

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I wish to express my profound sense of gratitude to my Guide, Dr. K.K. Sujatha, Rtd. Reader in English, Govt. Victoria College, Palakkad and presently, Head of the Post Graduate Department of English, N.G.M. College, Pollachi, but for whom this work would have remained an unfulfilled dream. Her deep knowledge, critical insight, love of perfection, and generosity in sparing much of her valuable time in going through the manuscript, and suggesting useful alterations have been largely instrumental in giving a final shape to this thesis.

Next, I place on record my sincere thanks to Professor Bose Joseph, Head of the Research Centre, Department of English, St. Thomas College, Trichur, for his valuable and timely help, particularly on the administrative side.

I am extremely grateful to the staff of the Calicut University library, Mercy College Library, a number of College libraries under the University of Calicut, the School of Distance Education, University of Calicut, Kerala University library, SCILET, American College, Madurai, the British Council library, Bangalore, Vijnana Ramaneeyam library, Palakkad, as well as SABDA, Pondicherry, for helping me to procure several necessary books for my research.

I am indebted to Dr. R. Viswanathan, Dr. Sankaran Ravindran and Dr. N. Ramachandran Nair, former Heads, Department of English, University of Calicut, and Dr. B. Sreedevi, the present Head of the Department of English, University of Calicut, for their valuable suggestions, encouragement and timely help.

I owe a deep sense of gratitude to my instructors, who guided and initiated me into *Rajyoga* meditation, *Kriya Yoga* and *Reiki*. I am convinced that whatever little I have understood and experienced of Sri Aurobindo's Integral Yoga, which forms the basis of his epic Savitri, has been largely facilitated by these mentors.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Manager and the Principal of my College, my colleagues, friends, students and well-wishers, who have helped me in one way or other, in the completion of my work.

I am thankful to my niece, Dr. Nandini Nilakantan, a mathematician, for patiently perusing the thesis, and expressing helpful views.

I am very grateful to Mr. Ratish, Domain DTP Centre, Palakkad for willingly taking up the tedious task of typing the thesis meticulously, and getting it bound in time.

I owe tremendously to my mother and my son for all their support and encouragement, and for the readiness with which they made various adjustments at home during my long voyage towards my goal.

Finally, I express my heartfelt gratitude to Sri Aurobindo, the Master, and the Mother, but for whose unified grace, I would never have ventured on this flight from the alone to the Alone. I have enjoyed every bit of this Research work immensely, it has enriched my life immeasurably, and I believe that all this has been possible because of the infinite compassion of the Divine Mother.

V. UMA