

# Acknowledgments

This book has its beginnings in the long sunny hours I spent reading *Rg Vidhāna* and *Āśvalāyana Śrauta Sūtra* with H. G. Ranade at Deccan College in 1992, and *Śabara* with Venugopalam on his porch on the hill. That year, while I read many other texts not included in this book, I was afforded the opportunity to begin to think systematically about issues of the experience of poetry in ritual. My first visit to Nanded, India, in 1992 allowed me to engage in conversation with Smt. Selukar. I was able to continue those discussions with G. U. Thite in 1999. To Professors Ranade and Thite, I owe a great debt of guidance, critique, and inspiration. A subsequent visit to the sacrificial performances conducted by Nānā Kaḷe in Barshi was also inspirational: I discovered in that small pocket that the Śaunakīya school was alive and well. Ultimately, it would take me ten years to think through all the issues presented in these pages.

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