

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

**Celebration of Meaninglessness in
Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five***

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
for the Degree of Master of Arts in English.**

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "Celebration of Meaninglessness in Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five*" submitted to the Central Department of English Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Shekher Pokhrel, has been approved by the undersigned members of the thesis committee.

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Abstract

The present research explores celebration of meaninglessness in Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five*. Widespread devastation of the Second World War, the threat of nuclear annihilation and increasing arms race underpinned by mechanical sophistication render life meaningless for humanity in general and for Vonnegut and his character Billy Pilgrim in particular. But Vonnegut has come out with an answer to these concerns in the novel. Even though wars and deaths are unavoidable, in this modern society we can armor ourselves with the mechanism of celebration by accepting helplessness, fragmentation and meaninglessness as essence of human existence in the face of the grand sweep of history. So, the celebration of meaninglessness exploited in the novel, with the techniques of pastiche, intertextuality, paradox, irony, fragmentation, adaptation and alienation serve as a defense mechanism against the traumatic experiences of war.

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