Innumerable fasts and festivals are observed by the Assamese Hindus of the Kamrup district. These are of vital importance in the development of the socio-cultural history of the people. Except for a few general descriptive studies, namely, *Fairs and Festivals of Assam* by Hem Barua and J. D. Baveja (1956), *Uchavar Bhogjarā* (1960) and *Uchavar Ramcarā* (1963), both compiled and edited by Professor Atulchandra Hazarika, *The Springtime Bihu of Assam* (1966) by Dr P. Goswami and *Asamar Loka-utsav* (1969) by Dr P. C. Bhattacharya, and a few articles occasionally published in newspapers and journals no attempt has been made to present a systematic account of all these fasts and festivals and the rites and rituals associated with them.

The present work was undertaken with the object of presenting a methodical and comprehensive picture of the fasts and festivals prevalent in the district among the Assamese caste-Hindus. In the following pages I am describing these as they are and shall venture to give opinions which may be subject to correction and improvement. Besides field investigations, I have made use of old literature, contemporary accounts and archaeological information after careful scrutiny and examination. In spite of my best efforts I cannot claim to have covered all aspects of the subject. I shall, however, consider my labours amply rewarded if the present dissertation helps the learned readers in taking greater interest in furthering the scope of study of the subject,
so that we may benefit from their better judgment and fuller studies.

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