INTRODUCTION

Right from my childhood I was deeply interested in religion. I did not exactly know what religion is, but I had always been in the company of religious persons. Step by step I went on learning in the sphere of religion. I had the sense of doubting everything and anything irrespective of any kind of limitation and this turned me into a non-conformist kind of personality. I trained myself to look at each thing without any prejudice, independent of my traditional background and thus I developed the courage to take my own decisions irrespective of such consideration. Thus I developed my own understanding and strength to stand on my own footing.

This quest for knowing the meaning of life and the universe drew me to study the science of philosophy and religion. I got acquainted with many religions and practically found that basically all the religions are one and the same. Only they differ in their appearances, due to the differences of geography, culture, history and also the human differences.

Since all the religions of the world deal basically with the ultimate problems of the human being, I wished to study those problems properly and systematically and I have proposed to do this in this thesis.

To-day's world is the development of science and technology. The whole world has become quite closer due
to this development. Then why should there not be a universal religion based on this advance towards unity? Science is the instrument and religion is the goal of the human beings. Then why not make the best use of this scientific advancement to achieve our religious goal? This idea led me to study all the religions of the world in that perspective. The central point of my thesis is that man has reached to a saturation stage of his material world. But man is not only psycho-physical like the other animals but he is psycho-spiritual as well. So, to-day, modern man ought to turn to his spiritual side and to surrender himself to religion, so as to satisfy his spiritual urge. Man's material enjoyments based on the highest advance of science and technology will give him the highest state of frustration. And in this frustration man is faced by his eternal questions, who am I? What is the aim of my life? What is the meaning of all these around me? and so on. These questions are not answered by material progress. Here man realizes the limitations of the material world including his scientific and technological marvelous acquisitions. He has to search for that which is not material, temporary, finite, immanent, but Infinite Transcendental, the Truth, The Ultimate Reality.

What is this Ultimate Reality? How is it explained in various religions? How can one attain to it? All this is discussed here step by step and chapter after chapter.
At the end I try to prove that our world based on scientific advancement cannot remain unscientific in the sphere of religion but all the religions should tend to merge into one single universal religion harmonious with the genuine acquisitions of science and technology.