

PREFACE

The present thesis is based on a literary evaluation of the remarkable biography *Lauhapurushavallabhacaritam* and an excellent epic *Lauhapurushāvadānam* written by Satyapal Sharma and Shivaprashada Bharadvaja respectively. For the first time this literary evaluation of these two books on the life, personality and character of Sardar Patel is attempted in the present thesis.

This research work is very important to me for the degree of Ph.D. Writing and searching on a one of the greatest personalities of the world Sardar Patel is not an easy task for a slow witted person like me because character of Sardar is so vast and knowledge of mine is so short. It is exactly like to cross the ocean with a small raft.

First of all I am grateful to Mr. Dahyabhai K Shastri (Pujya Dadaji) for inspiring me to learn Sanskrit and enter the world of Sanskrit literature before many years. Secondly I deeply express my sincere gratitude towards Swami Muditvadanand for encouraging and helping me whenever I approached him. With the blessings of these two great men I have been able to reach my destination. The person without whose grace and guidance I couldn't have completed and submitted my thesis to The M.S. University of Baroda in requisite period of time is none other than my real *Guru* and Research Guide Prof. Rabindra Kumar Panda. He is a creative writer, poet and critic in modern Sanskrit literature. Currently, he is deputed as the Vice-Chancellor of Shri Jagannath Sanskrit Vishvavidyalaya, Puri, Odisha. He has always helped me by giving me valuable and constructive suggestions from time to time till the completion of my thesis. Without getting irritated on small mistakes of this fool, he has always encouraged me to write methodically and perfectly. I cordially

express my thankfulness towards him. I express my gratitude towards Dr. Amrutlal Bhogayata for his inspiration.

I gratefully acknowledge the help I received from Dr. Sweta Prajapati, Dr. Shweta Jejurkar, Bipasa Samanta, Dr. Mandar Pandya and my friend Dr. Vipul Patel. At this moment I cannot refrain from remembering my parents with whose love and affection I have been successful so far. Last but not least I cannot forget to mention the name of my wife Avantika Brahmbhatt who has always stood by me throughout my research work of M. Phil and Ph.D. I express my deepest feeling of love and thankfulness towards her. Again I must mention the name of my super son Deep Brahmbhatt whose little pranks gave me real recreation when I used to get tired of my daily work.

Mr. Sanjaykumar Kantilal Brahmbhatt