PREFACE

Advaitavedānta relies mainly on the Upaniṣads, Brahma-sūtra and the Bhagavadgītā, the three jointly known as Prastāhanatraya. Srisankara has commented on all the three. Gitagūḍhārthadīpikā is an excellent commentary on the commentary of Sankara on the Bhagavadgītā. The author Madhusudana Sarasvati was one of the greatest stalwarts of the philosophy of Advaita. Madhusudana's principal contribution was the rapprochement between theoretical Advaitavedānta and practical theism. This is evident in the Gitagūḍhārthadīpikā more than in any of his other works. The present thesis is a humble attempt to study the Gitagūḍhārthadīpikā of Madhusudana Sarasvati with a view to bring out its philosophical significance.

The study is undertaken in eight chapters. The first chapter deals with the author, his date, life and works. The second chapter highlights the origin, nature and content of the Gitagūḍhārthadīpikā. The third
chapter deals with the characteristics and importance of the work. Karmakāṇḍa, Bhaktikāṇḍa, and Jīnānakāṇḍa are subjected to detailed study in the fourth, fifth and sixth chapters respectively of the thesis. The seventh chapter incorporates certain observations originated from the present study. The eighth chapter is the conclusion which comprises of the thesis in a nut-shell.

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