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Anyone who has had the privilege of working for a doctoral degree would at once recognize the pain and the pleasure involved in reaching the summit of academic achievement. I pause somewhere close to the goal, take a breather before the final assault and look back with nostalgia at everyone who has stood by me in the past.

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by Dr. V.R.N. Prasad, Shri Ravindra Kimbahune, Dr. Afzal Khan and Dr. K.R. Ranveer provided me the necessary critical insights into the various forms and methodologies of research in English. My thesis on Ernest Hemingway, composed under the supervision of Dr. V.R.N. Prasad was accepted and the M.Phil degree was awarded to me in June 1990.

In the meanwhile, I was privileged to visit the United Kingdom and seek admission for the Master's Degree course at the University of Nottingham. I spent two useful years in specializing in Modern English Literature, and interacting with well-known scholars such as Prof. Norman Page, Prof. Walter Nash, Mrs. Elizabeth Porges Watson McPherson, Dr. Tom Paulin, Dr. Roger Poole, Dr. Simon Shepherd, Dr. Christopher Butler, Dr. Ronald Carter, Dr. Mike McCarthy, and Hillary Bool. I recall their unfailing courtesy and special warmth towards me. For an Indian student, living in a strange environment could be rather forbidding. But, what made the difference, and my passage through academia rather easy and comfortable, was the understanding, hospitality, and the personal charm of Mrs. Norma Hazeldine, Mrs. Brenda Florence, and Mrs. Sue Drury. The Nottingham University Campus was a veritable microcosm of the world. My friends formed a cross section of both the Orient and the Occident. I would like to thank my friends Hashim Raza Khan, Mansoor Bhatti, Badar, Mr. Hassan Ahmed, and Sabar, all from Pakistan, Inma from Spain, Omar from Turkey, Judith from Ireland, Aziz Bullailah and Najet from Bahrain, and Hafiz Akbar Khan and his wife Nasim,
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(Santosh M. Bhoomkar)