# **CONTENTS**

List of Illustrations Acknowledgements

#### **PROLOGUE**

#### CHAPTER ONE:

Introduction: What It Means to Inhabit a Hindu World

Part I: Hinduism or Hinduisms?

Part II: Sacred Texts and Sacred Traditions

Part III: The Role of the Bhagavadgītā in the Modern Hindu World

Part IV: God, Gods, Goddesses, and Temples

## **CHAPTER TWO:**

Orthodox Christianity in India: A Dialogue of Life

Part I: The Thomas Christians Part II: A Dialogue of Life

Part III: The 'Kottayam School' of Theology

# CHAPTER THREE:

The Quest for the Divine: Divinisation ('Tat tvam asi') in Vedānta

and Deification (Theosis) in Orthodox Christianity

Part I: Divinisation ('Tat tvam asi') in Vedānta and Deification (Theosis)

Part II: Non-Dualism (Advaita), or Monism

Part III: Rāmānuja (c. 1077-1157 CE) and 'Qualified Non-Dualism' (Viśiṣtādvaita)

Part IV: Madhva (c. 1238-1317 CE) and 'Dualism' (dvaita)

Part V: An Appraisal of Theistic Vedānta

#### **CHAPTER FOUR:**

The Quest for the Divine in the Bhakti Tradition: God, 'the Lover of Mankind'

Part I: What is *Bhakti?* Why is it Considered by Hindus to be Essential to Any Quest for the Divine?

Part II: What Are the Possible Areas of Convergence between Hindu *Bhakti* and Orthodox Devotional Theology?

Part III: What Are the Areas of Questionable Convergence and of Significant Divergence between Hindu *Bhakti* and Orthodox Devotional Theology?

Part IV: How Might Hindu-Christian Dialogue Regarding the *Bhakti* Tradition Progress?

Afterword: Parallel Concerns within the Hindu *Bhakti* and Christian Traditions Where Dialogue May Assist

## **CHAPTER FIVE:**

The Problem of Suffering and Evil: Karma and the Cross

Part I: What is *Karma*? What is the Attraction of *Karma*?

Part II: Biblical Perspectives on Suffering and Evil

Part III: Questions of Convergence and Divergence

Part IV: The Great Divergence: The Cross

#### CHAPTER SIX:

Yoga and Hesychasm: The Body and the 'Body of Christ'

Part I: What is *Yoga*? How Far, If At All, Could Christians Endorse It?

Part II: Meditational Yoga and Hesychastic Prayer: A Comparative Analysis

Part III: The 'Prophetic Polemics' of St Gregory Palamas' *The Triads* and Their Relevance to Discussions of *Yoga* 

# CHAPTER SEVEN:

'Signs and Wonders': Orthodox Spiritual Elders and Hindu Holy Men

Part I: Signs and Wonders: The Biblical Perspective

Part II: 'The Golden Chain': Saints and 'Holy Men' in the Orthodox

Tradition

Part III: Hindu 'Holy Men'

Part IV: The Mutual Challenge: Christians and Hindus in Conversation

# **EPILOGUE**

Select Bibliography

Index