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

Binod Paudel

University Campus

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

April 2013
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.

Members of the Research Committee

________________________________________  _______________________

________________________________________  _______________________

________________________________________  _______________________

________________________________________  _______________________

________________________________________  _______________________

________________________________________  _______________________

________________________________________  _______________________

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date: ____________________
Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my respected Guru Krishna Sapkota, Lecturer of Central Department of English, TU, for encouraging me to approach this research with his persistent patience, guidance and inspiration, his compassion and understanding in times of crisis, and for sharing with me, his immeasurable talents and expertise. Amma Raj Joshi, Chief, Central Department of English, TU, Kirtipur, has been of inestimable value to my research. In addition, I am grateful to Shankar Subedi, Lecturer of Central Department of English and other respected teachers without whose contribution this research work can't be witnessed in its present form.

Last but not the least, I owe to my parents Khaga Raj Sharma and Chandra Maya Sharma whose contribution made me to achieve Master Degree from Tribhuvan University. Similarly I would like to thank my friend Narayan Paudel and others for their direct and indirect helping.

April 2013
Binod Paudel
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.
Contents

Letter of Recommendation
Letter of Approval
Acknowledgements
Abstract
I. J. M. Coetzee's Novel Age of Iron as a Rewriting of
   Dante's The Divine Comedy 1-15
II. Age of Iron as a Parody of The Divine Comedy 16-39
III. A Critique of Authenticity in Age of Iron 40-42
Works Cited