

Tribhuvan University

Dimensions of Death in Emily Dickinson's Selected Poems

A Thesis submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science in Partial

Fulfillment of Requirement of the Degree of

Master of Arts in English

Universal College

Maitidevi, Kathmandu

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Year of Admission 2009/11

August 2013

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Basu Dev Bhandari has completed his thesis entitled “Dimensions of Death in Emily Dickinson’s Selected Poems” under my supervision. He carried out his research from December 2012 to August 2013. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted to viva voce.

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This thesis entitled “Dimensions of Death in Emily Dickinson’s selected poems” submitted to Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu by Mr. Basu Dev Bhandari has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I would like to register my gratitude to Mr. Baburam Timsina, the Head of the Department of English, for his shrewd supervision, advice, and guidance from the very preliminary stage of my research and for being an inspiring and sincere mentor of mind throughout the project. His continuous encouragement and cordial support with scholarly ease is unarguably praiseworthy. I similarly owe to Mr. Komal Phuyal for his kind and scholarly guidance in order to identify the area of research and develop the understanding of the subject.

It is an honour for me to extend my gratitude to my teachers: Prof. Dr. Padma Prasad Devkota, Prof. Khagendra Prasad Bhattarai, Mr. Shuv Raj Rana Bhat, Mr. Deewakar Upadhyya, Mr. Laxman Gautam and Mr. Sagar Bhatta for their support.

Likewise, my sincere gratitude goes to my parents, Mr. Purushotam Prasad Bhandari and Mrs. Durga Bhandari and my spouse, Mrs. Sabita Bhandari, brother, Mr. Sishir Bhandari and my sister in law, Mrs. Parbati Bhandari and Mr. Janakdhari Thakur who always promoted and inspired me and have been ever present in my every ups and downs of life. Finally, I also take the opportunity to remember all involved and ask for an apology for not being able to mention personally the names of those helping hands in my study.

Basu Dev Bhandari

Abstract

There has been a lot of researches that studied on the dynamics and dimensions of Death in the poems of Emily Dickinson. However, this paper aims to find further dynamics of death, its course and impact upon general people in contrast to the understanding of the poet. Besides, death appears to be a common topic in several other poets like that of John Donne, William Cullen Bryant and many more. However, this paper aspires to study the core concept of death from the eye of Dickinson and additionally studies the behavior of her inclination towards the subject matter of love, god, war and society as well.

Dickinson's poems have varied interpretation of death. Her interpretation reflects her own personal life. Death appears to be something that she wants to the most. To her death is ultimate joy. She finds no living people are happy that is why she wants to meet death. She has weird perception to see death from different angles. Death came to show her in different forms: sometimes in the form of god and angel and sometimes in the form of a bee. She considers death as a victory and not a loss. To die is to win a victory. She does not fear death but stands before it welcoming it with cheer because death is eternity. The only truth in the universe is death and she is always ready to accept that truth. Death though has different dimensions, it says, "I am nobody". Because death is nobody it can take the form of everybody.

Dickinson's perception about death is highly meditative in itself. Her reclusive living, meditation upon war of her time and her endeavor to reform the society can be ascertained through her poetry. It can be concluded that, death is a natural phenomenon. It all depends upon individuals how to accept it. Death has multiple dimensions. It can be bitter, agonizing, painful and joyful and blessing at the same time. Whatever the situation may be we have to accept it because the only truth in the world is death. It is undeniable and inevitable.

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