

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Sexist Politics: Reading Donne's Metaphysical Poetry

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts in English**

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Rajesh Kumar Pathak has completed his thesis entitled "Sexist Politics: Reading Donne's Metaphysical Poetry" under my supervision. He carried out his research from Aug 2009 to May 2010. I hereby recommend that his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Letters of Approval

This thesis entitled, “Sexist Politics: Reading Donne’s Metaphysical Poetry”, submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Rajesh Kumar Pathak has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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Abstract

Donne's metaphysical poetry is full of sexist ethos which underestimates the intellectual competence of the women in the society. Exposition of the gender hierarchy is highlighted through the extraordinary sexual light which, at deeper level, contradicts with the aesthetic impression. His political poem aspires to subjugate women in all cultural, social, economic, familial and political domains. He consolidates the ideological frame existing in the society to serve the masculine ego and misogynistic behavioral pattern of patriarchy in his time.

Renaissance women who enjoyed a bit liberty under the monarchy of Queen Elizabeth exerted havoc in his mind. So, he aspires to marginalize women to prolong the domination of male over female. Therefore, he expresses his strong aversion towards the women and connotes them negatively as “imposture being”, “mindless creature” and so on. He aggressively creates monomaniacal images about women as they are “body without mind” and “unfaithful, lusty creature” fit only for sexual dance with men. Being motivated with the patriarchal norms of his time, his sexist politics gets ahead very tactically in the poetry by relegating women to secure his covert intention at stable height through the creation of beautiful rhymes.

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