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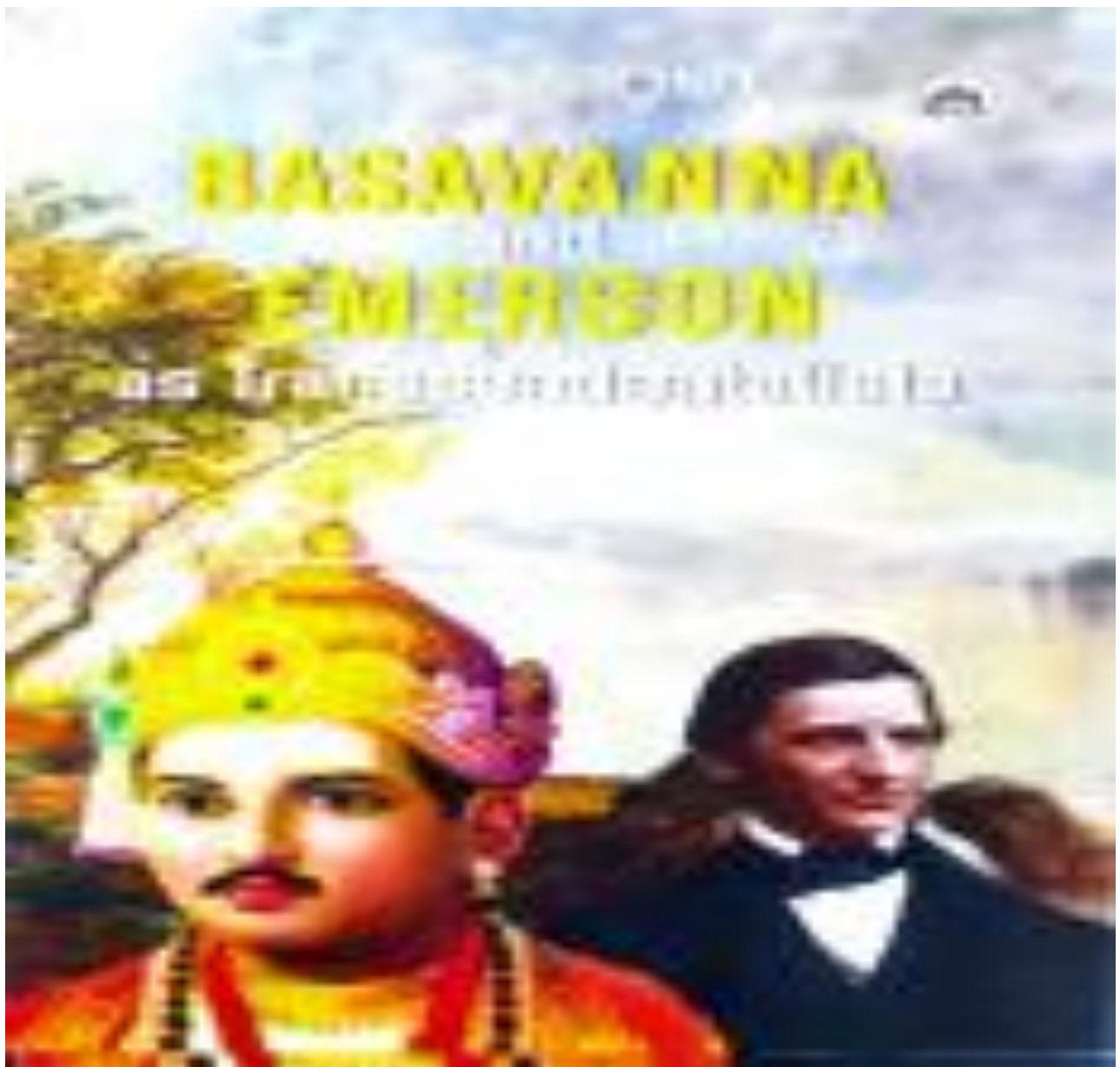
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**Front Cover page of the Book**

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**BASAVANNA**  
and  
**EMERSON**  
as Transcendentalists

S. R. GOLAGOND



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## Author's Note

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This book is a part of my PhD work done under the guidance of Prof Mallikarjun Patil, Professor of English and former Registrar, Karnatak University, Dharwad. His guidance enlightened me all the way in even bringing out this book soon after.

My interest in Basavanna is innate as I hail from Hunagund area where lies the holy place called Kudalasangama. Basava's birth place Bagewadi is not far away. Mangalavada where he began his career and Basava-Kalyan in Bidar district where he did socio-religious revolution and founded the radical new religion are all familiarly holy places. The entire south India is familiar with Lingayat religion and philosophy which Basava founded in 1160s. People belonging to all religions and sects, though some of them are different from Lingayats, are heavily influenced by sharana culture. Likewise, the monasteries play a vital role in the deccan region.

My interest in Ralph Waldo Emerson dates back to my study of one or two of his poems and his essays "Self-Reliance" and "The Over-soul" which I studied for my MA from Karnatak University, Dharwad. Emerson happens to be a great American poet, essayist, lecturer, transcendentalist philosopher, in brief, the spokesman of his age. His poetry, and essays embody his New England Idealism as the book brings it forth in the following three chapters with a comparative insight in the two greatest thinkers of the world. Basava and Emerson can be compared even to the Buddha, Jesus Christ and Mohammed. This book will facilitate the lay as well as scholarly readers to understand both Basava and Emerson's world-vision.

6 • Basavanna and Emerson as Transcendentalists

I take this opportunity to thank my PhD guide Prof Mallikarjun Patil; Dr Veeranna Charantimath, the Chairman and Shri B. M. Hokrani, the Secretary; and the staff, including Prof (Smt) Shashikala Math, the Principal of V.M.K.S.R. Vastrad Arts, Science and V. S. Bellihal Commerce College (where I work as an Assistant Professor of English), of Vijaya Mahantesh Vidyavardhaka Sangh, Hunagund, and my parents and family for their help and cooperation.

**Dr S. R. Golagond**

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## Contents

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<i>Author's Note</i>	5
<i>Introduction</i>	9
1. Basavanna and the Philosophy of Transcendentalism	31
2. R. W. Emerson's Philosophy of Transcendentalism	78
3. Basavanna and Emerson as Transcendentalists: A Comparison	123
<i>A Select Bibliography</i>	173
<i>Index</i>	181



**Back Cover Page of the Book**