

Tribhuvan University

Representation of the 1990s Kashmir in Basharat Peer's *Curfewed Night*

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

By

Shankar Bhandari

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Central Department of English,

Kirtipur, Kathmandu,

April 2015

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Letter of Recommendation

This thesis entitled “Representation of the 1990s Kashmir in Basharat Peer’s *Curfewed Night*” by Shankar Bhandari for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in English has been completed under my supervision. I hereby recommend it to be submitted for viva-voce.

Mr. Badri Prasad Acharya
Supervisor
Lecturer, Central Department
of English

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Representation of the 1990s Kashmir in Basharat Peer’s *Curfewed Night*” submitted to Central Department of English, by Shankar Bhandari for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in English, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Internal Supervisor

External Examiner

Head of the Department

Prof. Dr. Amar Raj Joshi

Date: _____

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Abstract

The present research attempts to explore the issue of the representation of the 1990s Kashmir in Basharat Peer's non-fictional text, *Curfewed Night*. The conflict over the territory of Kashmir, primarily ensued by India-Pakistan's power politics, is a burning subject matter which not only comprehends the modern insurgency of the 1990s but also notices the root cause of the partition history of the Indian sub-continent in 1947. Peer's unfathomable effort highlights how the discourses of war and peace in Kashmir marginalized common Kashmiri people's wish for peace, freedom, justice, self-respect, harmony and normality of life. In this regard, my thesis claims that this text questions almost all the 'grand narratives' of India-Pakistan's official history, of Kashmir's itself, and thereby addresses the past and present position of common Kashmiris, marginalized side, during the insurgency movement (1987-1990 A.D). By depicting the vivid reality of war victims, marginal group, Peer, in the text, tries to blur the boundaries between periphery, a space given to ordinary Kashmiris, and center, Indian military force and militants, the power holders. Peer's call for peace, autonomy, harmony, brotherhood and collective identity in Kashmir paves a path towards conflict resolution which is the main thrust of *Curfewed Night*. To show this, my thesis pinpoints the loopholes of Kashmir's history from its mythological conception to the time of the 1990s militancy and throws a light on the real socio-economic and politico-cultural condition of Kashmiris, their desires, demands and dreams. So, by applying the methodology of new historicism as a tool, I, in this thesis, make a point that history is nothing more than a jumble of stories, always moves back and forth according to the perspective of writer who writes it. Therefore, *Curfewed Night* is also one of the versions of the 1990s war time 'story' from the perspective of Basharat Peer who represents the marginal group, that is, common Kashmiris.

Contents

Recommendation Letter

Approval Letter

Acknowledgments

Abstract

I. Personal as Political in Peer's *Curfewed Night* 1-18

II. Representation of the 1990s Kashmir in Peer's *Curfewed Night* 19-60

Historicity of Kashmir Dispute

Maps of Kashmir

Legendary conception of Kashmir

The Rise and Fall of Empires in Kashmiri Politics: Pre-1947 History Timeline

Accession: Multiple Versions of History

The Instrument of Accession

The Role of UNO (United Nations Organization)

Unrest in Kashmir: 1950s-1987

1987: The Election and its Aftermath

III. Depiction of Socio-Economic and Politico-Cultural Aspects of
Kashmir During the Insurgency Movement in Peer's *Curfewed Night* 61-

130

Representation of the Government, the Militants, and the Common

Kashmiris in *Curfewed Night*

Position of Basharat Peer, the Author, in *Curfewed Night*

IV. *Curfewed Night* as a Voice to Voiceless Kashmiris 131-

133

Works Cited