

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Return of the Repressed: A Gothic Reading of Henry James's

The Turn of the Screw

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By

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This thesis entitled "Return of the Repressed: A Gothic Reading of Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw*" submitted to the Central Department of English, by Mr. Gobind Subedi, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw* (1898) is a psycho-gothic study in the context of high Victorian culture of imperial domination and subordination of women. The young governess in the novella becomes the victim of the oppression of patriarchal ideology of that time, which makes her sexually repressed. Her sexual desires traumatize her and she frequently sees the ghosts of her employer's valet. Thus, the study highlights the 19th century conception of identity of women. The abuse of power that enabled domination in imperial and gender relations were paid for at a terrible cost. *The Turn of the Screw* seems to be about the return of the oppressed as well as the repressed.

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