

**Tribhuvan University**

**Violence and Trauma in Salman Rushdie's *Shalimar the Clown***

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English,  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**by**

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Arjun Krishna Regmi has completed his thesis entitled “Violence and Trauma in Salman Rushdie’s *Shalimar the Clown*” under my supervision. He carried out his research work from June, 2011 to January, 2013. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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This thesis entitled “Violence and Trauma in Salman Rushdie’s *Shalimar the Clown*” by Arjun Krishna Regmi submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of Research Committee

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## Abstract

This dissertation explores the impacts of aftermath of violence and trauma in the life of an innocent Muslim youth, Shalimar. Rushdie depicts personal hatred and enmity as the source of communal trauma that crosses local boundaries and becomes global. *Shalimar the Clown* weaves the destiny of three characters; Shalimar, a humble Muslim boy and Boonyi, a Hindu girl from Kashmir and Maximilian Ophuls, the shrewd American Ambassador to India. Max lures the innocent Boonyi into his charismatic personality and impregnates her. When Shalimar is hurt due to Boonyi's betrayal, he becomes furious not only with Max but with the American system, thus the seeds of communal violence and trauma is sown. The notion of love and hatred gets the touch of cultural conflict of trans-border scenario, engulfing the life of people from a small village in Kashmir to Delhi, Afghanistan, Philippines, Europe and the US. *Shalimar the Clown* from the usual bits and pieces of lovers moves to an episode of hatred and revenge turning from personal level to the communal. As such, from an act of personal level, it turns communal and an entire race is dragged in the battle of violence and hatred.

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