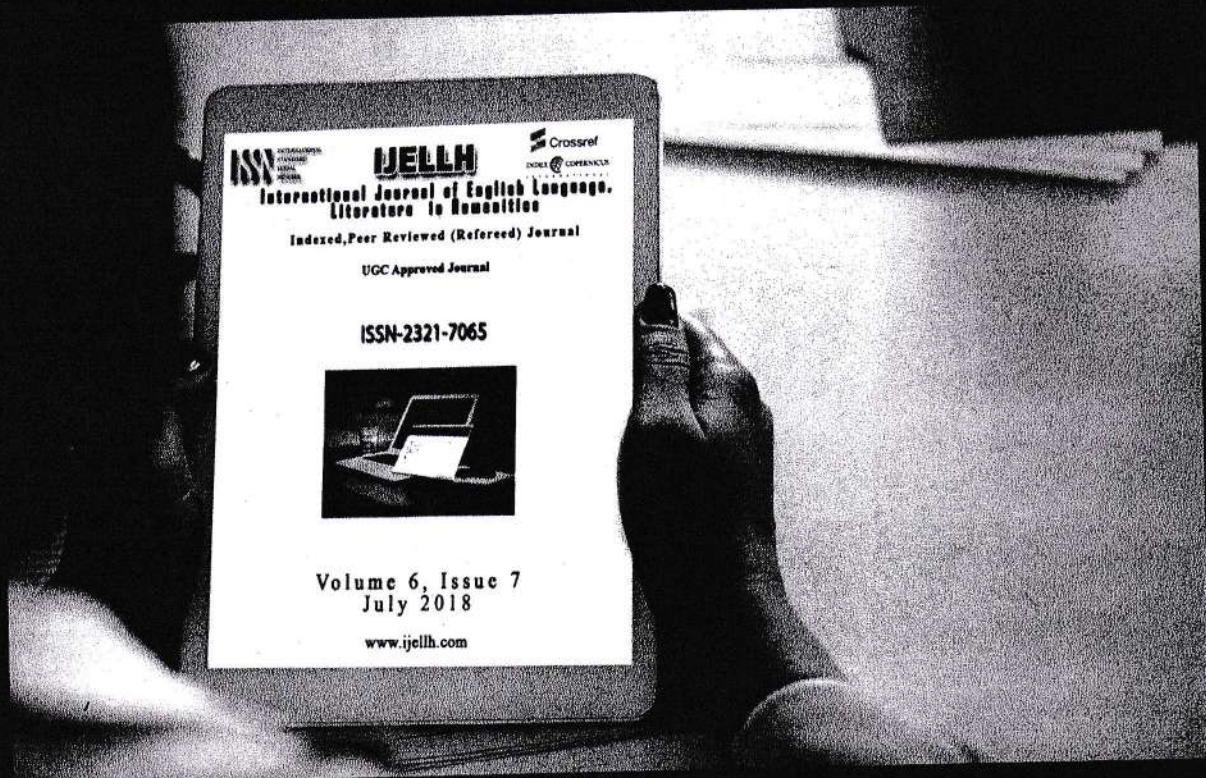


IJELLH

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENGLISH
LANGUAGE, LITERATURE IN HUMANITIES



Volume 6, Issue 7, July 2018

MONTHLY JOURNAL

An international platform for researchers

ISSN INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER

Crossref

IJELLH

INDEX COPERNICUS
INTERNATIONAL

UGC Approved Journal

Indexed, Peer Reviewed (Refereed) Journal

Volume 6, Issue 7, July 2018

**International Journal of English Language, Literature
in Humanities**

Volume 6, Issue 7, July 2018

	HARIHARAN'S THE THOUSAND FACES OF NIGHT		
29	BECKET'S PASSAGE TOWARDS "THE STILL CENTER OF ETERNITY": THE ROLE OF THE KNIGHTS IN THE PRELUDE TO MARTYRDOM	✓ DR. NITAI CHANDRA SAHA	322-326
30	A STUDY OF PLURALITY OF CULTURE AND IDENTIFY IN THE MAJOR WORKS OF V. S. NAIPAUL	DEEPIKA SHEKHAWAT	327-341
31	RECONSTRUCTING HOME AND IDENTITY IN THE POETRY OF MEENA ALEXANDER AND SUJATA BHATT	ADITI JANA	342-349
32	DERACINATED SUBALTERN: THE TRIBES IN MAHASWETA DEVI'S <i>CHOTTI MUNDA & HIS ARROW</i> AND KAMALA MARKANDAYA'S <i>THE COFFER DAMS</i>	G. VIDHYA LAKSHMI, DR. M. NATARAJAN	350-357
33	"EXPOSITION OF THE EXISTENTIAL ANGST AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS IN MANJULA PADMANABHAN'S <i>ESCAPE</i> "	LEKSHMI PRAKASH.L, ROHIT.R , KRISHNAJA MOL K	358-367
34	EXEMPLIFICATION OF THE VICTORIAN SPIRIT OF SCIENCE OVER MYTH: A READING OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S <i>THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES</i>	PRIYANKA NATH CHOUDHURY	368-379
35	THE EVOLUTION OF WOMEN IN THE PATRIARCHAL SOCIAL FABRIC OF BENGAL DURING 20 TH CENTURY AND ITS VIVID REPRESENTATION IN THE SHORT STORIES OF TAGORE.	KUMAR BAIBHAV	380-392
36	NEGOTIATING DIFFERENCES: FROM VICTIMIZATION TO TRANSCENDENCE IN I AM VIDYA: A TRANSGENDER'S JOURNEY	V. SENTHIL NATHAN	393-399
37	A STRONG SELF- ASSERTION AND AN UNFLINCHING QUEST FOR IDENTITY IN LAVANYA ANKARAN'S <i>THE RED CARPET: A CRITICAL STUDY</i>	BATHULA SRIHARI RAO, PROF. S. PRASANNA SREE	400-407

Dr. Nitai Chandra Saha

Associate Professor of English

Munshi Premchand Mahavidyalaya

