Travel the Road

The Realities of Nature and Myth Myths form a significant part of the oral literature of the people of North East India. The oral tales that deal with them or have a mythical base signify the depths of a traditional wisdom that incorporate everything that have been gathered from a rich experience of life; and are inextricable from the oral history of the region. The richness of this region lies in its vibrant cultures, traditions, rituals, festival, dances and folklore," the way of life of the masses is still rooted in the traditional social base, - group solidarity and group consciousness for collective endeavour and welfare..., creativity is collective and participating. As a result, folklore is still a major component of the living culture of the people of the region. It has been growing and absorbing new elements."' ] To many writers of this region, "legends and stories are still a wellspring of thought and emotions that are restored in a peculiar blend of myth and memory unique to the region."^ Most of the poets of this region use myth and nature alongside themes of violence, corruption and politics. Being deeply rooted in their past, these poets speak about their history and their past, the land and its people, its myths and rituals, culture and tradition, festivals and dances. Legends are portrayed with the "intensity of 50 reality and reality is portrayed with the intensity of longing for a vanished past".^ Thus: The history of our race begins with the place of stories. We do not know if the language we speak belongs to written past'\* In these lines, Mamang Dai talks about the mystery that shrouds the origins of the people of this region. "North-Easterners are conscious that they have no recorded history about their antecedents. Their historical past and migration routes are shrouded in mystery."^ Although, no written records are available these stories have been passed down from generation to generation by word of mouth. They have seeped into the mind of people over the centuries like "a gift of understanding generated by itself."^