PREFACE

Learning is a life long process. Thesis is a formal, time bound, scholarly product. Between the two, there takes place a creative synthesis in life. I am no exception to this truth. The choice of Śaiva Siddhānta, a living and vibrant philosophy in the southern India, as the field of study is to root myself concretely in a tradition. Śvajñānamārāṇiyam, the text of our study, concretises further the search for the roots in the Siddhānta tradition. Inter-disciplinary methodology employed in this research is to acknowledge the modern, scholarly and holistic way of pursuing the truth. I intend to acknowledge with gratefulness the many who have played their role in this venture.

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