

DECENTERING THE SPIRITUAL IN B. P. KOIRALA'S "A TALE": A DECONSTRUCTIVE READING

Nabaraj Dhungel¹ & Kalpana Thapa²

¹Permanent Faculty of TU, Department of English, Campus of the International Languages (Bishwa Bhasa), Faculty Member MA English, R R Campus, Kathmandu, Nepal

²Teaching Faculty, Department of English, Kathmandu Model College and Golden Gate International College, Kathmandu, Nepal

Received: 27 Mar 2021

Accepted: 03 Apr 2021

Published: 10 Apr 2021

ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to explore and examine how B. P. Koirala subverts the hierarchy of spiritual superiority and material inferiority decentering the spiritual and recentering the material in order to glorify the physical and the earthly as the heavenly. It also endeavours to depict the satisfaction from material prosperity as the ultimate satisfaction even though the material riches are considered to be ephemeral and transitory whereas the spiritual as the permanent, timeless and spaceless. Through the story, Koirala challenges the politics of elevating the spiritual enlightenment, godly greatness and intellectual beauty bringing the earthly enlightenment, humanly greatness and bodily beauty at the center. This study also shows how Koirala brings the upside down through the godly and humanly characters and the qualities. Koirala's strong question upon the so-called superior, sacrificial, open hearted, all-loving, all-protecting and all- inspiring god, who gets threatened by the power of a human being and conspires to destroy saintly life of the man, exposes the god's lust for power and thirst for intellectual superiority. Though Koirala's tale seems to be highlighting and supporting Bishwamitra-Menaka myth, it actually challenges the myth of god's grandeur, human rationality, age boundary in marriage, male superiority and female selfishness uplifting the margin. Koirala asserts that the terrestrial pleasure is worthier than the celestial one as it contributes to continue human race and humanity. This research excavates Koirala's effort to dismantle the traditionally established notion of heavenly grandness and earthly littleness, mind rationality and body emotionality, rational superiority and emotional inferiority, male supremacy and female submissiveness, ruling males and ruled females, godly positivity and humanly negativity, and godly selflessness and manly selfishness. To justify the decentering and recentering politics of Koirala through the story, the deconstructive ideas of Jacques Derrida have been taken. The major motive of the study is to display how conventionally established structures of thought and practice can be deconstructed and new structures can be formulated exalting the concept of multiple meanings, centers and truths.

KEYWORDS: *Decentering, Politics, Spirituality, Materiality, Multiplicity*