

Tribhuvan University

Personal as Political: Love and Memory in Saul Bellow's *Ravelstein*

**A thesis submitted to the Central Department of English,
Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of
Arts in English**

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July 2009**

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Birat Chaulagain has completed his thesis entitled “**Personal as Political: Love and Memory in Saul Bellow’s *Ravelstein***” under my supervision. He carried out his research from February 2009 to July 2009. I hereby recommend his thesis to be submitted for viva-voce.

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled of “**Personal as Political: Love and Memory in Saul Bellow’s *Ravelstein***” by Birat Chaulagain has been submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University. It has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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Acknowledgements

I am heavily indebted to my thesis supervisor, Mr. Pushpa Raj Acharya for his kind cooperation, guidance and supervision while preparing this research work. Likewise, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Professor Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, Head, Central Department of English for encouraging and providing opportunity to me to carry out the present research.

Similarly, I am grateful to my respected teachers Mr. Sadan Raj Adhikari, Mr. Mahesh Paudel, Mr. Amma Raj Joshi, Mr. Taral Shrestha and Mr. Jiva Nath Lamsal who implicitly or explicitly helped and encouraged me in my pursuit and also I am obliged to all the teachers who taught and encouraged me with valuable suggestions.

I also thank my dear friends Sudip Acharya, Milan Neupane, Subin K.C., Nabaraj Sapkota, Binod Dawadi, Bikram Kumar Sanjel and other friends for their cooperation and help in their ways.

Finally, I wish to express heartfelt gratitude to my respected parents Dharma Raj Chaulagain and Binda Chaulagain, my brothers Bishal Chaulagain and Arun Chaulagain for their boundless inspiration and unflagging support not only for this thesis but also for my whole study.

Birat Chaulagain

July, 2009.

Abstract

Saul Bellow's *Ravelstein* is a story of Jewish protagonist Ravelstein, whose journey from the simple life to the highly materialistic life represents the change in the lives of Jews in Post World War II America. Living with a fear of extinction a fear that recurs in Jewish history from the Biblical stories to holocaust and to the threats to Israel, the Jewish Americans like Ravelstein and Chick realize that living highly materialistic life is yet another threat that can destroy the Jewish lifestyle, values and racial identity. For these characters, friendship, Love and personal as well as historical memory seem to be the only way out for the survival. Thus, the protagonist's personal history at the same time becomes political history.

Contents

Acknowledgements

Abstract

Contents

Chapter I: Introduction: 1-10

Saul Bellow and Holocaust

Holocaust and History

Chapter II: Historiography 11-29

Chapter III: Personal as Political: Love and Memory in Saul Bellow's *Ravelstein*

30-47

Chapter IV: Conclusion 48-49

Works Cited