PREFACE

As a student of Philosophy and Religion I developed a keen interest in the area of Comparative Study of Religion. My conviction is that Comparative Study of Religion is very relevant to the present context of multi-religious human community for its peaceful co-existence and for its coming together as One World Community. An expression of my this conviction is the present study.

I was initiated into this venture by my former Head of the Department Late Dr. CH. Sreenivasa Rao. He was a strong source of inspiration to me. I was very much benefitted out of his vast knowledge in the area of Comparative Religion. But his physical presence is not in the world to day to witness my accomplishment of this endeavour that he had initiated in me. I thank God Almighty for all His help to me through Late Dr. CH. Sreenivasa Rao.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my Guide Dr. P. Krishnan, Professor and Head, Department of Saiva Siddhanta, University of Madras who has been a constant source of encouragement and guidance to me in my pursuit and accomplishment of this academic work. His clear thinking and deep knowledge in Religions have helped me a lot to understand religions especially Hinduism, better.

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(P. JOSEPH SATHIARAJ)