In the course of my Vedic studies, I learnt by heart some texts relating to the śrauta sacrifices under the guidance of my father. Being an Agnihotrin, my father performed several śrauta sacrifices like the New-moon and the Full-moon sacrifices, the Cāturmāśya sacrifices, and the Soma-sacrifice, and I had the fortunate opportunities of participating in these sacrifices. Therefore, while submitting this thesis, I should like, first of all, to pay my respects to my father, the late Vishvanath Narayana Bhide. Another fortunate circumstance was my active association with the project of the śrautakośa undertaken by the Vaidika Samsodhana Mandala, Poona. As that project progressed, Guruvarya Dr. R.N. Dandekar suggested that I should undertake some comprehensive work relating to the Cāturmāśya Sacrifices. The present thesis, which I have prepared under his guidance, is the outcome of that suggestion.

This thesis consists of three parts. In the first part a text-critical study of chapter 5 of the Hiranyakesī-śrautasūtra and of the Prayoga of the Cāturmāśya sacrifices composed by Mahādeva Somayājin has been attempted. A comparative study of different Brāhmaṇa-texts, the
Śrautasūtras, and the Prayogas relating to the Cāturmāṣya
sacrifices has been dealt with in the second part. The
third part gives the general information in connection
with certain peculiar rites in the Cāturmāṣya sacrifices.
The works of different authors, referred to in this thesis,
are mentioned in the Bibliography, and the names of the
different Samhitās, Brāhmaṇas, and Śrautasūtras are given
in the list of abbreviations. The detailed contents of
the various chapters are given at the beginning; those
of chapter 2 and 3 are, however, reproduced at their proper
places. In Devāgari-typing the distinction between the
letters ṛ and r̥, ḍ and ḍ̥, cannot be shown precisely
on account of the deficiencies in the typing machine.
Similarly, the nasal sound before palatal letters (i.e. ṛ̥) is
shown by bindu only.

Before concluding, I should again like to pay my
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