

***Tribhuvan University***

**River as Sutra or, the Binding Principle in *A River Sutra*.**

**A thesis submitted to the Central Department of English in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree in Master of Arts in English.**

**By**

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**Letter of Recommendation**

Mr. Niroj Rijal has prepared this thesis entitled, “River as Sutra, or the Binding Principle in *A River Sutra*” under my supervision. He carried the research from 2008-2010. I recommended this thesis be submitted for viva-voce.

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**Letter of Approval**

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Science**

The thesis entitled “River as Sutra or, the Binding Principle in *A River Sutra*” submitted to Central Department of English, T.U. by Mr. Niroj Rijal has been approved for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree in Master of Arts in English by undersigned members of the research committee.

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### **Abstract**

In *A River Sutra*, Gita Mehta applies the same idea as she used in her previous works, *Karma Cola (1997)* and *Raj (1989)*, the various cultures, communities and traditions. Her concern in writing is always focused on racial harmony, unity, peace, and prosperity of the people of various ethnic, cultural groups. The novel has a setting on the bank of India's holiest river-the Narmada, amid "the constant traffic of pilgrims, archaeologists, policemen, priests and traders." Gita Mehta represents Narmada River as both the physical entity and the multicultural construct, which became supplementary and complementary to each other. The human relationship within a community and with the members of other communities is closely associated with Narmada River which functions as 'Sutra or the Binding Principle', the binding force to different communities. Thus, the mythical, multicultural and spiritual concepts that the diverse social communities create about the Narmada associate them, as the basic source of such construct is the same.

Mehta's major involvement is with human subsistence in modern times.

**Niroj Rijal**

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