

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

***Volpone* as a Satirical Comedy: Undercutting the Gift-Giving Rhetoric**

**A Thesis Submitted to Central Department of English
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of
Master of Arts in English**

By

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This thesis entitled ***Volpone* as a Satirical Comedy: Undercutting the Gift-Giving Rhetoric** submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Bishwanath Kharal, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Bishwanath Kharal has completed his thesis entitled “*Volpone* as a Satirical Comedy: Undercutting the Gift-Giving Rhetoric” under my supervision. He carried out his research from 27th June, 2008 A.D to 25th January, 2009. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for Viva Voce.

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Abstract

Jonson as a teacher and reformer of the then Renaissance society, brings the satirical moments in drama and attacks legacy-hunting and worship of gold. He depicts the human greed, demystifies the then patronage system that emphasized on the sycophancy and gift-giving rhetoric. In the play *Volpone*, he remains highly critical of the Renaissance avarice for wealth to be gotten through legacy, flattery and dowry. He takes greed, power, and money as sin and hates human pride, materialistic pleasure, sinfulness of the people and suggests not indulging over such things. Through his work Jonson ridicules the tendency of people of taking gift-giving system as a means for the accumulation of wealth. In his drama, Jonson subjects the materialistic aspect of Renaissance to a close dramatic scrutiny and emphasizes the dangers inherent in it.

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