

---

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

---

At this moment of dedicating my work, I extend my deepest gratitude to my Guru, His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj, for accepting me as his own and granting me his divine association for the sake of my spiritual and academic upliftment. Who would have imagined what these blessings would grant me? My Sanskrit journey started in 2014 with the blessings of my current Guru, HH Mahant Swami Maharaj. All the spiritual and academic growth I have experienced since then, and even prior to that, is a result of their grace. I have been fortunate enough to receive their blessings on multiple occasions. Therefore, this thesis is a humble offering at the divine, almighty feet of HH Pramukh Swami Maharaj at the centennial ceremony of his birth anniversary celebrations, #PSM100.

I wish to express my deep appreciation to the dedicated faculty and students at BAPS Swaminarayan Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya in Sarangpur, Gujarat. Their unwavering support, inspiration, and encouragement, along with their remarkable patience, have been instrumental as I navigate the path of higher education. Pujya Atmatrupt Swami, the principal of the Mahavidyalaya, has always been inspiring, motivating, and forgiving. He was a consistent source of motivation for me to see this project through to its completion in its later stages. Without the ground-breaking series of treatises or commentaries that Mahāmahopādhyāya Bhadreshdas Swami authored, the totality of my thesis and, more crucially, my Sanskrit training and competence would be just about inconceivable. The Svāminārāyaṇa Bhāṣyam offers a novel interpretation of the three texts that make up the Prasthānatrayī, grounded in the principles unveiled by Bhagavān Swaminarayan. This thesis explores this textual triad through the lens afforded by Bhagavān Swaminarayan's revealed principles and the commentaries, based thereon, authored by Bhadreshdas Swami. As a student of the Mahavidyalaya, along with my peers, I have been most fortunate to study under his illuminating guidance and in his inspiring company. Thanks to their occasional recommendations and gentle prodding, I was led to view my endeavor through the lens of a scholar-practitioner, allowing me to stay true to my background and convictions while doing so.

My teachers, teaching fellows, and friends at Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States, for patiently and graciously introducing me to the Western education system and sharing their academic abilities generously and selflessly from the beginning to the end of my time there, I am unable to express enough gratitude for all that they have done for me. In addition, I would like to extend a special thank you to my professors, Francis X. Clooney, Sravana Borkataky-Varma, and Chandra Mallampalli, as well as the other residents at CSWR, for providing me with insightful questions and direction on multiple occasions, which helped me improve not only this project but also my overall scholarship and experience. I retain lovely and exciting memories of my courses, presentations, and conversations with them, in both formal and casual capacities, because their guidance, excitement, and friendship left an indelible mark on me and will continue to do so for a long time.

My time spent conducting research for my thesis at the AARSH, Akshardham, Gandhinagar, was highly beneficial. My pleasant and fruitful conversations with the esteemed Pujya Anandswarup Swami and Pujya Shrutiprakash Swami provided me with insights regarding my thesis and moral and spiritual support as I engaged in the thinking process and writing. In addition, I want to convey my heartfelt thanks to both my family and the administrative team at BAPS Swaminarayan Vidyamandir in Randesan, Gujarat. They made it possible for me to continue my education and supported me during the difficult times of COVID-19. Moreover, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to a group of BAPS devotees, including some I regretfully never had the chance to meet in person. They embraced me as a part of their family and provided me with food and essential supplies during the pandemic.

There to lend their support and keep me company were my colleagues and friends Pujya Gyananand Swami, Pujya Gyanrupt Swami, Sagar Acharya, Jignesh Raval, Smit Thacker, and Akshar Parsana. They went above and beyond to assist me with this project and in other areas as well. I offer my sincere gratitude to all of the wonderful people.

In all of my efforts to further my Sanskrit studies and this research project, the BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir in Sarangpur and the swamis who train, study and serve here have been the most encouraging and helpful. A special thanks go out to Pujya Paramvivek Swami, Pujya Vedantpriya Swami, Pujya Nirguncharit Swami, and the other individuals who patiently provided much-needed academic and technical assistance and time for the final editing process for this project. In addition, I would like to offer my thanks and best wishes to my fellow trainees, who have been a tremendous help to me over the course of the past few months as I have been putting together this work. In conclusion, I would like to show my appreciation to my friends, SP, SP, Mrugesh Patel, and Harsh Vinchhi for their assistance with this work's editing, formatting, and referencing.

In addition, I wish to convey my profound gratitude to my advisor, Professor Rabindra Kumar Panda; the Head of the Department of Sanskrit, Pali, and Prakrit, Professor Sweta Jejurkar; and my close friend at the Oriental Institute of Vadodara, Mr. Vipul Patel, for their assistance in guiding me through the university processes for the completion and submission of this thesis.

I remember everyone who wished me well, encouraged me, and helped me in whatever way—whether directly or indirectly—to get to the end of this project, and offer my sincere gratitude to them from the bottom of my heart. The amount of compassion and love I have been showered with is without limit, and the blessings I have received are beyond counting. To everyone who has contributed to improving my life, please accept my sincere and heartfelt gratitude. I wish well to all those who pursue their further studies in Sanskrit and Vedānta and to the readers of this dissertation.

