



two to four persons individually competing against each other but the most preferred number of players is three.

The components required to play this game are 64 small shells and two dice, small cubes with faces bearing one to six dark, usually indented spots. Each player should have a set of nine coins that are distinct from those of the other players. It is a complex game for beginners and spectators as one keeps playing. The game requires quick thinking and rapid execution. During the first round, each player can stack up two coins at a time as the base home. As they play on, one can stack up as many coins as possible at one's home (the start) provided the dice one throws gives out the home number. If one's throw produces a similar number to that of the other players, he can oust the existing coins and replace them with his own. The one who can stack up as many coins as he can and reaches the goal is the winner. It is also an amusing game because before a player rolls out or literally thumps down the dice, he shouts a line of words with the name of the numbers he requires. Sometimes a player says funny things to amuse the others. The actual charm of the game is in the verses calling for the required number to come.

This game is usually played indoors among friends to entertain themselves, but it is also a notorious gambling game and forbidden in public places.

2.2.7. Three and One Dice Game

Three and one dice game, or *suk para*, is also a type of a dice game played between two persons or more. There is only one dice with faces bearing one to six dark, usually indented spots. The players bet on only one and three, hence the name *suk para* (*suk* means three, *para* means one). One of the players rolls out the dice. If the dice shows one on the uppermost side, the players who put their stakes on three lose, and vice versa. If the dice shows the numbers of holes other than one and three, it is a tie whereby the dice is rolled out again until one of the two numbers appears.

The numeric terminologies for the dice games are different from the normal linguistic terms and are used only while playing the game.

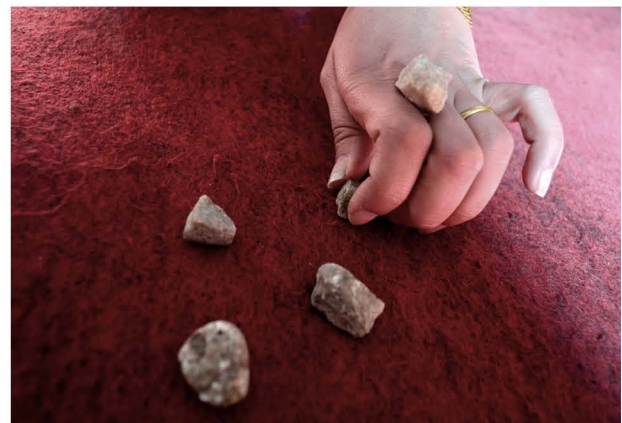
2.2.8. Stone Game

Popularly known as *ek dupa*, the stone game is a very simple game played by teenage girls mostly in the eastern part of Bhutan. It requires only five small round shaped pebbles which can all fit inside the palm. Those days the girls used to play the game with their friends at home or out in the farms while their mothers were at work. Sometimes even young boys took interest in joining the girls to play.

The game is played at five levels, each bearing a distinctive name. In the first level, which is called *ek dupa*, the player holds all five stones in her palm and throws them upwards. She then turns the palm to face the ground, stretching out her fingers to let the pebbles land on the back of her hand. At least one pebble should remain on the back of her hand while falling from above. Then she attempts to pick up those which landed on the ground. She must throw the pebbles on the back of her hand up into the air and collect those on the ground with the same palm which she spreads out to allow those in the air to fall on her palm. This way all the pebbles should be in her palm after the second throw. The game can go on to *ek tripa* and so on.

The next level, *dhue dupa*, requires her to throw the stones on the ground and keep one clasped in between her index finger and the thumb. This time she has to pick up two stones at a time while the one in her hand is thrown in the air.

In the third level, *teen dupa*, the four stones are thrown on the ground. She has to pick up three stones together and after that pick the remaining one.

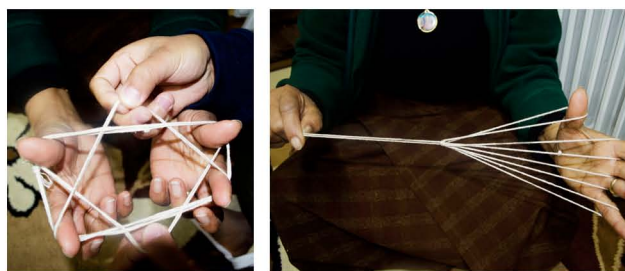


The fourth level, *dhap dhapi* is however a bit tricky and quite hard. While she has all the five stones in her palm, she has to throw one in the air and quickly put all the remaining four stones on the ground and catch the one in the air. Then she has to finish the process by throwing one stone in the air and pick up all four stones and receive the one in the air on her palm. The player has to repeat this five times successfully to advance to the final level. Nonetheless, before advancing to the final level, a player has to finish one more stage, called *jili guto* or *kekchi*, where she has to manage to hold the stones on the back of her hand with palm facing down and fingers making a fist.

The final level, *ama tsukpay* requires both hands of the player. This is the most difficult part of the game. She has to stretch the fingers of her left hand a bit, resting the fingertips on the ground and arching the palm to shape her hand into a little cave. The player then gently releases four stones on the ground near the mouth of the cave. The twist in this final level is that the opponent chooses one particular stone which is located at a strategically difficult point for the player to send the other stones past it and into the cave. This chosen stone is called the *ama*, hence the name *ama tsukpay*. The *ama* has to be knocked into the cave after all the other stones have been put inside. But no matter how far the stones are from the mouth of the cave, the player gets only two hits per stone to knock it into the cave and only one hit at the stone chosen by the opponent to get it into the cave. When all the stones are inside the cave, the player has one final move, that is, to collect all the stones like in the fourth level. After this, the player successfully completes one round of the game. However, if the player fails in one of the levels, the turn goes to the opponent but she can pick up from where the game was left off in the next round.

2.2.9. Bird's Foot Thread Game

The bird's foot thread game called *kuep tsay jayi kang pa* is known by different names in different parts of Bhutan. It is played mostly by young girls and sometimes even by boys. Two players are involved in the game. One presents the thread made into a pattern



by her outstretched fingers while the other picks up the thread from the pattern to form another pattern. Each pattern has a different name like *drami* or *jayi kang pa* (hen's feet) and several other patterns. The player who can pick the most patterns is credited best while the player who fails to pick a shape is downgraded and her lack of skill is derided in extremely colloquial terms.

2.2.10. Bull Fight

Langthap, the Bhutanese version of bull fight is an outdoor game which is played between bulls and also between young boys and men to determine the strongest in a group, or in a village. It means bull (*lang*) and fight (*thap*). Sometimes they play to impress the girls they like in their village to win her hands and sometimes simply to earn respect among their peers as the strongest person. Only two persons of strongly competitive dispositions would contest for the title bout.



Two persons position themselves on the ground on their hands and knees about a couple of feet from each other and charge at each other just like real bulls. On the count of three, the two men bump shoulders forcefully using all their strength to try to push the opponent to the ground. The winner earns his respect until someone else makes a new challenge.

2.2.11. Cock Fighting

Cock fighting, or *ja dzing* used to be a popular game among young boys during their free time at home or in the forest where they take their cattle to graze. It is a simple game played mostly between two players although multiple players can also participate in teams.

Standing on his left foot with his right foot raised behind him, each player must grip his clothing at the chest area tightly with his left hand while gripping his right foot with his right hand. Standing facing one other, only about a foot apart, each moves forward in an attempt