

I DEDICATED THIS WORK TO MY MOST RESPECTED

***Swami Sundarananda Maharaj***

## DECLARATION

It is here by declared that the thesis entitled "*Will-generated Cognition' in Indian Philosophy with Special Reference to Navya Nyāya*" has been written by me under the supervision of Prof. Raghunath Ghosh, Former Professor, Dept. of Philosophy, University of North Bengal. I would also further like to state that no part of this thesis has formed the basis for the award of any degree or fellowship of any other institute previously.

Date: 14.12.20 21

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## To whom it may concern

This is to certify that Sm. Indrani Chaudhury has prepared the thesis entitled: '*Will-generated Cognition in Indian Philosophy with Special Reference to Navya Nyaya*' for the award of PhD degree in Philosophy (Arts) of the University of North Bengal under my supervision as per the UGC's new regulations. The thesis is not submitted wholly or partially for the award of any other degree of this University or any other Universities. I sincerely wish her every success in life. Nothing would be more pleasing than to find her well-placed in life.

  
(Professor Raghunath Ghosh),

Professor of Philosophy (Retired) & Supervisor,

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## Preface

In this thesis I have made an effort to show the cognitive aspect of 'desire'. In the poem of Rabindranath Tagore named as "*Janmabr̥ṭṭānta*" the concept of desire is introduced. In this poem an innocent child wanted to know the secret of life to his mother (where have I come from / "*elem āmi kothā hote?*"). And the mother replied that you were in my mind in the form of desire (*icchā rūpe chili moner mājhāre*). This is the simplest and most basic form of human will. I have described it as creative aspect of desire. We usually see this creative aspect of desire in the world of literature. The role of desire has been beautifully explained in the *Gītā*, *Upaniṣad*, also in our traditional Indian culture. Apart from this the cognitive aspect of desire is especially found in *Navya Nyāya* school of thought. Desire has been admitted by the *Navya Naiyāyikas* as one of the quality among twenty four qualities of soul. Desire has a sociological impact as well as epistemological quest. Our social life is governed by combination of both will and rule. We use many words in practical life that are not grammatically correct. The term '*śrīcaraṇeṣu*' has been used to show honour to our parents and teachers. Though it lacks of grammatical construction, we are allowed to apply it in order to show honour to the seniors. It should have been '*śrīcaraṇayoḥ*' in terms of grammatical accuracy. We intentionally use the term '*śrīcaraṇeṣu*' in plural to show respect. Human will has got foremost position in any sort of scientific discovery. Desire should be taken as seed of any type of invention.

Many philosophical issues have been shown here and I am trying my best to find a solution to them. I want to convey my sincere regards to Prof. Raghunath Ghosh, Former Professor, Dept. of Philosophy, NBU, without the guidance and co-operation of whom this difficult task would not have been possible. Apart from this, I shall be happy if I receive the sense of appreciation and criticism, if any, from the scholars specialized in this field.

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