PREFACE

Research has always been a scholar’s most desired dream and a life-long achievement for which one not only makes dedicated efforts but shows a strong sense of commitment irrespective of the challenges faced during the course of the research.

But the most challenging and important part of any research is the starting point. The right topic or research subject is what makes the scholar go that extra mile to make it interesting and at the same time gaining new perspectives and learning.

I owe highest gratitude to my research guide, Dr. Manish Vyas, who explained the importance of selecting a topic which is novel and has not been much explored so far in the literary world. I was introduced to the plays and movies of Girish Karnad, and was much impressed with the way he handled myth and folk. Contemplating the idea of taking him as a research topic made me realize that there was a lot of research done on Karnad. I am thankful to my guide who then introduced me to Chandrashekar Kambara, a playwright I had not heard of, and who shared a lot of similarity with Karnad but at the same time being a rich and unique source of myth and folk in his own right.

I started my research with high enthusiasm but soon realized that though I had more than sufficient material on Karnad, I found no secondary resources on Chandrashekhara Kambara. During this process I came across Geeta Kannupillai who is from Karnataka and especially her mom who hails from Belgaum, the town Chandrashekhara Kambara belongs, too. Though they could not provide me with secondary material on Kambara, they were a rich source of Kannada literature, its special
characteristics and helped me understand the nuances of Kannad folk elements which make it unique. I am highly grateful to Geeta and her mom who spared their time in reading and discussing the plays of Kambara with me. Their contribution helped me creating a meaningful comparative study between such stalwart playwrights.

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