

Acknowledgement

At the thrilling and much-awaited moment, I seek blessings at the holy feet of God and my guru. I express my heartfelt gratitude for constantly bestowing me with strength and insight and enabling me to satisfactorily accomplish this research project.

I am deeply obliged to my guide Dr T. S. Girishkumar for his valuable guidance at every step of this endeavour. His constant support helped me maintain vigour in this project. His regular impetus and scholarly advice helped me mould my thoughts. I am greatly indebted to him for giving me this opportunity to prepare this project. I seek his blessings on the joyous occasion of this achievement, which otherwise would not have seen the light of the day.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr Rajeshri Trivedi (Head, Department of Philosophy) and Dr K. Krishnan (former Dean, Faculty of Arts) and Prof (Dr) Adhya Saxena (Dean, Faculty of Arts) for their kind co-operation.

With utmost humility and gratefulness, I would like to acknowledge my indebtedness to Mahamohopadhaya Sadhu Bhadreshdas, the author of the treatise of my study. I am also thankful to the BAPS Swaminarayan Research Institute, New Delhi, and its chairperson Dr Dave for providing me with the relevant resource material for my research.

I am equally indebted to Sadhu Ishwarcharandas, Dr Sadhu Aksharananddas and Acharya Sadhu Brahmasethadas for their valuable guidance. I extend my gratitude to Prof. Anand Acharya and Prof. Jayesh Mandanka, and also to my fellow researchers Kinix Hande, Sagar Acharya, Vandan Ranpurwala, and Jignesh Raval for their moral support and pleasant company throughout this endeavour.

I take privilege in thanking my family that offered immense emotional support at every step. I deeply thank my cousin Ritesh and my husband, Rushin Thacker, for their care and concern over this project. Their assurance and constant encouragement pushed me forward to this milestone.

Lastly, I express my appreciation and gratitude to all those well-wishers who directly or indirectly helped me in this research.