

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**

**The Search for Self in Saul Bellow's Novel *The Victim***

**A thesis submitted to the Central Department of English  
In the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of  
Master of Arts in English**

**By**

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**December, 2006**

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This Thesis entitled 'The Search for Self in Saul Bellow's Novel *The Victim*' submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Dipak Adhikari has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research committee.

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## **Acknowledgements**

I am highly obliged to my supervisor Mr. Puspa Raj Acharya, Lecturer, at Central Department of English, under whose supervision this paper is penned, provided me with the a lot of constructive comments and suggestion for the preparation dissertation. Without his constant supervision and intellectual guidance this dissertation would never have taken its present shape.

Similarly, my gratitude also goes to Mr. Baikuntha Paudel, and Mrs. Sachhi Ghimire, Lecturer of CDE, who provided me with valuable suggestions in the initial phase of the research.

Lastly, I would also like to extend my gratitude to my friends Surendra Dawadi and Suman Adhikari for their kind help in collecting materials. I sincerely thank to Keshab Adhikari for computer typing and editing.

Dipak Adhikari

## **Abstract**

Saul Bellow deals extensively with the protagonist's search for self in hot New York City. Bellow portrays Asa Leventhal, who is in effort to be the part of the mainstream American society. He is insecure individual both in economic and ethnic position, and he teeters in America's tumultuous social order in search of self. Leventhal is a weak willed man who is unable to confront the most fundamental questions of existence and engage himself with reality. Asa is confronted by an old acquaintance, Allbee only to realize his own inability to define himself and create a suitable orientation in which to understand and adapt to his environment. Leventhal is the representation of modern man who suffers from self-effacing identity crisis. Moreover, Bellow's novel deals with the modern day problem of identity crisis apparent in the protagonist.

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