**HRUSSO AND KORO AKAS.**

The term 'Aka' denoting 'painted' is a name given by the plains people largely because of tribe's custom of painting their faces profusely. The western Akas who are mainly concentrated in Thrizino, Jamiri, Buragaon, Bhalukpong, Tippi, Palizi and Khuppi call themselves Hrusso, while their eastern counterparts who live in Bana (Yangse) circle of East Kameng district, who were recorded as Miri-Angka or Khrome in the past, but who call themselves as Jiju Lale has now adopted and retained the generic term Aka. In the recent years a new name 'Koro Aka' is gaining popularity in academic circle for this group of eastern Akas. Their combined population as per 2011 census is around 8167 people. Both the Akas share common customs, beliefs and practices, and in physical features too, they are much alike. What drastically distinguishes the two from each is their language and history including myths on their origin and migration.

The Hrusso Akas believe themselves to have had descended on the earth in a silver and golden ladder, once settled in the plains of Assam and finally pushed themselves up towards the hills after a feud. The eastern Akas (Koro) believe themselves to have had migrated, first from the plains towards the extreme north, then reverse migration towards south before finally reached Pichang from where they dispersed and settled in their present habitats. The Hrusso and Koro Akas are Indo Mongoloids by racial affiliation and Tibeto Burman by language family. They are mainly animists in religion believing in hierarchy of gods, deities and spirits who rule over mankind. The Hrusso celebrate Nyetrii - Do as their community festival while Sarok is the main festival of the Akas of Bana.