P R E F A C E

Presented in the following pages is the work done by me as a part-time Research Scholar in the Department of Vaishnavism, University of Madras, from August 1995 to April 2002 under the guidance of Dr M. Narasimhachary, Professor & Head (Rtd.), Department of Vaishnavism, University of Madras.

This thesis is entitled "The Contribution of Surapuram Writers to Viśiṣṭādvaita (with special reference to the Siddhāntacintāmaṇi of Śrīnivāsācārya)". This is a monograph dealing with a single theme that Lord Viṣṇu constitutes the Material and Efficient causes of the universe. Śrīnivāsa belongs to the illustrious Surapuram family which has contributed immensely to Śrī Rāmānuja's system of thought. Śrīnivāsa who lived in the 17th century, has about 16 works to his credit which cover different branches of learning like Mīmāṃsā, Vyākaraṇa, Vedānta and Dharmaśāstra. He also wrote a work on morals. All his works are of a very high standard. Many of these works are in the form of manuscripts on paper and palm-leaf. So far nobody has studied
any work of Śrīnivāsa. The present attempt is to fill up this long-felt desideratum.

Surapuram is a small town about 10 to 15 kms. from Yadagiri in the Gulbarga District of the Karnataka State. It was an important centre of Śrīvaiṣṇavism. Even today several Śrīvaiṣṇava families are living there. The Śrīvaiṣṇava writers of this place contributed immensely not only to Sanskrit but Telugu and Kannada literatures as well. And incidentally, I was born at Surapuram. This is one main reason why my beloved father, the late-lamented Sri Tirumala Ramachandra desired that I should do research on the contribution of the Surapuram writers to Viśiṣṭādvaita. It was under these circumstances that I and my father met Prof. M. Narasimhachary. He readily agreed to guide me in my studies. The topic suggested by my father was readily accepted by him. I registered for Ph.D. with him in the year 1995 as a part-time researcher.

The present Thesis has two Parts. **Part I** is Study in five chapters and **Part II** provides the text of the Siddhāntacintāmaṇi prepared by me on the basis of a single palm-leaf manuscript in
Telugu, deposited with the Govt. Oriental Mss. Library, Madras, under the Accession Number R. 5057.

Chapter I of the Study is introductory. It gives a general account of the history of Surapuram chiefs, the Śrīvaiṣṇava writers patronised by them, etc. Chapter II is concerned with a brief exposition of the basic tenets of the Viśiṣṭādvaita Philosophy such as the Tattvatraya, "body-soul" relation between the universe and God and the means of liberation. Chapter III provides a detailed study of the text Siddhāntacintāmaṇi. Chapter IV examines the concept of Brahman being the material and efficient cause of the universe, against the background of other schools of thought like Sāṅkhya, Nyāya Vaiṣēṣika, Advaita and Dvaita. Chapter V concludes the study, bringing together all the points that have emerged in the course of the study.

It should also be pointed out in this context that the Siddhāntacintāmaṇi had already been published in Devanagari letters at Kanchipuram in 1902. It was edited by Sri P.B. Ananthachariar. Still it does not provide many important details regarding the source of the innumerable passages quoted by the
author. There is no schematic division of the paragraphs. Punctuation marks are absent. I therefore copied the text from a palm-leaf manuscript (in Telugu characters) from the Govt. Oriental Mss. Library, Chennai. I tried my best to provide the necessary details -- paragraph divisions, punctuation marks, identification of the sources for quotations, etc. and made it more or less, a critical edition. This text is now appended to the present Thesis as Part II.

It is now my pleasant duty to thank all those who helped me directly and indirectly in completing this study. I must at the outset express my humble praṇāms to the sacred memory of my beloved father Sri Tirumala Ramachandra who ingrained in me the idea of doing Ph.D. after my M.A. in Philosophy from the University of Madras in the year 1981. It was his farsighted vision that his daughter should become a savant and protagonist of Śrīvaśnnavism. I am equally beholden to my beloved mother Smt. Tirumala Ananthalakshmi who has been a constant source of strength and encouragement to me in my studies.
I am thankful to Prof. M. Narasimhachary, former Professor & Head, Department of Vaishnavism, University of Madras, for his patient, able and kind guidance in completing this task. The edition of the text of Siddhāntacintāmaṇi appended to this Thesis is an eloquent reflection of the kind and scholarly assistance he provided me. What he did was a labour of love which I can never repay or thank for. The regard he has for my scholarly father of national and international reputation, has been the main factor in the continued guidance he provided to me at every step.

I am also thankful to the staff of the Department of Vaishnavism, Professor V.K.S.N. Raghavan and Prof. M.A.Venkatakrishnan for their help and encouragement.

I am grateful to the authorities of the Indian Bank who permitted me to do Ph. D. in the University Department as a part-time scholar. I am thankful to the authorities of the University of Madras for allowing me to join the Department of Vaishnavism as a part-time scholar.
I must express my thanks to the Curator, Govt. Oriental Manuscripts Library, Chennai, for permitting me to copy some of the manuscripts deposited in the library. I am also thankful to Smt. Rajalakshmi of the same Library who kindly transcribed the Telugu manuscript into Devanagari for me,

I wish to place on record my sincere and grateful thanks to my beloved husband Sri K.S.Rajan (who is no more) and whose wish it was that I should obtain a Doctorate. My present attempt is a step in the direction of fulfilling his desire. In submitting the Thesis to the University I think I am but paying my respects to the departed soul.

(T. AMUKTAMALYADA)
PART I: STUDY