

## **JOYCE AND THE IRISH STAGNATION: A JOURNEY TO PERSIA AND BACK**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Irish scholarship and writing is very sensitive when it comes to the issue of the of English Colonization, colonial forces, independence and the matter of the Post-Colonial. In fact a very Irish consciousness is present in almost all the prose works, poems and dramas of this nation, and all writers in this trend, directly or by implication have sought to portray these matters through their works. The paper will endeavor to delve into that consciousness of acclaimed Irish writer James Joyce, which attempts to create an alternative cultural identity different from the English by orientalising the Irish sensibilities and molding it as an opposition to English Imperialism. Borrowing heavily from the theories of Edward Said, and from Edward Soja, Bill Ashcroft et al the paper will look to illustrate how Joyce “writes back” to the Empire trying to destabilize the colonial culture; yet his identification with the Orient as a Romantic Refuge contrastively crumbles into a place of degeneration, despair and depravity pinpointing James Joyce the —The European’s’ —ambivalence towards the matter of the Orient: as the boy in Araby is made to realise that escapist fascination is a vain attempt. Focussing on the dissolution of Irish Orientalism into English-French Orientalism, I shall attempt to show how Joyce strove to but failed in transforming Dark Rosaleen into a Gaelic Madonna.

**KEYWORDS:** Orient, Paralysis, Irish Orientalism, Orientatism, Dark Rosaleen