Preface

In the late 1950's New Criticism, the mainstream literary method of the Anglo-American literary world had almost exhausted itself and was in need of getting supplemented by a fresh critical approach. At this juncture, Frye emerged on the scene with his archetypal method of criticism which was historical, descriptive and scientific in its thrust.

Literary criticism in the late fifties and sixties was considerably influenced by Frye's theory of myths and archetypes. The seventies and eighties however saw a decline in Frye's influence on contemporary Anglo-American criticism as structuralists, post-structuralists and modern psycho-analytic methods in criticism became a dominant critical trend of these two decades.

At the beginning of the nineties structuralism and post-structuralism, the two most influential critical methods of the eighties appear to be wielding less and less influence on contemporary literary world. At this crucial juncture a return to Frye's method could be rewarding for students of literature. One may thus go back to Frye, both for historical and critical reasons.

The present study is prompted by these dual considerations and is aimed at studying Frye in a comprehensive manner so that his significance as a literary critic is adequately underlined and is situated in the context of modern critical
tradition in a proper manner. The study extends over ten chapters in which the different aspects of his critical method are studied in detail so that his achievement as a literary critic is brought out thoroughly before the readers.

I am deeply indebted to my guiding teacher Dr. A. K. Joshi with whose help and guidance only I could complete this study. Dr. Joshi may be too humble a man to admit it but I am too grateful a student to deny it.

I should thank the Librarian and the staff of Goa University Library for their invaluable co-operation. I should also thank Mr. Lewis Fernandes, Mr. Nelson Fernandes of the 'Pascal School of Computers' for the computer services and Miss Vira Noronha for typing the manuscript.

Panaji, 30th April, 1992. 

Ainodin Aga