PREFACE

M.V.Rama Sarma is not only a well-known critic of Milton and Shakespeare but also a creative writer of considerable worth. He has to his credit six novels and eleven plays which have not received the critical attention they deserve.

The present dissertation aims at making a close study of Rama Sarma's major plays — Towards Marriage, The Carnival and Sakuntala — which make a solid contribution to the growth and development of Indian English Drama.

The dissertation is divided into five chapters. The introductory chapter seeks to fix Rama Sarma in the growth and development of Indian English Drama. The second chapter deals with Towards Marriage as a domestic comedy that seeks to bridge the gulf between tradition and modernity by achieving a harmonious fusion of the Eastern and the Western values of life.

The third chapter is concerned with The Carnival which deals with the theme of love and marriage upholding the idealistic attitude and deprecating the purely mercenary approach to the institution of marriage. Its relevance to the present day society is highlighted.
The fourth chapter seeks to discuss Sakuntala as a play closely modelled on Kalidasa's 'magnum opus', Sakuntala. It shows how the initial romantic love between Sakuntala and Dushyanta is transformed into sublime love.

The concluding chapter seeks to sum up the dissertation while showing that Rama Sarma is essentially a playwright with a distinct moral purpose. It is revealed how Rama Sarma's distinction as a dramatist lies in achieving a fusion of his moral concerns and artistic norms by treating his themes in terms of dramatic art.

I take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude to all my teachers and friends who have been helpful to me in many ways in doing my research and in writing my thesis I am particularly grateful to Prof. P.Bayapa Reddy, Professor of English, for his affectionate concern and moral encouragement.

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