

## PREFACE

The present dissertation is about the comparative study of the two major religions of the world, Hinduism and Buddhism, that has given order and peace to our civilization. The main text of the study has been divided into five chapters.

The first chapter traces the origin of the Newar communities which practices Buddhism in a different manner.

The second chapter focuses four major philosophical concepts of the two religions, Hinduism and Buddhism viz, *God, Atman, Karma* and *Moksha*. In both religions, the word *Dharma* plays a very important role. God is the centre of Dharma. The term God itself becomes irrelevant in Hinduism as the divine nature of God lies within. Hinduism believes in existence of absolute personal *Atman*, and the Godhead, *Paramatma*. The Buddhist theory of no soul is predominantly a rejection of Hindu orthodox philosophy. Both Buddhism and Hinduism believe in an endless cycle of births, known as *samsara*. They also both seek release from this cycle.

The philosophy of Karma in these two religions are very similar. The law of Karma is believed to be dynamic, fluid and flexible because it is neither rigid nor mechanical.

The third chapter discusses about the Vajrayana School in Nepal. Nepal become not only a focal point where these divergent religious practices converged, but also a melting pot of different kinds of religious thoughts and rituals which were transformed into the Nepali version of Vajrayana.

Chapter four explores religious symbolism and rituals in Nepal. Nepal is the centre point of Hinduism and Buddhism. Lumbini and Pashupatinath join Hindus and Buddhists together.

Chapter five brings the concluding note. Comparing these two religions we find both similarities and differences. In the context of Nepal, we can find that bond between Hinduism and Buddhism is very strong Hindus and Buddhist have regard and respect to each others and both religious groups celebrate their spiritual activities in spirit of togetherness.

The present world faces a great deal of crisis because values and norms of human beings are very quickly vanishing in this world. If we understand both these religions properly, we can instill norms and values to the society.