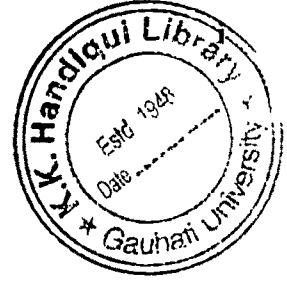


## PREFACE



Right from my childhood I am a devotee of Lord Viṣṇu. As a child I was always very much curious about the strange looking vehicle of the Lord. I was interested to know as to why Garuḍa, the vehicle of the Lord, possesses wings and a face like those of a bird.

As a student of Sanskrit literature, in my B.A. and M.A. classes, I had the opportunity to go through some Purāṇas, which provided me some information about Garuḍa. But later on as a teacher in a Higher Secondary School, I did not get much opportunity to study further about Garuḍa or other related myths. Still I was persuaded by my parents Late Muktaghar Sarma and Late Bharati Devi and also my preceptor Late Prof. Mukunda Madhava Sharma, to continue my studies and do research work on a topic related to Lord Viṣṇu. It was not materialized before my said 'guru's' left for the heavenly abode.

With a mind to fulfill their wishes and also to fulfill my long-cherished desire to know about Garuḍa in detail, I have taken up this Ph.D. project on the topic-“ An analysis of the Garuḍa Myth in Sanskrit

Literature ” even though I am at the verge of my retirement from job of a school-teacher.

With these prefatory words I place this dissertation for an adjudication by learned authorities with the following humble submission :

*tañ santañ śrotumarhanti sadasadvaktihetavañ.*

*hemnañ sañlaksyate hyagnau viśuddhiḥ śyāmikāpi vā :*

*(Raghuvamśa, 1.10)*

*Sumati Devi*  
( Sumati Devi )