

Tribhuvan University

Nexus between Masculinity and Culture in Cyrus Nowrasteh's *The Stoning of Soraya M.*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

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Letter of Recommendation

Miss. Nirmala Gyawali has completed her thesis entitled “Nexus between Masculinity and Culture in Cyrus Nowrasteh’s *The Stoning of Soraya M.*” under my supervision. She carried out this research from August, 2017 to April, 2018 and completed it successfully. I hereby recommend her thesis be submitted for the final viva voce.

Prof. Dr. Rebati Neupane

(Supervisor)

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Letter of Approval

The thesis entitled “Nexus between Masculinity and Culture in Cyrus Nowrasteh’s *The Stoning of Soraya M.*” by Nirmala Gyawali, submitted to the central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, has been approved by the under signed members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head of Department

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Date:- _____

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Abstract

This research work explores the nexus between masculinity and culture in *The Stoning of Soraya M.* (2008). Soraya, the protagonist of the movie is the victim of strict Muslim culture of her society. She is also the victim of masculinity and stoning culture. Despite her innocence, Soraya is stoned to death blaming her an adultress. Due to strict rules and norms of her culture she has to accept this cruel fate. Including Soraya, other female characters are also restricted by social and cultural taboos. But they cannot raise their voice against such dominations due to male's control towards female. Soraya can be taken as an example of courageous lady to fight against male's superiority. Only females have become the victims of their culture but not males. It is because males are regarded as the decision makers and they have power to control females. But females have a very low status in the society due to masculinity. Muslim/ Iranian Feminism is taken as a significant approach to analyze the movie in this research work. Anitta Kynsilehto's Islamic Feminism as well as Miriam Cooke's *Women Claim Islam* are taken as supporting theoretical tools to analyze the text.

Likewise, cinematography has played a significant role in the movie. Various cinematic techniques used in the movie clearly present central character's suffering. The cinematography which consists of camera angle, light, setting, dialogue etc justifies the suffering and pathetic condition of the protagonist and other characters. Light is very necessary to create an image exposure on a frame of film. Lighting contributes to the emotional response to an audience watching a film.