

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**

**Blurring the Boundary between History and Fiction in Salman Rushdie's**

*The Satanic Verses*

**A Thesis**

**Submitted to**

**The Faculty of Humanities and Social Science**

**in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree**

**of Master of Arts in English**

**By**

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**Letter of Recommendation**

Mr. Subash Pathak has completed his thesis entitled “Blurring the boundary between History and Fiction in Salman Rushdie’s *The Satanic Verses*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from 2008 A.D. to February 2009 A.D. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Saroj Ghimire

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## **Abstracts**

*The Satanic Verses* is a postmodern fiction about the condition of migrant people, struggling to protect their existence in foreign-land because the history and religious rigidity does not allow them to cope on the situation and turn it into religion burden. By fictionalizing the history of Islamic world through the dream vision of protagonist and of fallible narrator, novel deliberately decontextualizes the origin of religious discourse. By inserting the imagination to the historical records, Rushdie fictionalized single holy treatise into plural versions.

Salman Rushdie uses historiographic metafiction as a narrative tool to focuses on fictional formation of historical records so that the politics behind every human artifact could appear. By exposing how history hides its fiction and highlights its fact to meet their subjective goal, this research study comes to the conclusion that so-called transcendental holy writ is only mere construction of human imagination. The novel explores the human divided self in multicultural milieu that does not rely on their own cultural root. Therefore, historical episode is suspected and triggered the human imagination in place of religious submission. The novel mixes fiction and history so that it fits to the present postmodernist context.

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