

Tribhuvan University

Search for Symbolic Significance of *Aripana*

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By

Sunil Kumar Jha

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English
University Campus, Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Sunil Kumar Jha has completed his thesis entitled "Search for Symbolic Significance of *Aripana*" under my supervision. He carried out his research from August, 2009 to May, 2010. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

Dr. Yam Sharma
(Supervisor)

Date:

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Search for Symbolic Significance of *Aripana*” submitted to the Central Department of English by Sunil Kumar Jha has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date:

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Abstract

The thesis entitled “Search for Symbolic Significance of *Aripana*” endeavors to introduce, analyze, and illustrate the symbolic significance of *Aripanas* (Mithila Folk Arts). Mithila folk arts deal with the cultural, social, and religious way of life in which Maithils live, think and create. Mithila painting (*Aripana*) has different symbols used in particular ceremony and they have their own contextual and religious significance. Symbols and images used in *Aripana* paintings are very contextual which are depicted for harmony Peace and prosperity in their life. Similarly, there are variations in the *Aripana* paintings that occur according to time, place, casts and occasions. We can find differences within the same village. Festivals and ceremonies are the vital parts of life in every culture and Mithila is not out of it. Maithils believe that icons and symbols used in *Aripanas* are related with the root of this culture. Same symbols used in different *Aripanas* vary in their meaning due to different context and ceremonies. Sometime symbols can create ambiguity in viewers' mind. Mithila is very rich in arts and crafts. So, to understand symbolic meaning of *Aripana* paintings, the viewers must have knowledge about this culture.

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