

Tribhuvan University

Seize the Day: Studying Water as a Symbol

Seize the Day: Studying Water as a Symbol **Bishnu Prasad Aryal** **December, 2007**

**A thesis submitted to the Central Department of English, T.U.,
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
degree of masters in English**

By
Bishnu Prasad Aryal
December, 2007

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

This thesis entitled “Seize the Day: Studying Water as a Symbol”, submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Bishnu Prasad Aryal has been approved by the following members of the research committee.

Members of Research Committee:

.....

.....

.....

Internal Examiner

.....

.....

.....

External Examiner

.....

.....

.....

Head,

Central Department of English

Date:.....

Acknowledgements

This thesis owes its existence to Mr. Bijay Kumar Rauniyar, Lecturer, Central Department of English, T. U. for his scholarly guidance and encouragement in bringing this project to completion.

I am grateful to the Head of Central Department of English, Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma for his kindly granting the permission to carry on the research. I feel indebted to my respected gurus Prof. Dr. Shreedhar Prasad Lohani, Prof. Dr. Abhi Narayan Subedi and Dr. Arun Gupto for their innovative guidelines. I would also like to express my special gratitude to respected teachers Dr. Sangita Rayamajhi, Dr. Beerendra Pandey, Dr. Sanjeev Upreti and Mr. Bal Bahadur Thapa for their valuable suggestions.

Sincere gratitude is also due to my parents, brother Rishi Ram Aryal, wife Radhika Adhikari, and friends Bharat Ghimire and Shankar Dhungana for their support and encouragement.

Finally, I want to thank Gobinda Prasad Poudel and Dipendra Prasad Poudel Panga, Kirtipur for their cooperation in bringing the thesis in this shape and format.

Bishnu Prasad Aryal

December, 2007

Abstract

This research entitled "*Seize the Day*: Studying Water as a Symbol" aims to show the protagonist's journey from a sad to happy condition. Tommy feels sad because he regrets the chain of mistakes he has committed due to his inability to understand himself. Only after facing difficulties he is able to recognize himself and feels happy. Although water is essential in human life, it is taken both positively and negatively in different institutions of societies. In this research, water symbolism is a theoretical tool. In the novel, all of the events have been represented by water but in its different forms. The protagonist's burdened situation is represented by the pool, sweat, fluctuated feelings, unstable activities and so on, and the happy situation by the tears seeing the dead body of a stranger. After shedding tears, he feels light and happy. Moreover, he grows as a matured man and understands who he really is.

Contents

Acknowledgements

Abstract

1. Water, Water Everywhere 1

General Concept

Water and Literature

Saul Bellow and Symbolism

2. Water and Symbolism 10

Origin and Concept

Symbolism in Art and Literature

The Symbolist Movement

French Symbolist Movement

American Symbolist Movement

3. Bane and Boon in the Novel 27

4. Conclusion 49

Works Cited