PREFACE

The dissertation entitled *In Search of Derrida’s Intellectual Forefather: Reading Derridean Deconstruction against the Backdrop of Nagarjuna’s Philosophy* is a quest to establish Indian philosopher Nagarjuna as the forefather of Jacques Derrida, who has been hailed as the father of modern literary critical theory Deconstruction and hence it is in a way a comparative study of the philosophy of the East and the West. Comparative philosophy is a field of inquiry which has assumed great significance in the era of globalisation. There have been lots of intellectually significant contacts among the philosophical traditions from time immemorial. The East and the West have come once for all into intimate contact on a vast scale. Each feels the necessity for mutual understanding and assimilation.

This need to understand is no longer a matter of mere intellectual curiosity but of survival. The eastern and western minds need to be integrated. It has been asserted and is still being maintained today that each has a different kind of soul. But if the two are to be integrated, one has to assume a deeper soul comprehending the manifest souls of both. This common soul must always have been, without either component being conscious of its presence. The encompassing soul has to be discovered and understood; and in its terms the separate souls have to be reappraised.

Any comparison must have an aim. The aim has to illuminate the perspective; then the traditions thrown into perspective take on a definite meaning and significance. This thesis aims to throw light on otherwise unexplored parallels and would establish Nagarjuna as the pioneer of Derridean thinking which has contributed a lot to philosophy as well as to literary critical tradition.