Style Guide

This thesis follows the formatting standards of the Modern Language Association (MLA) style (8th edition).

Transliteration

All Sanskrit statements and terms are transliterated as per the standard established by the International Alphabet of Sanskrit Transliteration (IAST). The frequently occurring non-English names, such as Swaminarayan, Shankaracharya and the like, are transliterated on their first occurrence with the common Anglicised spelling in the parentheses. In other instances, these names are used only with the common Anglicised spelling. Certain Sanskrit terms are also used with the standard English suffixes to form the prevalent terms, such as 'Vedic,' 'Upaniṣadic,' and 'sampradāyic.'

Translation and Citation

All the translations from Sanskrit and Gujarati works are self-translations. The various citations from the *Upaniṣads* are primarily stated in the text in the original Sanskrit language. Their English translation is provided in the footnote. In a few instances, such a footnote on translation is not provided, such as when the Sanskrit statement is explained word by word in the text for the purpose of exegetical analysis or when stated in the tabular format as a summary of the discussion.

In case of several citations, such as the *Upaniṣadic* statements, the *kārikās* from the *Swaminarayan-Siddhānta-Sudhā*, excerpts from the *Vacanāmṛta*, the number of the mantra or chapter is given rather than the page numbers.

Italics

All non-English words are italicised, except the proper nouns like Akṣarabrahman, Parabrahman, Akṣaradhāman, Vaikuṇṭha and the like.