ACKNOWLEDGMENT

It is because of the unbounded grace of Allah and the blessings of His Prophet(s) that the present study "Symbolism of Light in Šūfīsm with special reference to al-Ghazālī's Mishkāt al-Anwār" has been accomplished. My first and foremost duty is to express my indebtedness to my research supervisor, Prof. S. Waheed Akhtar, Chairman, Department of Philosophy, A.M.U., for his worthy guidance and instructions regarding my research; who with an upset mind and ill health after the tragic death of his wife, Mrs. Mahliqa Qarai while travelling by the Iranian Air Bus shot down by the U.S.A.missiles in the Persian gulf, has never wavered in giving me sufficient time to go through the whole thesis, and made suitable corrections in the manuscript.

The late Dr. Anzarul Haque, my former supervisor, was very keen to see my work is completed in time, but he suddenly passed away after a brief sickness even before the completion of my M.Phil dissertation. May his soul rest in peace! I am thankful to Prof. Md. Rafiq for the various kinds of help he provided to me in his capacity as acting Chairman of the Department of Philosophy from 1984 to 1987. My Research Colleagues, Dr. Latif Husain Kazmi, Mr. Ali Naghi Bagha Shahi, and Mr. Afzal Ahmad deserve thanks for helping me in proof-reading of the final type-script. Thanks are also due to my Iraqi friend Mr. Falah Husain for the ungrudging help I received from him time to time whenever I faced difficulty in consulting the Arabic texts. I am grateful to Dr. Ghulam Yahya Anjum, a Ph.D. in Arabic, for writing the Arabic and Persian verses in the Thesis, and Mr. M.H. Siddiqi for typing the thesis with care.

I wish to express my gratitude to Mrs. Hamida Banu (a senior Lecturer in a Govt.College of Bangladesh and presently in Aligarh on Deputation for her Ph.D. in Political Science),
whom I regard as my own elder sister, for the co-operation I received from her in various ways, in the preparation of the thesis. I am bound to Dr. S.L.H. Moini and his wife Mrs. Nuzhat Moini by gratitude, for the sincerity and affection I received from them during my long stay at Aligarh.

I owe debt of gratitude to some of my teachers, Professors D.M. Azraf, S.A. Hai, A. Matin, and A.J. Mia, who taught me philosophy at B.A. (Hons.) and M.A. levels in the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Mr. Riyad Jahran of the University of al-Azhari, Egypt, who had been in Aligarh for several years, deserves special thanks for helping me in learning Arabic.

I am thankful to the staff members of the Maulana Azad Library, A.M.U., the Libraries of Indian Institute of Islamic Studies, Delhi, Vidya Jyoti Institute, Delhi, the Centre of Advancement of Science, Aligarh, and the Seminar Libraries of the Departments of History, Islamic Studies, and Theology, and also to Mrs. Mukhtar Fatima, Seminar Librarian of the Department of Philosophy, A.M.U., for their cooperation in consulting these libraries.

I am grateful to the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, for the fellowship it awarded to me to pursue my doctoral research, and also to the Ministry of Education, Government of Bangladesh for selecting me under Indo-Bangladesh cultural exchange programme.

Though my uncles, Advocate Asaduddin Ahmad and Mr. Md. Mohsin did not directly help in my research work, they deserve mention for they constantly inspired me to complete this work within time; of them I owe much to the latter for the care he had taken in my early education. My younger brother, Sarwar Mustafa, helped me sending some research material from Bangladesh.

At last I must pay my best regards to my parents whose love and blessings are interwoven in the fabric of my life.

Qausar Mustafa

( Qausar Mustafa )