

THE BROKPA OF BHUTAN

Deki peered out of the window of her village hut and sighed when she saw the torrential rain. The gloomy weather increased the depression in her as she was still struggling to come to terms with her eldest sister's sudden death two days ago. The village astrologer had dictated that her sister's body, according to **Brokpa** custom, be kept immersed in water for three days before being chopped into a hundred and eight pieces and discarded into the river. Deki's eyes filled as she thought of her late sister's two year old toddler who kept asking for the whereabouts of his dead mother.

The **Brokpa** (population: 5,500 plus) are a semi-nomadic people who are generally sheep and yak herders. This small ethnic group is found in eastern Bhutan. They speak two distinct languages, namely Brokpake and Brokkat. Because of the constant rain in their region, the **Brokpa** wear special five-pointed yak-hair hats that drain water away from their bodies. The wet climate causes diseases and ill health which is common among the **Brokpa**. This people group seek healing from their ill health by relying on shamans.

Though mainly Vajrayana (Tibetan) Buddhists, the **Brokpa** worship many spirits and regard the goddess Ama Jomo as the protector deity of their people. Few **Brokpa** people have heard the Gospel, due to their semi-nomadic lifestyle and remote location. There are reports of possibly one or two believers among them.

- Pray against all spiritual deceptions holding the **Brokpa** in spiritual darkness.
- Pray that God will raise up medical missionaries to help the **Brokpa** with their health and spiritual problems.
- Pray for the improving the **Brokpa**'s living conditions.

This is a series of useful prayer profile compilations to pray for people groups collated from various online sources. Please click on the links below for more info: <https://joshuaproject.net/>, <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/>, <http://asiaharvest.org/people-group-profiles/>