



**A Three-Day National Seminar**

On

***Literature and the Sacred:***

***Legacies, Issues and the Path Ahead***

**(Organised by Department of English, University of Kashmir)**

**17-19 March 2014**

**Conference Venue: Conference Hall, Humanities Block**

**Kashmir University, Hazratbal, Srinagar**

**Jammu and Kashmir**

**Department of English**

**University of Kashmir**

**Hazratbal, Srinagar-190006**

Dear all,

It gives us great pleasure to announce that the Department of English, University of Kashmir is going to organise a three-day national seminar on *Literature and the Sacred: Legacies, Issues and the Path Ahead* from **17 to 19 March 2014**.

### ***Theme and Objectives***

The question about the meaning of life, even though dismissed with disdain by some positivists and postmodernists, remains one of the most pertinent and challenging questions man has ever asked and continues to ask. All great literature from Homer onwards is preoccupied with this question, a feature it shares with philosophy and religion. Even the modern literary masters have been seriously concerned with this question and in their literary output they have tried to come to terms with the despairing answer suggested by contemporary science and philosophy.

Notwithstanding the dominant philosophical trend of the post-Enlightenment thought which seeks to gloss over the questions pertaining to the ultimate meaning, these questions pose themselves today as vigorously as ever. The failure of post-Nietzschean philosophical and critical attempts to provide a satisfactory resolution to the issue of nihilism mirrored with acute poignancy in (post)/modern literature and art, constitutes an important dimension for artists and critics.

The idea of the sacred posed in this context gains greater urgency as prophesied by Nietzsche himself and acknowledged in many important contemporary works. The exploration of resources from non-Western traditions and pre-modern West has gained wider currency today and attracted attention of litterateurs from across the world.

The failure or the pathologies of the process of secularization and equally pathological fundamentalist versions or appropriations of the Sacred that have affected the psychological and spiritual health of the world calls for a sustained engagement with so far largely un-theorized or unexplored questions in the major schools of criticism. The present seminar *Literature and the Sacred: Legacies, Issues and the Path Ahead* is an attempt to explore the various dimensions of this absorbing issue at various levels.

Proposed and required to be interdisciplinary in line with the new culture of interdisciplinary curriculum and aiming to engage scholars from different traditions and persuasions to explore various dimensions of the issue, papers are invited on the following sub-themes:

#### ***Subtitles:***

1. Artistic experience and the Sacred.

2. Modernity and the eclipse of the Sacred.
3. The Sacred and Postmodernism.
4. Traditional Criticism and the Sacred.
5. The Sacred and Absurdism.
6. Eco-criticism and the Sacred.
7. Feminist Criticism and the Sacred.
8. The Sacred in the Eastern literature.

***Call for Papers and Guidelines:***

Aspiring participants are requested to send their abstracts latest by 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2014. Papers should be in MS Word format, Times New Roman, font size 12 with 1.5 space. Abstracts would be subject to review by a technical committee. Abstracts sent after the deadline and/or not accompanied by full registration fee will not be accepted. The word limit for the abstract is 250 and for full paper 2000 words. The time limit for the presentation will be 20 minutes followed by discussion. In addition to these, the following guidelines should be kept in mind:

- Select the theme that best characterises your research paper. Theme selections will be used to begin the process of organising presentations into sessions.
- Proposals related to subthemes other than the ones identified here, could also be considered.
- Papers should be written as continuous expository narratives, not as lists of points or as Power-Point presentations.
- Authors must ensure the accuracy of citations and quotations.
- Papers submitted for publication must be written according to the latest MLA Style and must be thoroughly checked and proofread before the submission.

Biographical Information should include the name of the organisation or institution in which you work as also the position or title you hold within the organisation/institution and a short statement of your interests.

***Registration Fee:***

Participant Teachers : Rs. 1100

Research Scholars : Rs. 600

P.G. Students : Rs. 150

Payments should be made as Demand Draft in favour of Head, Department of English, University of Kashmir, payable at Srinagar.

### ***Important Instructions***

- Boarding will be provided only for registered outstation delegates on prior intimation latest by 15<sup>th</sup> Feb.
- TA and DA will be paid to university teachers according to the set rules of the university. Research Scholars will be offered lodging and hospitality. Besides those Research Scholars whose abstracts are of high quality will be offered TA for Sleeper Class train or bus fare.
- Foreign delegates are welcome to participate and make presentations in the seminar but can be offered only lodging and hospitality because of the financial constraints.
- Breakfast and dinner will be served in the guesthouse where the participants will be lodged and working lunch and tea between sessions will be provided by the organisers at the conference venue.
- Weather in mid-March will be pleasant but relatively colder. Participants are advised to carry woollens and warm clothing.

**Correspondence:** All correspondence relating to the seminar should be addressed to: [hameedah.nayeem@gmail.com](mailto:hameedah.nayeem@gmail.com).

### **Organising Committee**

Patron: Prof. Talat Ahmad  
Honourable Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir

Director: Professor HameedaBano  
Head, Department of English, University of Kashmir  
[hameedah.nayeem@gmail.com](mailto:hameedah.nayeem@gmail.com)

Members:

1. Dr NusratBazaz
2. Dr IffatMaqbool
3. Dr Mufti Mudasir

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**Registration form:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of the Paper: \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodation Required:                      Yes/No

Details of the DD:

No \_\_\_\_\_ for Rs. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name of the Bank \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate: It is certified that my Research Paper is original and unpublished.

Signature