

Tribhuvan University

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

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By

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**Letter of Approval**

This thesis entitled “Advocacy of Free Speech in Rushdie’s *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*” submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus by Narayan Krishna Katuwal has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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## **Abstract**

This thesis is a study in *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, a novel by Salman Rushdie. The research work deals with the magic realism and the allegorical aspect in the novel at different levels. Khattam-Shud, the fundamentalist ruler of Chup allegorizes Ayatollah Khomeini in particular and all the totalitarians, who do not tolerate ensured individual right of expression, get threatened with imaginative power of language and want to censor and poison the stream of expressions and stories. On the contrary, Gupland permits people's right of free speech, free narrative and thus celebrate the imaginative and creative power of language. Guppees, Rashid and Haroun collectively represent moral and peace loving people who show their courage and honor to rescue the Kahani from the murderous hands of Khattam-Shud. Rashid's experience with the loss of storytelling gift is similar to that of Rushdie's experience with censorship. Ayatollah Khomeini imposed a Fatwa upon Rushdie after the publication of *The Satanic Verses*. Instead of silencing a creative writer such as Rushdie this declaration of death punishment fuels to the creative response which boldly resist the censorship. Through the allegory Rushdie is turning spotlight on the evil qualities of dictators. Rulers are supposed to be protective towards their citizens but Khattam-Shud is destructive one. Rushdie uses this ironic note to criticize the fundamentalist rulers of the world. Through magic realism and allegorical perspective, the thesis concludes that the novel's meaning and essence lies in its anti-censorship narrative, stressing that a society that allows free speech is always far ahead than the one restricting it.

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