

P R E F A C E

The Mārkaṇḍeya-Purāṇa (MKP), which is one of the eighteen Mahā-Purāṇas, occupies an important place in the Purāṇic literature. The reasons for selecting the MKP have been pointed out in statement No.1. It may be mentioned here that in the present work the Venkateshwar edition of the MKP has been referred to, but the variant readings of the Calcutta edition (BI) have also been noticed at proper places of this thesis. Further it may also be noted that the unspecified references such as 1.5 always refer to the MKP, thus 1.5 = MKP 1.5.

Before starting with the subject, I take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my revered Guru, Dr. S.S.Bhave for the very great interest which he has throughout evinced in the present work and the parental care with which he has guided me at every stage of its progress. He was ever ready with his valuable suggestions and was to me a never-failing source of inspiration and encouragement. In spite of the

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