yumjao Leima after their death.

Goddess Yumjao Leima herself was the all-time ruling Queen Mother. The most powerful person in a kingdom was always the Queen Mother - representation of Goddess Yumjao Leima. In [ancient Kangleipak](#), cut off heads of the enemies from the war were offered to the goddess. The Meitei kings ruled the kingdom in the name of their Queen Mothers. Battles and wars were conducted in the name of the Queen Mothers.^{[3][5]} One example is that of an event recorded in the [Cheitharol Kumbaba](#):

“ In 1707 CE, ... 5th Sunday of Hiyangei month, they went to raid *Nungkhan* in the name of the King's Royal Mother.^[5] ”

Yumchao Leima

Worship

[\[change\]](#) | [\[change source\]](#)

Goddess Yumjao Leima is prayed for the longevity of life of the King. The final rites and rituals dedicated to Her are generally performed by the [maibas](#).^[1] Goddess Yumjao Lairemma ([Old Manipuri](#): Yumchao Lailemma) is mainly worshipped by the Thaopicham family of [Meitei ethnicity](#).^[15] According to [Meitei culture](#), the "Nongmai" class is in the middle position of the society of the [maibis](#) (priestesses). They used to take care of the cult of goddess Yumjao Lairembi.^[16]

Maibis	Latin transliterations (Romanisation)	Hierarchy	Latin transliterations (Romanisation)	Deities to be worshipped	Latin transliterations (Romanisation)
	Shanglen	Top position	— Mangang	—	Pakhangba
	Nongmai	Middle position	— Luwang	—	Yumjao Leima
()	Phura (Phula)	Lowest position	— Khuman	—	Nongshaba

Temples

[\[change\]](#) | [\[change source\]](#)

Yumchao Leima

Temple of Yumjao Lairembi, Kangla

[\[change\]](#) | [\[change source\]](#)

The "*Temple of Yumjao Lairembi*" inside the [Kangla](#) is at the left side of the [Temple of Pakhangba](#). Structurally, both the temples are of the same architectural styles. The southern wall of the temple is well decorated. The

remaining three walls of the temple are of little decorations. A door with the lancite arch is in the southern wall of the temple. Two false doors surround the two sides of the one real door. All the doors (real and false) are framed with pilasters. The ground plan of the temple is in square shape. Its area covered is 2.43 square meters.^[17]

Ima Ibemma Yumjao Lairembi Shanglen

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

In October 2011, a temple named "Ima Ibemma Yumjao Lairembi Shanglen" was built in honor of goddess Yumjao Lairembi in Thangmeiband town in [Imphal](#).^[18]

Others

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

- A temple dedicated to Yumjao Lairembi of Arambam region is in [Imphal West district](#) in [Manipur](#).^[19]
- "Yumjao Lairembi Temple" is in Meino Leirak, Sagolband, [Imphal](#), [Manipur](#).
- "Thaoroijam Yumjao Lairembi Temple" is in Thaoroijam Mamang Leikai, Nambol, [Manipur](#).^[20]

Namesakes

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

Yumjao Lairembi Dramatic and Cultural Union

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

The "*Yumjao Lairembi Dramatic and Cultural Union*" is a nonprofit dramatic union. It was established in Khagempali Huidrom Leikai, [Imphal](#) in the year 2011.^{[21][22][23]}

Related pages

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

- [Laikhurembi](#)

