

Tribhuvan University

Orientalist Representation of Muslims in Torday's *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

**Central Department of English in the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Degree of Master of Arts in English**

By

Bhuvan Sing Limbu

Central Department of English

Tribhuvan University

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English
University Campus, Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Bhuwan Sing Limbu has completed his thesis entitled “Orientalist Representation of Muslims in Torday’s *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*” under my supervision. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for the final observation.

Mr. Hem Lal Pandey

(Supervisor)

Date:

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English
University Campus, Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Orientalist Representation of Muslims in Torday’s *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Bhuwan Sing Limbu has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date.....

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At atemporality, the inexpressible gratitude goes to the following Sufi '*bodhkatha*'; an awakening story:

Once, there was a desperately thirsty man. He was so thirsty, weak and sick that he was susceptible to death. He was shouting for the water but there was nobody to listen to and offer him even a trickle of water even though there was a crowd of people outside the room running, rushing, shouting and doing their own drudgery. At one corner of the room was lying an empty earthen pitcher. Listening to the pathetic cry of the man, it forgot that it was empty. Therefore, the pitcher approached the man and said, "Don't worry man. Look up. I'm here. Drink till your fill!" Hopefully the man picked the pitcher up but he found it empty. He became so angry that he flung it to the floor. The pitcher broke into pieces.

Then the insight follows: "Don't try to satiate other's thirst until you are filled. Otherwise, just like the pitcher, you will be broken. When you are filled you don't have to go saying 'drink me', rather thirsty people will come afar searching you."

Bhuwan Sing Limbu

Abstracts

This research makes a cursory exploration through an English novelist Torday's *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* with the spotlight of Orientalism in order to uncover Orientalist representation of the Muslims and Yemenis and also elucidates the reasons and motives behind his orientalization. The preliminary issues in the research query, in specific, are the motives behind showing Sheikh Muhammad's faith as the cause of the initiation and failure of the salmon fishing project in the Yemen hiding money mindedness of Europeans and the British Blairite government's political interest on Yemen, and in general, the reasons and motives after depicting Muslims and Yemenis as exotic, impatient, lecherous, debaucherous, malleable, terrorists, and barbarians. The major finding of the research is that Torday writes from positional superiority and strategic location for strategic formation to gain strength and power tied to the powerful and pervading corporate institution of Orientalism. Therefore, intentionally or unintentionally he happens to orientalize the Muslims and Yemenis. And hereafter, the inference this research makes is the reaffirmation of Said's assumption that the narcissistic Western ideas about the Orient changed in time but not their character.

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