ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Any sincere research work at any level of scholarship depends on the grace and blessings of the gurus and the parents. Supervision and guidance of teachers, support and advice of friends, assistance, cooperation and goodwill of a large team of people who are crucial to the outcome but unlikely to see in print an adequate statement of appreciation for their valuable contributions.

First of all I express my deep sense of gratitude to my revered teacher Prof. Dharmanand Sharma who has been a perennial source of inspiration for me not only in my academic pursuits but also in my life. It was he who initiated me into the Indian classical wisdom, its argumentative tradition and culture. His penetrating insights like a beacon have always lighted my path to knowledge.

I am indebted to my esteemed supervisor Dr. H P Sah without whose grace, guidance and kind support this research work would not have been possible. Working under him has always been a great and joyful experience, not only because of his profound understanding of the subject coupled with analytical skills, but also for his being a devotee (sadhak) in the true sense of the term. I express my immense and heartiest thanks to him for his invaluable suggestions, instructions and constructive criticism.

I am also thankful to Dr. V. T Sebastian, Chairman and Dr Asha Maudgil Former Chairperson, Department of Philosophy Panjab University, Chandigarh, for their unflinching support and cooperation and for creating a conducive environment in the department to carry out research work in a very smooth and easygoing way. I am equally grateful to all other faculty members of the department of philosophy for their kind support, cooperation and generous criticisms.

I owe a deep debt to Prof. Rekha Jhanji and Dr. Sudhir Kumar not only for their invaluable suggestions, and insightful comments, but also for their moral boosting and consciousness-raising during the pursuit of research work.

I am thankful to my dear friends: Sri. Rajesh Jaiswal, Mr. Ravi Saxena and Mr. Amit Kumar, Miss. Kavita Chauhan with whom I have constantly deliberated various issues regarding my research work; their thought-provoking ideas and creative criticism have always given me opportunity to rethink the subject.
My special thanks go to my friend Bharti with whom I not only discussed the subject at length but also received sincere support, affections and appreciations.

I am thankful to all library-staff of A.C Joshi Library, Panjab University in particular Miss. Hema Sharma, Librarian, Department of Philosophy for the kind help and cooperation.

Finally, I would be failing in my dharma in not expressing my feelings of gratitude to my parents and every other family member for their constant showering of affections, encouragement, unbounded patience, and financial support despite their all-monetary constraints, which enabled me to pursue the path of wisdom.

October 2, 2007
PU Chandigarh

(PANKAJ SRIVASTAVA)