



**Engaging with Religion, “dharma” and Ecological Consciousness in
Amitav Ghosh’s *Gun Island***



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ABSTRACT

Amitav Ghosh in Gun Island (2019) redraws the borders between science and religion, myth and religion, dreams and reality and between faith and practice and returns to the basic Vedantic idea of ‘ekam’ or oneness of all creatures. In fact he erases the borders altogether and attempts to create a religion of trans-continental humanity through the use of the concept of “dharma”. Ghosh, does not intend to demystify the tale of the snake goddess Manasa but relates it to events in recorded history and tries to

delve into the interconnectedness of myths that connect Bengal to Italy. His characters embark on a journey for the forgotten /non-existent spaces in chronological history and uses memory (collective and individual) to unravel the myth of the “banduki saudagar”. Ghosh’s endeavour is to write a climate fiction that engages with myth, history and ecological consciousness.

KEYWORDS

Myth, Climate fiction, Bhuta, dharma, Religion