

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis is to explore the individual's search for the highest and excellent values in an age which discredits his efforts to sustain positive human aspirations and values by imposing a false self-image of a limited human being constrained to live with a commonsensical view of reality and time in an atmosphere of sickness, disease and death. The journey undertaken by Hans Castorp in *The Magic Mountain* encompasses the tale of adventurous investigation into the nature of life through his contact with the 'questionable' realm but this kind of inquiry is undertaken at great personal risks. The novel is carried out on the mythical pattern of the line of such seekers who establish and consolidate man's relation with the totality of his faculties. This research work aims to link man with his archetypal self through the myth of the eternal seeker, and thus determines his status in the cosmic scheme of life. It has been investigated through archetypal approach which unfolds man's primitive psyche beneath the carefully guarded surface of man's consciousness.

The whole spiritual adventure in the end raises him from the level of mediocre to the level of genius in the realm of experience. The rigid categories of experience will have to collapse in order to establish a firm claim for the humane values: otherwise, the catastrophe like the Great War could be the only awakener for man to make him feel the sense of crisis and the underlying gulf between the fundamental and commonsensical reality. In this research project, the novel has been treated in terms of Faustian quest for the totality of man's experience which gives the novel a new meaning and significance apart from the available many. This way of dealing with the novel establishes Mann's cosmopolitan genius as a modern version of Goethe in *The Magic Mountain*.