Preface

Critic Lindsey Tucker has rightly remarked that 'Iris Murdoch is something of a phenomenon'. She has a great dignity as a novelist and writer. Indeed there is in her loftiness, a spontaneous literary imagination and a stance of intellectual superiority. Her novels have fullness and fertility; they are romances in the most positive sense and show Murdoch at the very height of her of narrative power. Iris Murdoch has an exceptionally creative intelligence, and extraordinarily inventive and intellectually fertile novelist, who made novelistic history and cleared imaginative space for her.

The purpose of my thesis is to trace out and represent leading themes and techniques in the novels of Iris Murdoch. Her novels convey the concept of love containing suspense, surprise and of course contingency. Her moral philosophy exhibits that each of us pursues the good according to our understanding; evil in her thinking, is little more than the natural consequence of misinformation about or a misconception of the good. Murdoch employs various techniques in her novels such as the representation of first person male narrator, gothic element myths, symbols and real and independent people that exhibit her a brilliant descriptive artist.

I cannot close this prefatory note without expressing my gratitude to those who have been kind enough to help me in the preparation of this work. My sincerest heart felt feelings of gratitude and thankfulness go to Dr.
Pratibha Tyagi, H.O.D., Department of English C.C.S. University, Meerut. Her remarkable scholarly guidance and unfailing encouragement have enabled me to complete this heavy assignment. Once again I thank to my supervisor for giving me an opportunity of working under her learned guidance.

I am deeply grateful to Prof. Arun Kumar, V.C. Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay University, Gorakhpur whose constant encouragement has proved extremely helpful in plan and preparation of this work. Thanks are also due to Dr. Y.K. Singha, Reader, Deptt. Of English, C.C.S. University, Meerut and Shri Ravindra Kumar, Lecturer, C.C.S. University, Meerut, for their help and suggestions to complete this work. I am greatly indebted to Dr. Bonani Mishra, H.O.D., R.G.P.G. College, Meerut for her unfailing help, learned suggestions, and scholarly advice. She has been a continual source of inspiration and courage to me. I am also very thankful to Dr. Mohd. Abbas Khakhatay, founder member and Executive Secretary of MESCO Mumbai, for his unfailing help in searching critical books on Iris Murdoch. My genuine thank goes to Iqbal Shaikh, Co-ordinator, R.C. Mahim School, Mumbai, for his support to search books for this thesis.

I am sincerely grateful to my parents, whose inspiring words kept me engaged and revived my failing spirit, when a personal problem threatened to bring an abrupt end to my research. My father Late Abdul Hakeem deserves my heartfelt thanks for his sacrifice and invisible help in the enlargement of my critical vision. My genuine thanks goes to my mother, Mrs. Iqbal Begum, my aunt Bilquis Begum, my brother Abdul Kaleem, Manager, Kanoo Travels, Riyadh, K.S.A. and Abdul Aleem, Company Secretary, Tamimi, Riyadh. K.S.A. I am also thankful to my sisters and sister-in-low Mrs. Rafia Kaleem for their love, care and invisible support. Without their unfailing moral support I
would not have been able to complete this heavy work. I am very thankful to Ms. Suchita Gupta, one of my best students. Her selfless dedication in the accomplishment of the work is very special to me. I am also thankful to all my friends for their constant moral support and encouragement.

In the end acknowledgement must be made to libraries without whose help no scholarly work can ever be possible. In this context I will like to mention B.C.L. New Delhi, Sahitya Academy, New Delhi, J.N.U. University Library, J.M.I. University Library, D.U. University Library, Delhi, Mumbai University Library, Fort University Library, Mumbai, Asiatic Central Library Mumbai and Raja Mahendra Pratap Library C.C.S. University, Meerut.

I also record my appreciation for Shri Pankaj Vishwakarma and Shri Pawan Kumar, Computer operators M/s Sandeep Commercial College, Meerut for typing my whole thesis with great care and sincerity. I am very grateful to them for their dexterous work in the accomplishment of this work.

Finally, I would like to thank God for his benediction and spiritual power that he endowed me during this work. I am very thankful for his proper guidance and invisible supreme support.

FARHAT SHEIKH