

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

The Celebration of Innocence in The Catcher in the Rye

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By

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This thesis titled The Celebration of Innocence in *The Catcher in the Rye* submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Anil Parajuli has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

This research study aims to uncover the celebration of innocence in J. D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*. Holden Caulfield, an adolescent and major character in the novel gains bitter experiences of the adult world just within a few days of his visit to the New York City. This visit to night clubs, girl friends, prostitutes and some of his acquaintances is enlightening for him. He quickly realizes the evils of the adult world, feels quite restless being among the adults and wants to escape somewhere. But as he wants to bid good bye to his sister Phoebe, her innocent love compels him to refrain from escaping. He finds joy being among innocent children and expresses his desire to be a catcher in the rye. Holden's journey from innocence to experience and the ultimate realization of the bliss of innocence is elaborated along with the mystical visions of William Blake's innocence, experience and higher innocence and Friedrich Nietzsche's ideas of the three metamorphoses of the human consciousness, the camel, the lion and the innocent child respectively. This study reveals the significance of gaining experience of the world as well.

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