The legend is described as "a story handed down for generation and popularly believed to have a historical basis, all such stories belonging to a particular group of people, a notable person much talked about in his own time, the stories of his exploits (New World Dictionary, p. 269). From their different aims and objects, the legends are of various natures. According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica legends are the crystal mirror in which ancient person is sincerely reflected. The influence of legends is very much prominent in Indian society. Legends provide some reflections of the philosophical, social and religious conditions of ancient India.

Since my school days, I came to be interested in the legend. Therefore, I took it as a pleasant opportunity as I was initiated to the study of this legend by my Guide.

The Paraśurāma legend is one of the important legends found in various branches of Indian literature. Paraśurāma, the famous legendary personality belongs to the race of the Bhṛgus, who were a class of mystical beings, and belonged to the middle or aerial class of Gods. As a tradition goes, he is one of the seven ciranjīvins. Another tradition describes the mighty river Brahmaputra in the North-East India as coming out of Brahmakunḍa which later on came to be known as Paraśukunḍa as
Paraśurāma washed off his sin resultant to his killing of mother Renukā in it.

Paraśurāma is famous for his extraordinary exploits. The personality of this mighty sage warrior deserves to be studied in depth. As no mark covering such a study has come to our notice as yet, it is humbly proposed to make an investigation on the legend and personality of Paraśurāma. As directed by my Guide, I have discussed in his work a study of the legend of Paraśurāma as far as possible in a comprehensive way. I humbly believe that my research work will be of significant if the work comes to be of interest and utility for the adjudicators and readers.

As I conclude, I am really conscious of the probable shortcomings in the work. I however trust —

\[drṣṭaṁ kimapi lokesmin\]
\[na nirdoṣaṁ na nirgunam /\]
\[āvṛṇudhvamato dāśān\]
\[vivṛṇudhvāṁ gunāṁ budhāḥ //\]

\[Swarna Lakshmi Talukdar Baishya\]

(Swarna Lakshmi Talukdar Baishya)