*Preface*

The Thesis has been prepared under the guidance of Prof. R.D. Karmarkar, Director of Research Department, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona 4.

The theme of the Thesis, "A Survey of Post-Saṅkara Advaita Vedānta" is a very wide one and hence the enquiry has been restricted to the salient features of Advaita; as for example the problems regarding the Jīva and his relation to Brahman, the nature of Avidyā, the nature of the world, etc. It has been divided into six chapters. The First takes up a bird's eye-view of Pre-Saṅkara Advaita and also contains the philosophy of Śaṅkarācārya in brief as developed out of Gaṇḍapāda's work. The second chapter is devoted to earlier Advaita as dealt with by the immediate pupils of Śaṅkarācārya and Vācaspati and a short note on the three Vādas (Ābhāsa, Avaccheda and Pratibaṁba) is added hereto, to show the development of Advaita. Chapter III takes stock of the Advaitins of 9th to 14th centuries, a period which saw further enrichment and original addition to Advaita. Chapter IV summarises the later Advaita comprising 14th to 18th centuries which was, so to say, a sort of stagnation period. In all these chapters, only important authorities in Advaita have been dealt with and the

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rest are reserved for Chapter V wherein the first part contains a short description of some more big names in Advaita while the second consists of a list of all the minor Advaitins with their works. The last Chapter rounds off the work with a connected survey of the whole work.

It was first proposed, as given in the synopsis, to divide the work in two parts - the first depicting the whole Advaita in general and the second dealing with Nṛsiṁhāśrama of the 16th cen. A.D. in particular. But the detailed description and criticism of Nṛsiṁhāśrama's work is not included here, as, on later thought, it was found unnecessary to increase the bulk of the Thesis, there being not much novelty or originality in his work.