PREFACE

Who am I?
What is the purpose of life?
From where have I been thrown in this world?
What is beyond this perceptual world?
What is Reality?

Human beings are the only species that as self-conscious beings have these fundamental quests concerning their existence. Of course human beings have biological needs and the pursuit of their fulfillment shapes human history but this is an alarming fact that even if these needs were somehow met, they would still have suffering, anguish, distrusts and restlessness. We are always in search of some higher dimensions of our existence. We have some basic quests which distinguish us from animals and plants. And pursuit of these quests discloses higher dimensions of what we call human life. Human beings with awareness of their finitude and death, realize how to overcome sufferings and to find out directions for themselves. Human beings have been constantly trying to realize these quests in different ways and different mediums in and through which they perceive Reality. This ongoing process forms various domains of discourses such as scientific, aesthetic and religious ones. The task of a philosopher is to critically analyze and evaluate different fundamental assumptions, presuppositions, concepts and beliefs etc. And he also tries to visualize the limits and distinctiveness of different domains of these discourses and their interrelationship. This is a long ongoing journey from part to whole, phenomena to nomena, unreal to real, relative truth to the absolute truth, individual self to cosmic self, and men to God.

Taking into cognizance the very distinctiveness of the human, this research work has been an humble attempt to investigate the religious discourse highlighting fundamental questions such as:

How is the religious discourse formed on the backdrop of emotion?
What is the relationship between emotions and perceptions?
How do believers placed at the different levels of religiosity, perceive the world?
What is the meaning, implications and validity of assertions (truth claims) made by believers?

How would communication be possible between believers and non-believers?