

Tribhuvan University

**From Spiritual to Experimental Enlightenment: A Study of Hermen Hesse's *Siddhartha* as
an Orientalist Text**

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

By

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September 2012

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Ramesh Kafle has completed his thesis entitled “From Spiritual to Experimental Enlightenment: A Study of Herman Hesse’s *Siddhartha* as an Orientalist Text” under my supervision. He carried out his research from November 2009 A.D. to September 2012 A.D. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Supervisor

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This thesis entitled " From Spiritual to Experimental Enlightenment: A Study of Herman Hesse's *Siddhartha* as an Orientalist Text" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Ramesh Kafle, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Acknowledgements

I would like to express my great sense of gratitude to my respected supervisor Mr. Mahesh Paudyal, Lecturer at the Central Department of English, for his invaluable supervision, constructive comments and suggestions, which helped me to give the final shape of this thesis. The thesis would never have appeared in its present form without his invaluable guidance.

In the same way, I would like to extend my profound gratitude to Prof. Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head of Central Department of English, T.U., for his cooperation and motivation. I am equally indebted to my respected teachers Dr. Sanjeev Upretti, Badri Acharya, Ghanashyam Bhandari and Pom Gurung who helped me to solicit in many ways during the research.

My special thanks goes to my friends Chandra Khatiwada, Sugam Pokharel, Sushil Kuikel, Parbat Bhandari, Khamos Adhikari and Arjan Kafle who constantly encouraged me and offered their help during the period of my research in many ways. My friend Look Raj Adhikari deserves special thanks for his help in computer typing and his regular encouragement to complete the thesis.

This thesis would never complete in the absence of the names of my parents Devendra Kafle and Bhagawati Kafle and my ever encouraging sister Anjana who provided their precious encouragement and support in every step in the course of its conducts.

August 2012

Ramesh Kafle

Abstract

Hermen Hesse's *Siddhartha* recounts the story of a Brahmin named Siddhartha, who renounces the material and family life in search of knowledge. Siddhartha undergoes different phases of life since childhood. He leaves his family, joins with Samana, follows the path of Buddha, marries Kamala, gets a child, works with Kamanswami and leaves them all. The life of Siddhartha passes from his spiritual quest to an experimental one. In other words first he chooses the spiritual path by renouncing the family and friends but later on he moves into the experimental parts of life. Finally, he realizes the reality of life and works as a boat man. He finds himself enlightened working in the river as a boatman.

Siddhartha's ways of life, plot, setting, theme, characters all are oriental. The difference between East and West (Orient and Occident) and the hegemony created by the west by romanticizing and creating myths about India are clearly visible in this novel.

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