PREFACE

A feeling of anxiety and diffidence envelopes my being as I present this thesis before the learned scholars. For, the thesis, though complete, has made me absolutely aware of the truth that study in any field of knowledge, especially in the BG and the ŠBP, remains incomplete during a single lifetime. I feel so because by now I have started firmly believing that knowledge is not to be stored in mind alone— it is to be put into practical life as both these great texts emphasize. Hence, I wonder how valid is the statement “Vidyāvātām Bhāga-vate Parīkṣā”!

Alongwith this feeling, another emotion—that of an overwhelming gratitude towards those who have urged, guided and aided me in taking up and completing the thesis fills my mind and heart alike. My entire family (especially my husband and my mother-in-law) who has been the pillar of my strength cannot be thanked enough. So do I lack words to express my reverence for my able guide Dr. G.V. Patel, without whose guidance, affection and patience, the thesis would not have seen the light of the day.

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