

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Critique of Western Modernity in Rushdie's *The Enchantress of Florence*

A Thesis Submitted to The Central Department of English
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Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Critique of Western Modernity in Rushdie's *The Enchantress of Florence*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Pratibha Shrestha has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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Letter of Recommendation

Pratibha Shrestha has completed her thesis entitled "Critique of Western Modernity in Rushdie's *The Enchantress of Florence*" under my supervision. She carried out her research from November, 2010 to July, 2012 A.D. I hereby recommend her thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Date: --27th July 2012

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Abstract

In *The Enchantress of Florence*, Salman Rushdie demands for alternative modernities to valorize pre modern ethical and moral values as well as non- Western culture and civilization by critiquing Western modernist rationality exposing its exclusiveness, individualism, and monolithic vision. While doing so, Rushdie mixes up many genres within a single book and wrestles with the colonial legacy and implication of anthropological knowledge exposing Westerner's interference upon the non- western ideology. Similarly, he exposes cosmopolitanism and hospitable values which existed in India in Mughal Akbar's time, and values of non- Western culture and civilization through his own experience. Akbar the Great, the Famous Sixteenth century Mughal emperor, championed religious tolerance and reason in India. He is presented as a brilliant military commander as well as something of a philosopher ruler who challenges the Western modernity represented by Mogordell' Amore and Qara Köz.

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