

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Journey from Innocence to Experience: Theme of Quest in *Treasure Island*

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

By

Suman Shrestha

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The thesis titled "Journey from Innocence to Experience: Theme of Quest in *Treasure Island*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Suman Shrestha, has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Research Committee Members:

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.....	Internal Examiner
.....	
.....
.....	External Examiner
.....	
.....
.....	Head
.....	Central Department of English

Date:

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Abstract

This dissertation concentrates on the critical study of Robert Louis Stevenson's novel *Treasure Island* in which he depicts the journey from innocence to experience particularly through the character Jim and exposes the evils of adult world and insight into the duplicity of human character by employing upon the medieval narrative tradition of the romantic quest theme. *Treasure Island* recounts a boy's journey from innocence to experience, giving the physical adventure of a pirate story of a heightened significance where Jim not only gets treasure but also knowledge about himself. At the surface level the physical journey of quest can be seen through naked eyes but at the psychological level the hidden quest of Jim is unrevealed. This novel portrays the theme of quest at both physical and psychological levels. The protagonist fulfils both the physical and mental quest along with adventure and romance that helps Jim enter the world experience from that of innocence.

Contents

	Page
Approval Letter	ii
Acknowledgement	iii
Abstract	iv
Chapter-I	
Introduction	1-10
Chapter-II	
Romance and Adventure	11-28
The Romance Tradition	11
Romance in the Medieval Period	15
Romance in Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century	19
Romance in Eighteenth Century	21
Romance in Nineteenth Century	24
Chapter-III	
Textual Analysis	29-46
Textual Analysis of Treasure Island	29
Romance and Adventures in Treasure Island	36
Journey from Innocence to Experience	41
Chapter IV	
Conclusion	47-49
Works Cited	