

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Abstinence from Meat and Mate for Plant Life: A Resistance to Patriarchy in

Han Kang's *The Vegetarian*

A Thesis

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Supervisor's Recommendation

This is to certify that Mr. Avishek BK with T.U. Reg. No.: 6-2-135-8-2011 has prepared this thesis entitled 'Abstinence from Meat and Mate for Plant Life: A Resistance to Patriarchy in Han Kang's *The Vegetarian*' under my guidance, complying with the format as specified by the Research Committee of the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara. I, therefore, recommend his thesis to be accepted for final evaluation.

Date: September, 2020

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Approval Sheet

This thesis entitled ‘Abstinence from Meat and Mate for Plant Life: A Resistance to Patriarchy in Han Kang’s *The Vegetarian*’ submitted to the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara by Mr. Avishek BK, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Table of Contents

Supervisor's Recommendation	ii
Approval Sheet	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Table of Contents	v
Abstract	vi
Chapter 1: Hang Kang and The Vegetarianism	1-9
Context and the Issues	1
Review of Literature	4
Organization of the Study	8
Chapter 2: The Rise of Radical Nature and Resistance of Patriarchy	10-28
Radical Feminism	12
Rise of Radicalism Over Exploitation	15
Bloody dreams as Effects of Violence, Exploitation and Repression	18
Abstaining Meat and Mate: Autonomy of Self	22
Chapter 3: Living Plant Life for gender neutrality	29-31
Works Cited	32-34

Abstract

The aim of this study is to explore women domination and radical protest in Han Kang's novel *The Vegetarian*. The author empowers the central character Yeong-hye to resist patriarchy. Yeong-hye has been under violence and has lived being suppressed with repressed feelings throughout her childhood and married life for five years. Not only to Yeong-hye, but also to her sister In-hye the author has given a strong role to resist patriarchy and support her sister. Both the sisters leave their husbands and live their life independently. The argument of this thesis is that the women can sacrifice their lives for resisting and to get rid of patriarchy. The protagonist finds that meat and mate are the means of female exploitation, so she abstains from them to revolt against patriarchal domination and later she stops eating any kind of food as she regards a plant to herself. Living plant life is to neutralize gender discrimination and to show equality between sexes. Throughout this work, radical feminism is applied as a theoretical tool to study the text.