

DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis entitled **Ethics, Monstrosity, Stupidity: Animal Poetics & Contemporary 'Literary' Thinking** has been prepared by me under the guidance of Dr. Ranjan Ghosh, Associate Professor of English, University of North Bengal. No part of this thesis has formed the basis for the award of any degree or fellowship previously.

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Certificate

I certify that Ratul Nandi has prepared the thesis entitled **Ethics, Monstrosity, Stupidity: Animal Poetics & Contemporary 'Literary' Thinking**, for the award of Ph.D. degree under my guidance. He has carried out the work at the Department of English, University of North Bengal.







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Preface

My project **Ethics, Monstrosity, Stupidity: Animal Poetics & Contemporary Literary Thinking** aims to bring 'animal thinking' and 'question of literature' into a close intellectual embrace. Predominantly conceptual, this project invites its readers to discover how a human enquiry into the animal's ontology is inescapably tied up with some of the core assumptions of 'literary thinking'.

First and foremost, I would like to express my utmost debt to my PhD supervisor Dr. Ranjan Ghosh, Department of English, University of North Bengal, for his unceasing intellectual and moral support throughout the journey. I fondly remember how my work drew its theoretical nourishment and energy from even some of the most casual discussions I had with him on the topic. It truly becomes full-filling to work under the supervision of someone who has remained the fountainhead of all my intellectual stimulations. I seize this opportunity to extend my deep gratitude to him. I am also thankful to the other members (some of them have been my direct teachers during my P.G. days) of the English Department for their support.

This PhD work would not have been possible without the moral support from Dr. Jayjit Sarkar of Raiganj University. He extended his help when there was no one to help. I could never thank him enough.

I am also grateful to three particular individuals who offered their gratuitous help in the form of technical suggestions and feedback when I needed it the most: Dr. Rupayan Mukherjee, Dr. Jagannath Basu & Dr. Subhashish Paul.

This thesis is dedicated to my father, who left me in the summer of 2016. It was *Bapi's* (The word I used to call my father) sheer love and fascination for the animal world that left a lasting impression on my juvenile mind. This work is as much *his* as it is mine.

My acknowledgement will remain incomplete if I do not mention my family's role in bringing this work to its fruition: My mother, who was always there to inspire; my wife, Mitu, who was a co-passenger in my entire journey. She ensured I got the time I required to finish this work while shouldering almost everything by herself. My little son, Bidit, always snooped around my writing desk, anticipating an imaginary chance encounter with "animals" his father is working.

Finally, I am obliged to all animals, the real and fictional, for allowing me to speak in their names.