It was sometime in 1981 when I had the privilege to meet Dr. V.P. Upadhyaya, M.A. (Sanskrit and Hindi), M. Sc., Dip. in German, Darshanasachar- a, Dharmasastrecharya (Varanasi), Gold-Medalist, F.C.I. (India), Ph.D., Ph.D. (Litt. (Alld.)), Head, Department of Sanskrit, Panjab University, Chandigarh, who, being affectionately disposed enquired of me whether I had some research project in hand or was still looking for one. I was then engaged in identifying a subject in the field of Arthasastra, but had not met with success yet. On his suggestion, I found that the Dharmasastra was equally fascinating, rather the only area to which I felt most drawn in the multifarious ramifications of the Sanskrit language and literature. Inspite of my lack of specialization in the Dharmasastra and legal literature, its concepts and institutions and several concomitant limitations coupled with the professional and domestic pulls and pressures, the tenacious grip of this fascinating area of investigation, into which Dr. Upadhyaya initiated me, would not allow me to think of a different subject. At one time, as I went on studying, laying my hands on finer works, I had apprehensions that I might substantiate the English saying, 'fools rush in where angels fear to tread', since I feared it might be beyond
पितृनामत्ततोषाय
येषामेत्रागतोऽसम्यहम् ।
पितुणामात्मतोषाय
तेषां पिण्डोदके । कालिः ॥
me to produce a work like the ones I was pursuing. It is in this context that my gratitude to Dr. Upadhyaya cannot be exaggerated whose inspiration, encouragement and grading as a friend and clear vision and expertise as my guide went a long way to help me through the trials and turmoils; and to crown it all, it may be asserted that but for him, my pen could not have helped me turn my paltry abilities to good account.

In the production of this work I am greatly indebted to several of the innumerable masters in the field, of whom Dr. Ganga Nath Jha, Dr. P.V. Kene, N.R. Raghavacharier and K.C. Sen-Gupta, deserve special mention.

I shall be failing in my moral but pleasant duty, if I do not thank Dr. Ram Murti Sharma, Professor, D.B. Sharma, Professor, and Dr. Ram Kant Angirasa, Reader and Chairman, all of the Department of Sanskrit, Panjab University, Chandigarh and Prof. S. Bhaskaran Nair, Reader, VV&IS &IS, Panjab University, Hoshiarpur whose inspiration and encouragement cannot be overemphasized. I must also thank my friends at the VV&IS &IS, Panjab University, Hoshiarpur, whose enduring friendship never failed to arrange the books for me from their library. My thanks are also due to the staff of the libraries both at the Panjab University, Chandigarh and the VV&IS &IS, P.U., Hoshiarpur for their unstinted cooperation.
I wonder whether I can really express my gratitude to both my Gurus, the eternal source of inspiration and fortitude, the renowned late Acharya Vishva Bandhu, the builder of the Vishveshwarand Institute, Panjab University, Hoshiarpur, and Sh. R.L. Sharma, an officer in the State Bank of India, whose benign presence I have always felt by my side while working at my desk.

I may once again seize upon this opportunity to express my heartiest thanks to Dr. V.P. Upadhyaya who, being the store-house of knowledge has always stood by me in the hour of my needs.

Chandigarh

(D.R. GUPTA)