

**Tribhuvan University**

**Redefining the Orthodox Christianity in *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown**

**A thesis submitted to the Central Department of English  
in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of  
Masters of Arts in English**

**By**

**Sarina Aryal**

**Central Department of English**

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**

Faculties of Humanities and Social Science

This thesis entitled “Redefining the Orthodox Christianity in *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown” submitted to the Central Department of English Tribhuvan University, by Miss Sarina Aryal has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee,

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head  
Central Department of English

Date:

## **Acknowledgements**

This Herculean task would not have been possible without proper guidance and encouragement of my thesis Supervisor Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head of Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. In addition to that he has also endeavored by going through the script and correcting my innumerable mistakes. I express my sincerest gratitude to him.

Similarly, I would like to express my gratitude to my respected Lecturers Mr. Badri Acharya, Mr. Bal Bahadur Thapa, Mr. Puspa Raj Acharya, and Mr. Rajendra Panthi for providing me with constructive suggestions and supporting and helping me while writing my thesis proposal.

I am very much thankful to my parents Mr. Shyam Bahadur Aryal and Mrs. Nira Kumari Aryal and my brothers Saroj Aryal and Sarad Aryal for their warm affection and cooperation. Lastly I would like to thank my friends and colleagues Miss Sangita Tiwari, Mr. Ajit Kumar Jha and Mr. Pawan Marasini for their constant love and inspiration.

Sarina Aryal

July 2007

## **Abstract**

The present research studies the novel *The Da Vinci Code* of Dan Brown as the redefinition of the Orthodox Christianity, which has broken away from the established version of the Christianity and raised many questions about the authenticity of the established Christian religion. The research shows how, within the text, the writer has shown the role of power to define the established notion of Christianity and rewrites the new redefinition where he has given equal emphasis to overshadowed marginal Christian scriptures which had valorized the feminine principle.

## Contents

### Acknowledgements

### Abstract

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Chapter 1: Chronology of Orthodox Christianity</b> | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>Chapter 2: Christianity and Power</b>              | <b>10</b> |
| Historical Development                                | 10        |
| Foucault, Nietzsche and Genealogy                     | 16        |
| Discourse, Power and Truth/Knowledge                  | 19        |
| <b>Chapter 3: The Text and the Context</b>            | <b>25</b> |
| Role of Power to Define Orthodox Christianity         |           |
| in <i>The Da Vinci Code</i>                           | 32        |
| Redefined Christianity in <i>The Da Vinci Code</i>    | 41        |
| <b>Chapter 4: Conclusion</b>                          | <b>48</b> |
| <b>Works Cited</b>                                    |           |