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By Rabi Kandel

Cultural Encounter of West and East: Valorizing Eastern Culture in Gita Mehta's *Karma Cola*

**Tribhuvan University**

**Cultural Encounter of West and East: Valorizing Eastern Culture in Gita**

**Mehta's *Karma Cola***

**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**

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**April 2010**

**Tribhuvan University**  
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**Letter of Recommendation**

Mr. Rabi Kandel has completed this thesis entitled " Cultural Encounter of West and East: Valorizing Eastern Culture in Gita Mehta's *Karma Cola*" under my supervision. He carried out his research work from September, 2009 to April, 2010. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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**Letter of Approval**

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “Cultural Encounter of West and East: Valorizing Eastern Culture in Gita Mehta’s *Karma Cola*” submitted by Rabi Kandel, to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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## **Abstract**

The cultural encounter between the diametrically opposite east and west in the context of human relationships and cultural values constantly engage the readers of *Karma Cola*. The dichotomy lies in the modes of thought and the ways of life adopted by the people belonging to these cultures. In this connection, Mehta's novel attempts to explore the impacts of spiritual and material values on human existence. While foregrounding the traditional spiritual heritage of Indian society Mehta sustains the orientalised image of the east. However, by making fun of the wave of foreigners swarming into India in the sixties in search of spiritual bliss, she underscores the very orientalist stereotypes. In doing so, her obvious focus is on the exploration of different aspects of Indian life and culture, its past and present.

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