# WALKING THROUGH THE PATH OF FAITH: A Study on Continuity and Change among Kathmandu Muslims from an Anthropological Perspective

A Dissertation Submitted to the Faculty of the Humanities and Social Sciences Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology For the Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements of Master's Degree in Anthropology

> Submitted By SAROJ NEPAL July, 2011

# TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology Central Campus, Kirtipur

### **RECOMMENDATION LETTER**

# This dissertation entitled "WALKING THROUGH THE PATH OF FAITH: A Study on Continuity and Change among Kathmandu Muslims from an Anthropological Perspective" has been prepared by Saroj Nepal under my supervision and guidance.

I hereby, recommend this dissertation for approval and acceptance.

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Shambhu Prasad Kattel Central Department of Sociology/ Anthropology T. U., Kirtipur

### TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology Central Campus, Kirtipur

### **DISSERTATION APPROVAL**

# We hereby approve that the dissertation "WALKING THROUGH THE PATH OF FAITH: A STUDY ON CONTINUITY AND CHANGE AMONG KATHMANDU MUSLIMS FROM AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE"

by

Saroj Nepal

be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master's of Arts in Anthropology

**Evaluation Committee** 

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Prof. Dr. Om Gurung Head of the Department

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Mr. Uddhav Rai

External

Mr. Shambhu Prasad Kattel Supervisor Date:....

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# ABBREVIATIONS

AD CBS	After Death Central Bureau of Statistics
DDC	District Development Committee
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
Ph D	Doctor of Philosophy

# GLOSSARY

Allah	=God
Churoute	= Nepali Hill Muslims
Dupatta	=Shawl
Hadith	= Compilation of the sayings, approvals and disapprovals of the
	Prophet Mohammed
Hajj	= Pilgrimage
Hajji	= One who had paid the pilgrimage to Mecca
Hijab/ Purdah	=Veil
Id	= the greatest festival of the Muslim like Dashain or Christmas
Islam	= religion followed by Muslims
Kalma	= Namaz in mosque for dead body
Koran (Quran)	= Holy book of Islam; the sacred book of the Muslims and the
	collection of God's revelation to prophet Mohammed.
Madarasa	=Religious School
Mahr	= Amount of money given to the wife in case of divorce is desired in
	the future
Maulana	= Master, reverential form for addressing the Ulama
Mosque, Masjid	= Muslim place of worship, place of prostration
Moulana/ Mullah	= A teacher of the law and doctrines of Islam
Muhammad	= the prophet of Islam
Musalman	=Nepali word for Muslim
Namaj	=Praying
Nawab	=Provincial Governor of the Mughal Empire
Nikaah	= Marriage
Salah	= Ritual pray/ Reading Namaj
Shahadah	= Faith towards the one God
Siyam/ Roja	=Observance of Fasting
Talak	=Divorce
Zakat	=Giving of Alms