References

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

1. ↑ [1.0 1.1](#) Muthukumaraswamy, M. D.; Kaushal, Molly (2004). *Folklore, Public Sphere, and Civil Society*. NFSC www.indianfolklore.org. ISBN 978-81-901481-4-6.
2. ↑ Chaki-Sircar, Manjusri (1984). *Feminism in a Traditional Society: Women of the Manipur Valley*. Shakti Books. ISBN 978-0-7069-1967-7.
3. ↑ [3.0 3.1 3.2](#) Birajit, Soibam (2014-12-01). *Meeyamgi Kholao: Sprout of Consciousness*. ARECOM (Advanced Research Consortium, Manipur). p. 135.
4. ↑ Rao, Nitya; Rürup, Luise (1997). *A Just Right: Women's Ownership of Natural Resources and Livelihood Security*. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. ISBN 978-81-7440-044-4.
5. ↑ [5.0 5.1 5.2 5.3](#) Birajit, Soibam (2014-12-01). *Meeyamgi Kholao: Sprout of Consciousness*. ARECOM (Advanced Research Consortium, Manipur). p. 136.
6. ↑ [6.0 6.1](#) George, K. M. (1992). *Modern Indian Literature, an Anthology: Plays and prose*. Sahitya Akademi. ISBN 978-81-7201-783-5.
7. ↑ Folk Culture of Manipur - Page 200 - Moirangthem Kirti Singh · 1993
8. ↑ Sharma, H. Surmangol (2006). "[Learners' Manipuri-English dictionary.Yumjao](#)". dsal.uchicago.edu. Retrieved 2022-02-24.
9. ↑ Brara, N. Vijaylakshmi (1998). *Politics, society, and cosmology in India's North East*. Internet Archive. Delhi ; New York : Oxford University Press. p. 74. ISBN 978-0-19-564331-2.
10. ↑ Dance-rituals of Manipur, India: An Introduction to "Meitei ... - Page 50 - Louise Lightfoot · 1958
11. ↑ Sharma, H. Surmangol (2006). "[Learners' Manipuri-English dictionary.Leima](#)". dsal.uchicago.edu. Retrieved 2022-02-24.
12. ↑ Sharma, H. Surmangol (2006). "[Learners' Manipuri-English dictionary.Lairembi](#)". dsal.uchicago.edu. Retrieved 2022-02-24.
13. ↑ Sharma, H. Surmangol (2006). "[Learners' Manipuri-English dictionary.Lairemma](#)". dsal.uchicago.edu. Retrieved 2022-02-24.
14. ↑ Delhi, All India Radio (AIR), New (1968-03-17). *AKASHVANI: Vol. XXXIII, No.12 (17 MARCH, 1968)*. All India Radio (AIR), New Delhi.
15. ↑ Sanajaoba, Naorem (1993). *Manipur: Treatise & Documents*. Mittal Publications. ISBN 978-81-7099-399-5.
16. ↑ Brara, N. Vijaylakshmi (1998). *Politics, society, and cosmology in India's North East*. Internet Archive. Delhi ; New York : Oxford University Press. p. 138. ISBN 978-0-19-564331-2.
17. ↑ Sanajaoba, Naorem (1988). *Manipur, Past and Present: The Heritage and Ordeals of a Civilization*. Mittal Publications. ISBN 978-81-7099-853-2.
18. ↑ "[Ima Ibemma Yumjao Lairembi Shanglen Inaugurated : 13th oct11 ~ E-Pao! Headlines](#)". e-pao.net. Retrieved 2022-02-24.
19. ↑ "[Yumjao Lairembi, Arambam](#)". templesofindia.org. Retrieved 2022-02-24.
20. ↑ "[Thaoroijam Yumjao Lairembi, Manipur](#)". vymaps.com. Retrieved 2022-02-24.

21. "Yumjao Lairembi Dramatic And Cultural Union - Saathi Re". www.saathire.com. Retrieved 2022-02-24.
22. "SocialPrimes". socialprimes.com. Retrieved 2022-02-24.
23. "Yumjao Lairembi's play wins best production : 03rd feb22 ~ E-Pao! Headlines". e-pao.net. Retrieved 2022-02-24.

Bibliography

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

- Archaeology in Manipur - Page 149 - L. Kunjeswori Devi · 2003
- Proceedings of North East India History Association - North East India History Association. Session · 1988
- Recent Researches in Oriental Indological Studies: Including Meiteillogy - Page 188 - Moirangthem Kirti Singh · 1998
- The History of Manipur: An early period - Page 263 - Wahengbam Ibohal Singh · 1986
- Bhogeshwor, Oinam (1971). *Yumjao Leima* (in Manipuri). {{cite book}}: |website= ignored (help)

Other websites

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

Wikimedia Commons has media related to ***Yumjao Leima***.

The Simple English Wiktionary has a definition for: ***Yumjao Leima***.

- Sharma, H. Surmangol (2006). *"Learners' Manipuri-English dictionary.Yumjao Lairemma"*. *dsal.uchicago.edu*. Retrieved 2022-02-24.

Retrieved from "https://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Yumjao_Leima&oldid=9430679"