I had the pleasant opportunity to study a portion of the great epic, the *Naiṣadha-carita* of Śrīharṣa in the post-graduate class in the Department of Sanskrit of the Gauhati University in 1999. We were taught the *Naiṣadha-carita* by our revered teacher Professor Ashok Kumar Goswami with whose method and skill of teaching I got interested in the epic. We also knew from our teacher that in the opinion of the critics, the *Naiṣadha-carita* is famous for its gracefulness of words (pada-lālītya). Moreover, it is said that *Naiṣadha-carita* is like medicine for the scholars ("naiṣadhaṁ vidvadauṣadhaṁ"). These sayings and appreciation of the epic attracted me and enhanced my interest in the epic.

Later on, when I passed the post-graduate examination in Sanskrit, my father (now no more) Late Uttam Chandra Bhattacharyya, the former Head of the Department of Sanskrit, B.N. College, Dhubri (Assam) asked me to take up the *Naiṣadha-carita* for research work and also advised me to do the work under the supervision of my teacher Professor Rajendra Nath Sarma. Accordingly, I approached Professor R.N. Sarma and he directed me to do a research work on the topic entitled "HINDU ŚAADHARŚANAS IN THE NAIṢADHA-CARITA." But without his constant inspiration and invaluable guidance, it would not have been possible at all on my part to do such a work wherein literature and philosophy are
interwoven. While doing the present work I have been benefited by the scholarly introduction of Philosophical Allusions by Professor K.K. Handiqui in the *Naiṣadha-carita* inserted in Appendix I of his English translation of the same.

I have tried my level best to complete the work with my little knowledge of the Hindu philosophy and as such there is every possibility of having mistake in the work. However, I have great respect for the noble saying of Kumārila Bhatta,

\[
yadatra sausthavaṁ kiṁcittadguroreva mama nahi /
yadatrasausthavaini kiṁcittanmamaiva gurornahi //
\]

\[\text{Sagarika Devi.}\]
(SAGARIKA DEVI)