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 CHAPTER 2

Festivals are very significant, of our milieu as they represent many landmarks and milestone. Every history consist of memorable event what differs from culture is how we often choose to remember the significant part of the histories.

Today, festival must not only be cultural it can be used to celebrate work of art, hence, there are many film festivals, sport festivals, social festivals etc. A festival can be defined as a day or period of time set aside to commemorate, ritually celebrate or re-enact, or anticipate events. Festival in latin word is called ‘festivalis or festivus’ meaning feast befitting feast. There are two vital criteria that festivals are identified by; festivals are enjoyable, special and exceptional, sometimes the only celebration in town and cities, they are full if entertainment that bring people together. To qualify for inclusion as festivals in the event name, it must be a one off annual, biannual etc. The most popular festivals today in Nigeria are festivals that are deeply rooted in history and evolution of a group organized by different ethnic group. The focus of most cultural festivals in Nigeria can be grouped into three; a special day attached to the history of the people. A period in meaning with link to special achievement of the group on a hero in them historical narrative, religious or social events that have special influence on the identity of the people. There are tons of festivals celebrated in pre-colonial Nigeria, they include; sharo/shadi festival, this festival is originated among the jaful Fulani , in this festival bare chested contestant mostly unmarried men come to the centre ring in company of beautiful girls. New yam festival(iriji), this is a very popular festival widely celebrated by the igbos in the month of august every year, this festival symbolizes the conclusion of a harvest cycle and beginning of a new farm work. Osun Oshogbo festival, the festival has been celebrated since 1370, the osun festival goddess is believed to have founded the present day Oshogbo town hence, the people celebrate the festival annually. Argungun fishing festival, this festival was intiated in august 1934 to honor late sultan Dan Muazu when he visitedargungu in present day kebbi state, it is celebrated between February and march annually. Igue festival, this is observed by the edo people, it originated in the 15th century BC(1440-1473 AD) during the reign of Oba EWU, it is also called a festival of goodluck. Dubar festival (kastina), this festival dates back to two hundred years ago when the northern monarchs use horse in welfare, during this festival each group racing across the square at full gallop, sword glinting in the sun. obitun dance festival, this is a bridal dance in ondo town, every maiden in the town is expected to participate before she gets married, it is believed that any maiden that refuses will become childless.