

## **AN ECO-COSMOLOGY OF FLOURISHING: TELEOLOGY, RITUAL AND THE NATURAL WORLD IN LOTHANAGA INDIGENOUS RELIGION**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This study investigates the teleological framework of the Lotha Naga people, contending that its ultimate aim lies not in a transcendent union with the divine but in the immanent realization of khorabenta eküm (harmonious life) and pvülyua eküm (prosperous life). Viewed through an ecocritical lens, this teleology manifests as a symbiotic engagement with the environment, mediated through ritual, spirit propitiation, and agricultural practice. The analysis foregrounds the Lotha conception of Potsow (Supreme Being) and the community's ritual interactions that sustain well-being across human and non-human domains. It argues that Lotha cosmology envisions human fulfillment as a collaborative process among community, cosmos, and divinity, encapsulated in the maxim kvüthüng echüa sana tothüngti eliyong thakala ("man is not created once and for all, but only in death is the creation of man complete"). This indigenous epistemology challenges salvation-centric paradigms and articulates a sustainable, earth-centered teleology in which human prosperity is inseparable from the health and agency of the natural world.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Lotha Nagas, Teleology, Eco-cosmology, Khorabenta eküm (harmonious life), Pvülyua eküm (prosperous life), Potsow (Supreme Being), Ritual Practice, Animism, Pvüti (Village Priest)*

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