PREFACE

The aim of the dissertation is to show how asceticism figures as a recurrent motif in Indo-Anglian fiction and the different types of images of the holy man one gets from a careful study of the most representative Indian novels in English.

The work is divided into six chapters. The introductory chapter deals with the evolution of asceticism through the centuries and the place of the holy man in the socio-cultural life of India.

The second chapter traces the image of the holy man as a true Indian ascetic as revealed in Kamala Markandaya's two novels - A Silence of Desire and Possession.

The third chapter shows the holy man as a fake retreating into his original self as presented by Bhabani Bhattacharya in his He Who Rides a Tiger.

The fourth chapter concerns itself with the image of the holy man as a fraud-turned honest as found in R.K. Narayan's The Guide.

The fifth chapter seeks to present the image of the holy man as humanised as depicted in Bhabani Bhattacharya's A Dream in Hawaii.
An attempt is made in the concluding chapter to show briefly how the holy man is treated by a few other Indian novelists in English.

A study of these images of the holy man reveals how, in consonance with the image of a more rationalized secular approach which modern India presents, the modern Indian writer in English is creatively responding to traditional perspectives and cultural concepts in fictional terms.

I have immense pleasure in placing on record my deep sense of gratitude to my Research Supervisor, Prof. K. Venkata Reddy, Head of the Department of English and Comparative Literature. But for his indulgent attitude, but nevertheless, meticulous and scholarly supervision of my work, this work would not have been completed. I deeply cherish his invaluable guidance. I heartily thank Dr. C. R. Viswaswara Rao, Reader in English, for his useful suggestions. I wish to express my thankfulness to Sri R. Krupakar, Principal-in-charge, Government Degree College, Dhamavaram, and Sri V. Venkata Reddy, F.I.P. Scholar, Department of English, Sri Krishnadevaraya University for guiding me to the right bibliographical sources. But for the love and concern of my wife, Mrs. Premeeala, and my children, I would not have easily stood this ordeal.