CHAPTER - I

PROLOGUE

What follows here in this Chapter is a synoptic preview of the Ph.D. Thesis being submitted by Prof. C.M. Wagh entitled "Radical And Literary Ethos of Black and Dalit Movements" under the supervision of Dr. P.V. Ranade. The thesis has been prepared and composed under the inter-disciplinary provision of the academic research programme framed by Dr. P.V. Ranade, the retired Professor of History of our University.

The purpose of the synoptic preview is to spell out the thematic content and scope of the doctoral dissertation and its salient features being submitted for the Ph.D. degree of the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University.

By radical and literary ethos of Black and Dalit movements is taken to mean as proposed by my guide Prof. P.V. Ranade for the purpose of this thesis, a conceptual proposition which takes for its thematic consideration, the spirit of culture, the underlying sentiment in the dramatic character of the Black and Dalit movements of our times that sought a thoroughgoing drastic reform as reflected in the highly impressive sensibilities of the ideological
spokesmen of these two movements. The main thrust of the guideline provided by my guide involves an ideological underpinning stressed in his well-known work on "American Left-Wing." The Black liberation movement in the U.S.A. and the Dalit Movement in India, have considerably changed what my guide calls: "the sociocultural power balance of White and high-caste dominance in these two countries, tilting towards the making of a more just and egalitarian society than what it was prior to the emergence of these two great movements that have brought forth new avenues of social advance in the vortex of world politics.

The present thesis does not attempt any full length narration of the historical travelogue of the Black and Dalit movements. This thesis has more modest but and yet an important aim of presenting a critical documentation of the most impressive historical sensibilities of the four chief most ideologues of these two movements who gave intellectual orientation to Black and Dalit movements. By critical documentation as identified by my guide, and followed by me, is here taken to mean a historical method of studying a text by analysing, assessing, judging, evaluating its merit and substance by applying certain criteria or standards that view the entire phenomenon
in the context of historical surrounding galaxy of the firmament.

Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Jotirao Phule and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar have been selected as the four outstanding primary figures of Black and Dalit movements, the quintessence and luminescence of whose literary flourishes have been selected for a critical documentation.

The thesis is divided into five Chapters. The first Chapter is an introductory prologue that spells out the thematic content, scope and the salient feature of the research scheme being worked out in this thesis.

The second Chapter presents a critical documentation of the quintessence of the writings of Frederick Douglas (1817-1895).

The third Chapter presents a critical documentation of the quintessence of the scholarly works of W. E. B. Du Bois (1868-1963).

The Fourth Chapter presents a critical documentation of the quintessence of the writings of Jotirao Phule (1827-1890).
The fifth and the final Chapter presents a critical documentation of the writings of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (1891-1956) that gives the quintessence of his life and letters.