PREFACE

The present thesis is the outcome of my research work on the STUDIES IN THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF BUDDHISM. The subject has indeed been dealt with by many Scholars. But their treatments are not all-comprehensive. Hence, there lies the scope for further study. An attempt has been made here to deal with those aspects, that have not yet been touched upon by other Scholars.

The thesis contains six chapters. The First chapter discusses the Origin and Development of Buddhism. The Second chapter is an attempt to explain the 'Four Noble Truths'. The Third chapter deals with the Three Chief Characteristics of Being - Dukkha, Anatta and Anicca. The Fourth chapter is concerned with the Doctrine of Action, as expounded in the Pali
works, canonical and non-canonical. The Fifth chapter is a brief exposition of the Dependent Origination, regarded as Buddha’s novel contribution to the philosophical thoughts of India of the 5th century B.C. The Sixth Chapter, the concluding one describes Nibbāna, the goal of life in Buddhism.

Before concluding this preface, I have to fulfil the most agreeable duty of acknowledging my indebtedness to Dr. Anukul Chandra Banerjee, former Professor and Head of the Department of Pali, and Ex-Dean of the Faculty of Arts of University of Calcutta, who initiated me into the Pali studies and provided me with all facilities of work in various ways.

I also express my thankfulness to my revered teachers, Dr. S. Sengupta, Dr. K. K. Ganguli,
Dr. D. K. Barua, Dr. S. Bhattacharyya, Dr. A. Das, S. Bardhan, A. Lahiri, and Dr. M. K. Chatterjee for the kind assistance in connection with this work in various ways.

Lastly, I am thankful to the authorities of the Calcutta University Library, Sanskrit College Library, Mahabodhi Society Library, Asiatic Society Library and National Library for giving me permission to consult books, manuscripts and periodicals of the Libraries.

10.11.1978.

Bela Bhattacharya
Vill. & P.O. Brindabanpur
P.S. Uluberia
Dist. Howrah
West Bengal.