FOREWORD

My fascination towards Assamese language and literature is a natural fascination towards one's mother tongue. I liked listening stories since my childhood. This liking for stories developed into a general habit of reading stories both in Assamese and in Bengali. The novels and short stories of Sayed Abdul Malik had immensely influenced me for his humane attitude towards the poor and the downtrodden, spontaneity of his language, his humour, and his romantic treatment of human life and problems. I cherished the hope of doing Ph.D. on Malik's works. The realisation of this dream of mine would have not been possible, had not Dr. Dilip Borah, Reader, Department of MIL, (G.U.) extended his able guidance in this project of study. I find no language to express my gratitude to Dr. Borah. The present thesis is an outcome of the said hope.

The thesis has been divided into six chapters as follows: Chapter I, Introduction- deals with the primary concerns of the study i.e. Utility of the subject, subject matter of the thesis, the scope of the thesis and art of the thesis. Chapter II, Malik, the Man and the Writer- deals with Malik's life and Writings keeping the humanitarian perspective in mind. Chapter III, Literary Humanism: A Historical Survey- deals with humanism as a literary movement in details- its chronological development, basic principles and their implication in human life. Chapter IV, Humanism in Malik's Novels and Short Stories- deals with the major
novels and short stories of Malik and has analysed their humanistic aspects. Chapter V, Relevance of Malik’s Humanism in Postmodern Context- deals with the general features of postmodernism and Malik’s humanism simultaneously and tries to assess the relevance of Malik’s humanism in the scientifically and technologically advanced society of postmodern period. Chapter VI, Conclusion, reviews the study made in the foregoing Chapters, discusses the major findings of the study and arrives at certain conclusions.

In all these chapters, the available data have been analysed from different points of view of different authors and scholars of the concerned area. The limitations of the thesis are mine own. I am grateful to the authorities of Gauhati University for the generous extension of opportunity of doing this research to me. I am thankful to all the faculty members of the department of MIL, (G.U.) for their help to and co-operation with me. The library staff of G.U. deserves my thanks for their courtesy and assistance whenever I had occasion to consult works of reference in the University. I also take the opportunity of thanking my colleagues, friends, students and the members of my family for their unfailing help and hearty co-operation.

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