

Tribhuvan University

Advocacy of Free Speech in Salman Rushdie's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*

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By

Shree Prasad Tyataju

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Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled 'Advocacy of Free Speech in Salman Rushdie's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*' submitted by Mr. Shree Prasad Tyayaju to the Department of English, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ratna Rajaya Laxmi Campus, Tribhuvan University, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee:

(Rudra Prasad Paudel)

Supervisor

External Examiner

(Chiranjibi Kafle)

Head of the Department of English

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Abstract

Haroun and the Sea of Stories by Salman Rushdie, on one level is a children's adventure story, written in a fairy tale style with a blend of multiple postcolonial narrative techniques which transcends all the previous techniques, while on the other level, it deals with Rushdie's reaction to his real life events that boycotted his freedom.

This study makes an attempt to track down the elements that reflect Salman Rushdie's advocacy of free speech along the line of postcolonial perspective. In its quest to find answers to the research questions – How do the characters oppose colonial motives? Why is Salman Rushdie in favour of free speech? Is it possible in closed society? -- this study arrives at the conclusion that, speaking from the backdrop of the censorship experienced by the author in his life, the novel reveals Rushdie's will to free speech and expression as well as open society in various ways.

The conclusion effects from Rushdie's portrayal of a postcolonial world of freedom loving characters and an amalgamation of a number of literary devices such as allegory, allusion, wordplay, symbols and images that largely correspond to Rushdie's real life events, especially relating the censorship. Though Rushdie sometimes seems to favor silence and darkness, the novel clearly stands in favour of free speech and open society. The victory of the Guppees over the Chupwalas, the end of Khattam-Shud, the symbol for censorship, the emphasis on open society and the revival and continuation of culture of story and song at the end of the story all help justify this point.

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