

Tribhuvan University

Politics of Forgiveness as Justice in J. M. Coetzee's *Disgrace*

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By

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Letter of Recommendation

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “Politics of Forgiveness as Justice in J. M. Coetzee’s *Disgrace*,” has been carried out under my supervision. He carried out this research from June, 2015 September to October 24, 2016. I hereby recommend this research to the research committee for *viva voce*.

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Letter of Approval

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “Politics of Forgiveness as Justice in J. M. Coetzee’s *Disgrace*,” submitted to the Central Department of English by Pramod Dhakal has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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Abstract

Human society has indulged in the idea of punishment and forgiveness for ages. However, both these ideas are state sponsored for the final authority to spell punishment and grant forgiveness is the State power. For without the consent of the state there can be neither punishment nor forgiveness. Hence, civilization for ages have been indulged in the idea whether punishment is good or bad; and if forgiveness excels penalty.

David Lurie, a professor finds the idea of seeking for excuse utterly against his ego. He denies to sought for forgiveness for his indecent act of sexual harassment for he has self imposed parameters that defines if something is good or bad. The sexual conduct he conducted with one of his female students falls under the parameter that such act was done on mutual understanding. However, the idea that indecency whether conducted on understanding or not still remains indecent is not considered with due regards by the Professor. Hence, the idea that forgiveness is state sponsored fits in the case of David Lurie for, he does not want to acknowledge that his mentality is state sponsored. The idea that punishment can change such person is absurd, for imposing of physical sanction and threat can merely torture the body but not change the soul.

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