

Tribhuvan University

‘Black Skin, White Masks’: Treatment of Slavery in Edward P. Jones’s *The Known
World*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Central
Department of English, Tribhuvan University, in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in English

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Laxman Sharma has completed his thesis entitled “Black Skin, White Masks: Treatment of Slavery in Edward P. Jones’s *The Known World*” under my supervision. I hereby recommend this thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Harihar Gyanwali
Supervisor

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Approval Letter

This thesis entitled “Black Skin, White Masks: Treatment of Slavery in Edward P. Jones’s *The Known World*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Laxman Sharma, has been approved by undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

This research based on Edward P. Jones's fiction *The Known World* is an effort to underscore the complexities inherent in African American society: Jones portrays the humiliating condition of slaves at the hand of freed slaves after emancipation in America. The freed slaves continued the legacy of keeping slaves though their former masters-the whites-had all in all given up this malpractice. The freed slaves inherited this tradition as if it was the African culture. The first chapter introduces the history of African American literature along with its implication and consequences in Jones's novel. The second chapter brings out the instances of humiliation of slaves in *The Known World* vis-à-vis the critical insights in African American criticism as expressed in the scholarly writings of renowned critics in the discipline. The research concludes to prove the hypothesis that Jones's novel differs from other African American novels in that it illumines the tension between African American communities in the process of emancipation.

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