

PREFACE

In the present thesis, I have dealt with 18 minor *Upaniṣads* of *Atharvaveda*. The minor *Upaniṣads* of AV are approximately 250 and I feel it is impossible to critically analyse, evaluate and bring forth the comprehensive and comparative data of these minor *Upaniṣads* in a limited span of time, hence I chose representative minor *Upaniṣads* from each category viz. *Vedānta*, *Yoga*, *Śaiva*, *Vaiṣṇava*, *Saṁnyāsa* and *Śākta*, to avoid volume and tautology in expression. Moreover, though it is not possible to generalise the language and style of these minor *Upaniṣads* I have tried my level best to classify these *Upaniṣads* from the thematic point of view and literary and poetic representation. Furthermore I have also shed light on the views of commentators on these *Upaniṣads* on various topics. I have also studied these 18 minor *Upaniṣads* from Social, Historical, Geographical and Mythological points of view. Moreover, I have attempted to briefly study the prominent scientific references found in these texts like those of Vedic Mathematics, Physiology, Education, Psychology and Ethics and Morality. I have classified these minor *Upaniṣads* into two groups, viz. Non-theistic and Theistic *Upaniṣads*. I have studied in details the Cosmological, Ontological, Epistemological data and also the Concepts of *Mokṣa* and *Saṁnyāsa* as dealt in these minor *Upaniṣads* of AV.

Hence, an attempt is made in the present thesis to analyse and evaluate various perspectives of the contents presented in these 18 minor *Upaniṣads* of *Atharvaveda*.

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(Shweta S. Kaluskar)