

Tribhuvan University

Patriotism in Palpasa Cafe

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Central Department of  
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Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

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Letter of Approval

This thesis, entitled “Patriotism in Narayan Wagle’s *Palpasa Cafe*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Sushil Kumar Thapa has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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## Abstract

This research examines the novel *Palapsa café* by Patriotism theory which is a kind of psychological stimulus triggered by things that are related to one's country. This novel is the story of a Kathmandu-based artist, Drishya, who falls in love with a Nepali American returnee, Palpasa. Along the way Drishya also sees for himself the devastating effects of Nepal's conflict in the hills, via a mysterious old college friend now turned Maoist. These three characters who narrate the story in turns. Palpasa is pushed ahead by the intense sense of expressing love for her motherland. That is why she comes back to her motherland by discarding every available opportunity she gets in America. Unlike the romantic egoist driven by far-fetched ideas, they are committed to the real life. Characters like Drishya and Palpasa demonstrate endurance, vision, determination and intense will to overcome every hurdle that occurs in their lives. In their encounter with all the challenges and hurdles lies traces of heroism traits and attributes. These traits and attributes are examined excluding all the unrelated and unrelated details. The novel also, obviously, reflects the author's own experience as a Brahmin male based largely in Kathmandu. I hope to show that Wagle's journalism background rather than his caste identity is crucial in understanding *Palapsa Café's* successes and failures. It is to Wagle's credit that he has written about what he knows and not attempted to include many different aspects of Nepal which would, incidentally, be a very boring exercise in paint-by-numbers prescriptive fiction. Unfortunately *Palapsa Café* currently seems to be more discussed for a literary prize that it should or should not have won, as well as for its marketing process than for its actual content. One intention of translating the novel into English is surely to help foreigners, both tourist and expatriates alike, to understand what happened in the recent Nepali past.

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