

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**

**Black Humour in Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five***

**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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This thesis entitled **Black Humour in Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five*** submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Hiranya Adhikari , has been approved by the undersigned member of the thesis committee.

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## **Abstract**

*Slaughterhouse-Five* depicts black humor within the fragmented structure of the novel covering the draconic act of fire bombing of Dresden in Second World War. Throughout the novel, the central character, Billy Pilgrim travels back and forth to all the dimensions of time, and he has been aptly termed as a 'time traveler but it is absurd that he cannot control where or when he will travel to. Moreover, in 1945, allied firebombing of Dresden killed more than 135,000 civilians, ironically, the climax occurs not with the bombing of Dresden but with the execution of an American foot soldier (Edgar Derby) who committed a petty theft of teapot. Amidst all of the horror, death and destruction, so much time is spent on the punishment of one man. It becomes black humour that makes the reader feel a sense of unease and powerless.

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