PREFACE

The idea of presenting this dissertation as a M.Phil thesis is the product of inquisitiveness that has been triggered off by the debate between the protagonists of 'alliance theory' and 'descent theory'. The illustrations of the Purum in the book 'Structure and Sentiment: A Test Case in Social Anthropology' (1962) by R. Needham based on T.C. Das's original monograph - 'The Purum: An Old Kuki Tribe of Manipur' (1945), have intensified the debate and much has been written and questioned thereafter in a series of articles published in American Anthropologist during 1964 to 1966.

In the first chapter of the dissertation a general description of Manipur and its tribes is outlined. The second part of the first chapter introduces the Issues in the Purum Debate; the second chapter highlights the debated issues and also tries to analyse the relevant issues in the light of the original monograph. The last chapter apprises of the contemporary Purum and presents the feelings and sentiments of the tribe.

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