

## Acknowledgements

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals and organisations who supported me in the writing of this volume.

The volume was mainly completed under the framework of the project “Religion and Reason in the Vedānta Traditions of Medieval India”, which ran from 2017 to 2021. The project was hosted by the Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia (IKGA) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and funded entirely by the Austrian Science Fund (Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung/FWF; project number 30622). The FWF further provided financial assistance for the production of this volume and for making it available as an open-access work. The writing of the volume was also supported by a generous grant from the Jan Gonda foundation. This grant allowed me to work for six months at the International Institute of Asian Studies and the University of Leiden in 2016. This gave me time to write several chapters now included in the book and to work on developing my translations of relevant Sanskrit texts.

My sincerest gratitude goes out to my colleague Marcus Schmücker, who is presently senior researcher at the IKGA. Marcus has had the single biggest influence of any individual over this volume. He acted as the leader of the *Religion and Reason* project and encouraged and supported me in all aspects of preparing the volume. He read through my drafts carefully and provided me with extensive feedback which has enhanced it considerably. In particular, I must thank him for his careful scrutiny of my explanations of Advaita philosophy and extensive discussions about the translation of Sanskrit texts. I must also thank him for all his advice on the publication process and general encouragement to persevere with writing this volume.

The volume is ultimately based on my PhD thesis written at the University of Manchester. I must thank the Arts and Humanities Research Council of the United Kingdom, which funded my PhD research. I would like to thank Jacqueline Suthren Hirst, my supervisor, for all her ideas and advice when preparing it. The comments of Professors Christopher Minkowski and Ram-Prasad Chakravarti made during the defence of my thesis also helped me develop the thesis into the present monograph.

I would also like to extend my thanks to members of the Mādhva tradition. In 2010, I read the *Nyāyāmṛta* and its commentaries with Professor D. Prahladachar, who is now Śrī Vidyāśrīśatīrtha, the head of the Vyāsarāya Maṭha. His profound insight into the *Nyāyāmṛta* and its commentaries has always been inspiring. I must also thank Prof. Veerānarayana Pandurāngi of Karnataka Sanskrit University, who worked with me studying Vyāsatīrtha’s texts and the works of Navya-Nyāya philosophers while I was preparing this volume. He helped me to understand the Navya-Nyāya language which features so prominently in the texts translated in this book.

I must also thank Prof. Srinivasa Kumar N. Acharya, who is presently associate professor at the Manipal Academy of Higher Education. His deep background in Mādhva and Navya-Nyāya philosophy helped me to understand Mādhva philosophy and Navya-Nyāya language.

I must further express my thanks to Cynthia Peck-Kubaczek, who carefully copy-edited this volume and helped to improve the clarity and consistency of my writing.

I must extend my deepest thanks to my partner Anna Szutt and our dear friend Alice Constantin who both accompanied me on fieldwork in India while I was still preparing this volume. They worked with me tirelessly in digitising numerous manuscripts in the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Centre, Chennai, and the Oriental Research Institute in Mysuru. I must of course thank both of these institutions for letting me make copies of the manuscripts in question. I must also thank the Nepalese-German Manuscript Cataloguing Project, which supplied me with images of a manuscript of Madhusūdana Sarasvatī's *Advaitasiddhi* which I consulted when writing this volume.

In general, I would like to thank Anna for all her love, encouragement, and patience over the years I wrote this volume. Finally, I must express my deepest thanks to my parents Rhiannon and John Williams, my sister Lowri, and Teegan. The love of all of you helped me to persevere over all the years of preparing this volume.