

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

From Eternity to Momentary: Siddhartha's Journey in Hesse's *Siddhartha*

A thesis submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, in Partial
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Masters of Arts in English

By

Jagannath Lamichhane

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

March 2008

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This thesis entitled "From eternity to momentary: Siddhartha's journey in Hesse's *Siddhartha*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Jagannath Lamichhane has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

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Internal Examiner

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Jagannath Lamichhane

Abstract

The understanding of Self has been the all time challenge for all spiritual thinkers, teachers, and seekers. Siddhartha, the hero of Hesse's novel *Siddhartha*, also endeavors to understand the Self. He leaves family back along with the entire possibility of material prosperity for the spiritual quest. The hero struggles for years to reach his goal. His initial quest for understanding Self clashes with his experience and destroys his earlier idea of eternity of the Self. In his quest for the Self, Siddhartha negates its eternity to establish the idea of its momentariness that is constructed by his desires, actions, and experiences. Siddhartha rejects the notion of Self as the divine, immortal Soul. After years-long struggle and experience, he realizes that there is no permanent Self to represent the cycle of rebirth. Siddhartha realizes that everything culminates in nothingness and the Self is just an impression constructed by different aspects of experiences and desires.

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