ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my gratitude to a number of people who have contributed in various ways to the completion of this work. First, I would like to thank my supervisor Dr. Sami Rafiq, without whom I probably would never have discovered the intellectual challenge and pleasures of comparing the works of Blake and Gibran. Her clarity in teaching and her critical and plain-speaking way of dealing with critical areas of research shaped my scholarly endeavors these two years.

Next, I would like to thank the chairperson of the department Prof. S.N. Zeba for her support and help.

Likewise, I am grateful to Dr Samina Khan, Dr Asim Siddiqui, Mohd Qasim Bhaba, Prof M. H. Zaffar (Director Kashmir Studies Center, University of Kashmir), Prof. Lily Want (Head of the English Department, University of Kashmir) who stimulated my interest and encouraged me from time to time.

I feel compelled to thank my colleagues and friends, past and present, who shaped my development, both as a person and a researcher. Prof. Lubna Nahvi, Dr. Yasmeen Farooq, Prof. Dilshad Malik, my teachers in my college years shaped my first years as a student of literature.

In addition, there are the people who accompanied the race to finish my dissertation in the last two years. Here, I would like to thank my friends Javaid Anwar, Javaid Ahmad Bhat, Syed Humayoun, Dr. Habib Subhan, Dr. Ashiq Hussain, Sohel Aziz, Naser Haghi and Jamsheed Ahmad for keeping
me in good cheer and willingly sharing their time to discuss any weird idea that came to my mind. I am grateful to Syed Humayoun Shabir for proof reading my thesis.

At several stages of my education in literature, I have profited from discussions with other friends, fellow-students and colleagues. I would love to extend a special thanks to my very dear friends Peer Mohd Ashraf, Ishrat Bashir, Syeda Umrah, Muzaffar Karim, Saba Iram, Rubaya Zaffar, Nighat, Sana and Nuzhat.

I thank my cousins Muzaffar Ali and Sajad Hussain for their care and support.

Furthermore, I would like to express my gratitude to all the people who provided comments, support and advice (either via e-mail or personally). I thank Mr. Paul Gordon and Prof. Charles Ramsey for encouragement, and for providing me relevant material.

Finally, I think I would never have made it up to this point if my parents and sisters were not there to support. Their closeness to me provided constant comfort and enabled me to carry on when things didn’t look that bright. This work is dedicated to them.

(SHABIR HUSSAIN GANAIE)