PREFACE

Jesus Christ fascinates and attracts people through the centuries without any regard to their gender cast, creed, religion profession, or age. Literary History of the word affirms that. Creative geniuses are often tempted to reconstruct His story. Often these reconstructions are followed by violent reactions, upheavals and bans. In Kerala it happened in the near past. A drama troupe attempted to stage the tittle scene of Kazantzakis’ controversial novel *The Last Temptation of Christ*. Not only that it was banned due to large-scale public reaction but also it ignited serious discussion on the topic among the thinkers and writers. Many of them supported the play stating they could love and understand the Jesus of Kazantzakis better than the Jesus of the Gospels. This controversy inspired this study.

This dissertation examines the creative process of the Jesus reconstruction and the formative forces, which shapes them. At the initial stage it appeared difficult to chose particular works from among the numerous Jesus Reconstructions. The preliminary study conducted with the help of my Supervisor Dr. P. Balaswamy helped me to decide on *King Jesus* by Robert Graves, *Joseph Wept* by Jayakanthan, *The Man Who Died* by D.H.Lawrence, *A Fable* by William Faulkner, *The Prophet’s Way* by O.V.Vijayan and *Christ Recrucified* by Kazantzakis. Hence I am deeply indebted to Dr. P. Balaswamy for his guidance through discussions, suggestions, corrections and constant encouragement.

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Thresiamma Dominic. M.