I had the pleasure and privilege of studying some of the hymns of the *Rgveda* as prescribed texts in the Veda-Group in the Sanskrit Department of the Gauhati University. When going through the hymns of the *Rgveda*, I had noticed that the tenth *maṇḍala* of the *Rgveda* is very much significant in different aspects. Therefore, a keen interest developed in me for an intense study of the tenth *maṇḍala* of the *Rgveda*.

The Vedas are the earliest literary documents of the Indo-European languages. Among the four Vedas, again, the *Rgveda* is considered as the most important and the oldest one. The *Rgveda* contains ten *maṇḍalas* on varied subject-matters. The period of compilation of all the *maṇḍalas* vary from each other. Among the ten *maṇḍalas*, the tenth one appears to be a late addition to the *Rgveda*. It deals more precisely with the knowledge of religious, secular, socio-cultural and philosophical views of the Āryans. The language and style also differs in many aspects from the other *maṇḍalas*. Though many works have been carried out on the *Rgveda* by different scholars, yet no work has been done entirely on the tenth *maṇḍala*. Hence, through the present study, a modest attempt has been done to prepare a synthetic and comprehensive thesis entitled ‘The Tenth *Maṇḍala* of the *Rgveda* – A Study’ after analyzing the relevant materials of the *Rgveda*.

The present work comprises six chapters. The first chapter is the Introductory chapter, which imparts a general introduction to the Vedic literature with reference to the tenth *maṇḍala*. The second chapter deals with the varied contents of the tenth *maṇḍala*. The third one is on the socio-cultural aspects of the tenth *maṇḍala*. The fourth
chapter of the thesis deals with the religious aspects prevalent in the then Indian society in the light of the tenth manḍala. An exclusive literary study has been done in the fifth chapter of the present work. The sixth chapter contains a concluding remark on the work. It comprises an overall idea of the tenth manḍala regarding the contents, socio-cultural, religious and literary aspects of the tenth manḍala.


It is the result of my academic pursuit for last six years under the supervision of my revered guide, Prof. Manjula Devi. I shall feel amply rewarded if this work can arouse some interests in the minds of the readers. As I conclude, I am really conscious of probable short-comings in this work.

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(Rupsmita Buzarbaruah)