

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Transcending Determinism in Thomas Hardy's *Far From the Madding Crowd*

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by

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This thesis titled "Transcending Determinism in Thomas Hardy's" *Far From the Madding Crowd*" submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, by Chandrakala Thulung Rai, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

Thomas Hardy's *Far From the Madding Crowd* demonstrates how the major character Bathsheba Everdene transcended the barriers of determinism. In the beginning of the novel Bathsheba is driven by the effect and socio-economic circumstances, and biological drives including heredity. The story of this novel is centred round the love affairs of its three lovers: Gabriel Oak, William Boldwood, and Sergeant Francis Troy-with the single heroine Bathsheba Everdene. In a moment of deterministic dictations and compulsion, she happened to choose a wrong kind of man as her husband. As a result, she was betrayed by sergeant Troy. His act of betrayal forced her to think about making a false choice under the deterministic circumstances. Finally, the death of Mr. Troy and lapse of Mr. Boldwood into insanity freed her from deterministic blindness. After going through several ups and downs, ifs and buts she developed sensible and rational mind. In a sense, she castigated in the outset, Bathsheba turns out to be a triumphant heroine who stands above the restriction of determinism. Finally, she acted on free will. She achieved emancipation from the slavery of determinism.

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