PREFACE

The art of using symbol in Sanskrit literature and other artistic activities is very old in the world civilization. It has been used by all nations of the world throughout centuries. Symbol is the soul of world literature and art. In Sanskrit literature too, symbol is used by all writers of repute. There are thousands of beast stories in Sanskrit literature and these stories have some symbolical meaning. Beasts have been used as a symbolical medium of presenting some truth of great practical importance. I always had a keen desire to write out a Ph.D. thesis and, if possible, to write a book also on the beast symbol in Sanskrit literature. The present thesis entitled “The Beast Symbol In Sanskrit Literature”, is the outcome of my painstaking research in this area and I like to submit it for the Ph.D. degree to be awarded by Gauhati University.

After an elaborate research on the topic which extended over several years, the present thesis has assumed its shape.

The work consists of twelve chapters, the first being introductory and the last being conclusive. In the Tantrakhayika, the Pancatantra, the Pancakhyanaka, the Hitopadesa, the grammatical literature, the Tantra, the Purana, the Indian philosophy and other Sanskrit literature, beast plays an important role in presenting real life situations which is dealt with in different chapters of the thesis.
I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Apurba Chandra Barthakuria, Retired Professor and Head of the Department of Sanskrit, Gauhati University, but for whose untiring help, suggestion and inspiration, it would have been difficult for me to finish the job. Along with my supervisor, his wife Smt. Giribala Barthakuria, M.A.B.T. Assistant teacher in Saraighat High School, Amingaon, Guwahati, remained a source of help and inspiration during my years of strain and stress and therefore my regardful thanks are due to both of them.

In the course of preparing this thesis, I studied for a long period in the National Library, Calcutta, in the Cotton College Library, Guwahati, in the B. H. College, Howly, in the Bajali College, Pathsala, in the Praga Sangha Library, Pathsala. I would like to express my gratitude to the authority of the above mentioned libraries for allowing me to collect the required materials from their respective institutions.

I am also grateful to the staff of the Krishna Kanta HANDIQUE Library of Gauhati University for their kind co-operation and immense help which were rendered to me in different ways in preparing the thesis.

My father Tarun Chandra Mishra Bhagawati, Retired Head of the Deptt. of Sanskrit, Bajali College, Pathsala and my mother Parul... remained a source of help and inspiration during my years of strain and stress and therefore my sincere thanks to both of them. I solicit their blessing forever.
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I shall be happy if the present thesis renders some service to the academic and researches in future in any way.

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