

mournful. Another popular cultural dance is 'dengkini lam' or 'chibai-muk lam', meaning salute dance, performed by the young men and women together in two rows with the accompaniment of two drums beating by two persons. The chibai muk lam is a mark of welcome addressed in honour of kalim (headman) and chief guests. In addition, there are women-folk-dance, men folk-dance, children dance with the accompaniment of musics.

6. Feast and festivals:

In pre-Christian days, feasts and festivals were always associated with dancing, singing, drinking and entertainments. For feasts, each family brought Zu (rice-beer). Generally, social feasts and festivals were held during the winter season, which is called 'Boljoi'.⁴² The principal feasts and festivals are as follows :- (a) Rualsa fak : Literally means eating animal in a group or fellowship. Either mithuns or pigs can be used. The youth group, as traditional life, used to take some meats while animal was being cut into pieces by means of stealing, what they called 'Seraphit'. (b) Zutang in (drinking 'Zu' together). (c) Parngot (plucking flowers) Zu: The bachelors had to pluck flowers and distribute to each house and adored them. (d) Fahlam kai: It was held for growing paddy plants.⁴³ (e) Bu chil: (harvest feast): It is connected with crops. It was held just after harvest of the crops. The priest had to slaughter pig and fowl; examine their livers, intestines, and the blood was attached to the crops. At the conclusion of feasts and festivals, they had entertainments like wrestling, weight lifting, other games.

⁴² Interview with Chonsuilian of Tangpui, N.C.Hills, on 12th May, 1997.

⁴³ Interview with Vailiankhup of Loskor, N.C. Hills, on 1st January, 1998.