Preface

In this prefatory note, I take the opportunity of expressing my gratefulness to all those who have rendered me valuable help in the compilation of this thesis.

First of all, I must gratefully record the obligations of all those scholars, past and present, whose researches in the form of books and journals etc. have formed the basis of my further research work.

I have pleasure to express my gratitude to Dr. K. P. Jog who kindly suggested to me the topic "the Viśve Devas : Mythology and Ritual" for my research-work for Ph.D., and as my guide, initiated me in research methodology. I had started my work, had collected the material for research and had even started the writing of the opening chapters when, Dr. Jog, having completed his period of service in the Sanskrit Dictionary Project at the Deccan College, returned to Bombay. Consequently, I had to go to Bombay at intervals for the purpose of reading with Dr. Jog the chapters finished by me.

In consideration of my work in the Sanskrit Dictionary project, however, became very inconvenient to me to pay frequent visits to Bombay. The approaching date of expiry of my registration period at the University of Poona was also a point seriously to be taken into account. I therefore drew Dr. Jog’s kind attention towards my plight and requested him to allow me to change the guide.

I formally approached the University of Poona to allow
me to charge my guide. Mean-while, I requested Dr. Ganesh Thite to undertake to guide me further in my research work. He willingly agreed and consequently I further continued my research work under his guidance by permission of the University of Poona. Dr. Thite went through all the chapters and made some useful suggestions. I am really grateful to Dr. Thite for the speedy supervision of my research work and for the valuable suggestions in respect of the compilation of the thesis.

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Miss Yamuna Shahane has obliged me by providing with an English rendering of the introductory part of L. Renou's treatise *Études Vedique et Paniniens*, Tome 4 which presents a critical study of the hymns to the Viśve Devas in the *Ṛgveda*.

I have derived full benefit of the Library of the Deccan College. It is, therefore, my pleasant duty to thank the library-staff of the Deccan College who spared no pains in supplying books I needed from time to time.

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