

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Representation of Subaltern women in Ha Jin's *Under the Red Flag*

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

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Ram Kumar Katwal has completed his thesis entitled “Representation of Subaltern women in Ha Jin's *Under the Red Flag*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from December 2012A.D. to April 2013A.D. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

Shankar Subedi

April 2013

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences

Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Representation of Subaltern women in Ha Jin's *Under the Red Flag*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Ram Kumar Katwal has been approved by the undersigned member of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

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April 2013

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Ram Kumar Katwal

Abstract

Well-acclaimed short stories of Ha Jin manifest the consequence of the Chinese Cultural Revolution under the command of the Communist Party. Ha Jin also writes about loss and moral deterioration with the keen sense of a survivor. His stories examine life in the bleak rural town of Dismount Fort, where the men and women are full of passion and certainty but blinded by their limited vision as they grapple with honor and shame, manhood and death, infidelity and repression. In “A Man-to-Be”, a militiaman engaged to be married participates in a gang rape, but finds himself impotent when he looks into the eyes of the victim. His fiancée’s family breaks off the engagement, not because of the rape, but because they doubt his virility. In “Winds and Clouds over a Funeral”, a Communist leader disobeys his mother’s last wish for burial to keep his good standing in the party, but his enemies bring him down for being a bad son. “In Broad Daylight” is the story of the public humiliation of a woman accused of being a whore. Her dignified defiance is gradually stripped away as she is dragged through the streets, cursed and spat upon by strangers and family alike. His descriptions of daily life and typical frustrations are refreshing. This is not a book about prison camps or starvation. *Stories Under the Red Flag* is not a book about the tyranny of communism or of escape to freedom. It is simply a book about a man who wants his wishes to be fulfilled, voice to be heard and life to be lived in an uncontrolled way. Anyone who has ever felt frustration by being a little fish in a big pond can identify with Shao Bin who, in spite of setback after setback just keeps on going. There is satire for Communist

regime and to the so called bourgeoisies and the higher people who are engaged in enslaving the subalterns.

Contents

Letter of Approval	ii
Letter of Recommendation	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Abstract	v
I. Ha Jin and the Sense of Subalternity	1- 12
II. Subaltern Consciousness in <i>Under the Red Flag</i>	13– 40
III. Marginalization of Female	41-43
Works Cited	