Sevoke Road, Siliguri-734001

Dist. Darjeeling, West Bengal

India

nitaisarthak.saha@gmail.com

Becket's Passage towards "the still center of eternity": The role of the Knights in the path
to Martyrdom

Abstract

Murder in the Cathedral is a study in the philosophical and religious aspects of martyrdom, and so there is very little room for effective characterization. The Priests, the Tempters, and the four Knights are types rather than flesh and blood creations, and Eliot deliberately makes little effort to present them personally. The four knights first confront Thomas Becket at the cathedral of Canterbury in a political argument, during which Thomas was openly contemptuous of them, despite their obvious drunkenness. They left and returned with more men, and when Thomas refused to leave with them, they brutally murdered him in the midst of the cathedral, a great sacrilege considering the holy ground.

In his versification and language, Eliot could achieve remarkable success, but he himself was quick to realize that he had given, "attention to versification at the expense of plot and character." The characters in Eliot's plays are not individualized in the true sense. With few exceptions, as for example, in *The Confidential Clerk* and the chorus in *Murder in the Cathedral*, all the characters are aristocratic, either by birth or by connection or association. They are all sophisticated. "Even when they are comparatively insensitive, they live in the smart world of country houses and cocktail parties. They are often cosmopolitan, a natural extension of that same world" (Pearce 48). They have insights which are of a rare and unfamiliar kind. It is the complexity and profundity of their insights, their spiritual conflicts which have come in the way of the appreciation of Eliot's plays. There are also plays in which there is complexity and profundity, but the characters are real, the reactions of the spectators feel a sense of involvement and hence enjoy the play. But Eliot's characters lack reality, they are, "altogether too cerebral, creations of the mind unimpelled by emotion."