

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

J. M. Coetzee's *Age of Iron* as a Parody of Dante Alighieri's *The Divine Comedy*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and
Social Sciences in the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement

For the Master's Degree of Arts in English

Central Department of English

By

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Letter of Recommendation

This thesis, entitled, " J. M. Coetzee's *Age of Iron* as a Parody of Dante Alighieri's *The Divine Comedy*" has been prepared by Mr. Binod Paudel under my supervision. I recommend this thesis to be submitted for the *Viva Voce*.

Krishna Sapkota

Supervisor

Date :

Letter of Approval

This thesis, entitled "J. M. Coetzee's *Age of Iron* as a Parody of Dante Alighieri's *The Divine Comedy*", submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Binod Paudel, has been approved by the undersigned members of Research Committee.

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Abstract

The present research is based on the rewriting of Dante by J. M. Coetzee. It basically deals with the problematic situation of South Africa in Twentieth Century. It is a parody upon the democratic period of South Africa which is full of discriminations, dominations and injustices. It is against the power of representation of the history. J. M. Coetzee has rewritten Dante's *The Divine Comedy* in order to question the historical truth of the past. It is the way of representing the past to the present context. It is a kind of mocking against authority because in South Africa there is no good government to support the black and other middle and lower class people. Coetzee follows the rewriting of Dante Alighieri to subvert and install the history of South Africa. By rewriting Dante's *The Divine Comedy* Coetzee wants to dig out loopholes and strengths of the historical representation. He wants to blur the center and attempts to raise the marginalized people of history. By revisiting Dante, Coetzee questions the inter-textuality and authenticity of the single text. This research uses parody as a critical tool to undermine the total authenticity of history.

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