

**Tribhuvan University**

***Athena's Quest for Freedom in Coelho's *The Witch of Portobello****

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Masters of Arts in English

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August 2014

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**Letter of Approval**

This Thesis Entitled “Athena's Quest for Freedom in Coelho’s *The Witch of Portobello*,” Submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus, by Binod Mani Rai, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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## **Acknowledgements**

I am highly indebted to my thesis supervisor Chiranjibi Kafle, Head of the Department of English, at Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus, for his scholarly guidance, generous help and genuine encouragement to bring this thesis to completion.

My sincere gratitude goes to Professor Hrisheekesh Upadhyaya for molding an academic passion in me. My thanks are also due to Associate Professor, Dr. Anand Sharma, and lecturers at Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus, for giving constructive suggestions during my thesis writing.

Moreover, I am heartily obliged to my venerable teachers Mr. Rudra Prasad Paudel, Campus Chief, Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus, Mr. Kamal Thoklihang, former Assistant Campus Chief, and Mr. Yadav Prasad Adhikari, lecturer at the Department of English, for their precious suggestions and insights.

I would like to express my gratitude to my honorable parents Dhaula Singh and Panchamaya Rai, whose constant support and warm affection helped me to accomplish this degree. I acknowledge My grandmother Mrs. Purnimaya Rai, uncle Dil kumar Rai, My Sisters, friends Mlangai Bamjan, Milan Rai, Biruman Rai, Mandhoj Rai, Udaya Rai and Bhai Sona who helped me in many ways.

## **Abstract**

*The Witch of Portobello* by Paulo Coelho is about the struggle of Athena against the several problems in the society. The novel intends to establish the harmonious society by making all the characters aware that the conflict is prevalent when there is the combination of the people having different views. The novel has been analysed through feminist perspective. Feminism advocates political, social, and economic equality between male and female. There are various movements and theories that are concerned with the issue of gender difference, talks about the equality for women, and campaign for women's rights and interests. In addition, feminist literary theory interprets a work of art or any intellectual discourse through the perspective of women and their concerns. According to the theory, men always establish norms, and women are defined as 'other' with reference to these norms. There is little possibility of deviation of such conceptual values.

The novel revolves around a Romanian girl named Athena adopted by a rich Lebanese family. Her real name is Sherin Khalil and she attempts to overcome the patriarchal norms and values. The novel also emphasizes the nature of existence of women in the male dominated society through the lenses women. This thesis studies the novel as depicting the condition of Athena who struggles throughout her life to get freedom, in the society, where women are dominated, discriminated and given bad names.

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