'Bina Kutir' is written by the ace Assamese short-story writer, Saurabh Kumar Chaliha (--which is the pseudonym used by Surendra Nath Medhi as a writer). It is an outstanding story in Assamese literature and the narrative style can be seen as the strong component in making the characterisation impactful , especially to achieve the irony the author targeted towards the end of this short story---his masterpiece . It begins with a mundane city scene of a gentleman looking for a rental place to live in Guwahati . He comes across a small Assam type house that suits his choice for one to live in .It was unoccupied and showed signs of dilapidation due to lack of care and use.

This sight made the narrator set out on a journey through imagination which is at the heart of this story---the imagined journey and the actual reality which was not exactly so.

The narrator visited a nearby shop and enquired about the possibility of this house with the ‘bina’ plant of being let out for rent. He requested the young shopkeeper to gather the necessary information . In the meantime the house occupied the mind of the narrator and he began to imagine about its original inhabitants. He was informed that the original occupants of the house were a family of a teacher—a Sanskrit scholar , Bhudhar Sarma being the head of that family. He was actively involved in the study of the scriptures and was remembered for his deliberations and discussions about religious issues at his house with other like-minded peers. Infact there was a society formed with a signage put up outside his house ‘Sanjeevan Samaj’ as was mentioned by people who remembered it. It could be inferred that the house had a very dignified and respectable ambience with such engagements. People remembered Bhudhar Sarma as a learned , conscientious person who exuded the aura of a person steeped in spiritual thoughts about human existence and its sustenance .The narrator could realise that this kept the owner away from the kind of success that concerned most people for whom only material considerations mattered in life. The narrator started to imagine more and was lost in his idea of that household that he beheld with his mind’s eyes, as he usually sat sipping at the Coca-cola bottle at the shop next to Bina Kutir on most evenings. He began to believe that the two sons had been following their father’s path of austere spirituality in essence and so they had left the house without any change as such. He imagined them to be the two true inheritors of their father’s idealism. The story continued with the narrator’s imagination thus. The reason for having the house unoccupied had begun to be clear for the narrator. He assumed that to be due to the family’s respect for the late father. He surmised through the bits of information that he gathered that the sons had their own destined paths and the prospect of gaining materially from the property was not in their plan of agenda in life. Even the son-in –law was imagined as one who was disinterested in material gains to be made from this place from where he had received the gift of love in his life.

However, the meaning of the entire story is clear when the last day is described by the narrator. The narrator learns that the imagination that he had led himself into about the household based on the collection of information till then was in stark contrast to what had actually been the reality of that place and its present stakeholders. Both the sons, in their own ways, sought ownership of the property and wanted to convert it into some materially profitable form. They wished to have maximum profit out of this enterprise by pulling down Bina Kutir, their ancestral house, the once revered house that held many congregations of their spiritually inclined father and his peers who had chosen the path of quest for true acquisition of treasure in life----of deeper knowledge of life and existence, so to say. In fact he learned that a case was going on in court in which the sons fought against each other for possession of the house. And in the meantime , the house remained uncared for as their love was only for the dream that they dreamt now of material gain and not for what the house meant and had stood for in the past .Any care taken for the upkeep of the house at that interim time was considered by the sons as unprofitable and needless. So ‘Bina Kutir’ remained uncared for in that fast developing , materially profitable area as the mere witness of an era long forgone---with the passing of its original owner and his set of idealism.