Preface

Culture is a vehicle of the identity of a community. It remains latent in customs and manners, food-habits, dresses, ornaments, religion, fine arts, etc., of the community. Even though a community marches or progresses with time, yet the glory of its past and earlier culture can be discovered from the archaeological and historical relics or from ancient books.

From early childhood I enjoyed reading Assamese literary works both contemporary and ancient. Now from deeper studies of this literature it appears to me that facts and details of ancient Assamese culture can be discovered and documented by scientifically studying the mediaeval literature. In this respect even though some articles by various writers have been already published, nobody yet has made any systematic study or research work about it. Even generally to learn about old Assamese culture it is imperative to embark on such a venture. Realising this and on suggestions received from my teacher and guide, Dr. Maheswar Neog, I have decided to make a methodical study of how mediaeval Assamese culture was reflected in mediaeval Assamese literature. While compiling this work, besides studying the mediaeval Assamese works, I have made careful scrutiny and examinations of contemporary accounts, ancient inscriptions, Sanskrit books and modern
literary works of various scholars. I have taken every possible care to make my thesis as perfect as possible, yet I cannot claim that I could take into account each and every aspect of the subject matter. However, I will deem my endeavour to be successful only if it becomes helpful to other researchers to make further in-depth study.

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