ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the outset I express my deep sense of gratitude to late Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar who had been completely responsible in introducing Pali and Buddhism to me and to the masses at large through his conversion to Buddhism in 1956.

I am grateful to the Late Principal Shri M.B.Chitnis, Ex. Deputy Chairman, Peoples Education Society, Bombay who was kind enough to discuss the topic of my research and make valuable suggestions. He was very eager to see this work completed soon. But it could not be completed owing to circumstances beyond my control.

I thank Prof. V.V.Yardi for scrutinizing the manuscript and offering suggestions for its improvement. I also thank Dr. V.V.Deshpande, Prof. P.V.Sukhadev, Dr. N.R.Shamkuwar, Prof. P.D.Dabhade and my brother-in-law Shri P.S. Bansod.

I record my sense of thanks to various scholars and authors on Buddhist studies from whose works I was greatly benefitted. I am also thankful to my colleague Dr. P.T. Ganvir for his suggestions and to my colleague Prof. Aniruddha Pathade who helped me in preparing the bibliography.
I wish to record my gratefulness to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi for the financial help for carrying out this research work. In particular, I express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Madhuriben Shah, Ex. Chairman, University Grants Commission, New Delhi, who helped me in this regard.

I am thankful to the Librarian Shri R.G. Jogdev, the assistant librarian Shri Deshpande and Shri Subhedar, Marathwada University, Aurangabad and the Librarian of Milind College of Arts Shri R.K. Ingle and his assistant Shri Gajhas for their helps during the course of my study. I express my sincere thanks to all those friends who have helped me directly or indirectly in this work. Thanks are also due to Shri U.L. Narode, Stenographer for the dextrous typing of the thesis.

Finally my wife Mrs. Mandakini Meshram has been my constant support and encouragement without which it could not have been possible for me to complete the work. To her my thanks are due.

Aurangabad
February 2, 1988
Magh Pournima.

(Seshrao Kacharuji Meshram)