

Tribhuvan University

Quest for Spiritual Transformation in W. H. Auden's Poetry

A thesis submitted to
the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in
Partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts in English

By

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September 2006

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Letter of Approval

The thesis entitled "Quest for Spiritual Transformation in W. H. Auden's Poetry" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Kamal Prasad Regmi has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Acknowledgements

This thesis owes its existence to Mr. Hem Sharma Poudel who not only supervised me throughout the work or went through every line of the manuscript but also gave me consistent encouragement and supporting materials so as to materialize it. Special thanks goes to Professor Chandra Prakash Sharma, the Head of the Department of English, for his innovative guidelines. I cannot help thanking my friends Sadan Raj Adhikari and Nirmal Bhusal for their necessary help in collecting materials and giving relevant suggestions. I would like to express heartfelt gratitude to my father Hum Kant Regmi, mother Yam Kala Regmi and my life partner Bishnu Regmi who always encouraged me to continue my study.

Lastly, I express my thanks to Mr. Bishnu Bhusal of Oasis Computer Service, Naya Bazar, Kirtipur for computer typing, formatting and printing out the materials into the present form.

September 2006

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Abstract

W. H. Auden's poems swing between the sense of decay brought about by modern civilization and a need of creating a spiritual and metaphysical base of humanity in modern era. Therefore, this present research aims at unearthing the idea that Auden in fact envisages the redemption of modern humanity saturated by malaise and maladies of modern civilization through spiritual orientation that in fact his own poetry moves so as to found the concept of *Agape*-- universal love and spirituality. In some of poems like "Musee Des Beaux Arts," "In September 1, 1939," "The Unknown Citizen," "The Plains," and "Canzone," he deals with the themes of callous indifference of human being, war and despotism, modern craze for statistics that put identity of man at stake, desolation and the evil rampant in the world. These themes are what can be defined as the malaise and maladies of modern civilization. In some poems like "Lullaby," "Diaspora," "Nones," and "Petition," the poet sees the redemption of whole humanity only through the creation of a new metaphysical basis or even it can be referred to as the recovery of the lost metaphysical foundation. Therefore, he sees that the redemption is possible only when the whole humanity orients toward the spirituality.

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	iii	
Abstract	iv	
Introduction	1	I
Life and Career of W. H. Auden	2	
Critical Perspective on Auden's Poetry	7	
Methodology	12	II
The Social Background to Modernism	13	
The Moral Dilemma of Modernism	14	
Some Attributes of Modernist Literature	16	
Textual Analysis	19	III
Poems Percolated with Modern Maladies	19	
Spiritual Orientation	29	
Conclusion	37	IV
Works Cited		