

## Galo Myths: An Enquiry into Role of Female Deities

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**Abstract :**

Each society has its own myths that are significant part of their cultural traditions. The myths are stories that answer important queries of human existence such as who we are, where do we come from, why we are here on earth, how should we live, what is the universe, how did life begins? The Galo do have their own myths, legends, folksongs, folktales, etc. which play a vital role in making their oral cultures unique and different from other folk traditions of the world. These myths are narrated and chanted during rituals performed by individual and community members as a whole. Myths and other cultural traditions play a significant role in depicting their belief system, worldview and way of life. They are the identity markers of a tribe or community. The Galos have several myths related to their origin, marriage, festivals, death, social practices, etc. And several deities and mythical characters play different roles in these myths. Among them the role and functions of some female or mythical women stand out significantly roles in these myths of the tribe. In this connection, the role played by female deities such as Jimi Ane and Mopin Ane shall be studied to have better and in-depth knowledge of the female deities of the Galo tribe, a lesser known tribe of Arunachal Pradesh. In this paper a modest attempt is made to analyse the significant role played by two female deities especially in terms of creation myth and festival myth of the Galo tribe in which their role is predominantly indispensable. The study is based on oral traditions and hence, anthropological methods were used to collect the data from the field.

**Keywords:** Galo, folk narratives, myth, Jimi and Mopin