

RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE MYTHIN GIRISH KARNAD PLAY “YAYATI”

---

Gokulapriya.P<sup>1</sup>, Priyadharshini.P<sup>2</sup>

Department of English Literature, Thiruvalluvar University, India.

Department of English Literature, Thiruvalluvar University, India.

---

**Abstract**

Yayati Girish karnad the first play taken from Mahabharata. The play represents responsibility, sacrifices of self-realization. Yayati's role is characterized or his insatiable desires and symbolized through his actions. The story is all about the transfer of premature old age between the son and father. It tells us how the transformation brings the self-realization. The paper is a study of myth in the play of Yayati.

**Keywords:** Yayati, Myth, Self-realization, Responsibility, sacrifices.

**I. Introduction**

Girish Raghunath karnad was one of the great modern Indian writers. He is a well-known contemporary writer, playwright, actor, director, and script writer. Karnad has translated them into English. The first play of karnad, published in 1961. His play became a by words for thoughts and conception. Interpretation as ancient myth from the Mahabharata in modern conditions.

**II. The Myth**

‘Myth’ derives from the Greek word ‘mythos’ means ‘utterance’. It refers to spoken or written story. In general myth denotes which is not true and used a lot of representational elements. Myth is always concern with creation. It also meant simply speech myth are one of the division which serve to control the Indianans in our literature.

**III. Myth Used In ‘Yayati’**

Yayati is a traditional tale written by Girish Karnad, Yayati has a new meaning and significance of today's life. The play first introduced in Kannada and later he gave the work in English. He took mythological element from two great epics The ‘Mahabharatha’ and the ‘Kathasarithsagra’. Yayati has mentioned in Mahabharatha in the chapter of 73 to 93 of Adiparvah. It was his first reworking on a Myth. Yayati was the tenth of Brahma's family tree. The major characters are Sharmishtha, Devayani, Yayati, Pooru and Chithralekha.

**IV. The Yayati**

The story begins with Devayani, the daughter of shukracharya the guru of Asuras. Sharmistha the daughter of demon

**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

king Vishaparva, went on river bank to bath as the windblown, attire of Sharmistha has flown away.

Sharmistha took Devayani's attire in order to save her from naked. Soon Devayani began a quarrel and with Sharmistha, later she pushed her into the well. Fortunately the king Yayati went through the way and gave his hand to rescue Devayani as per Hindu beliefs if any men who touch the right hand of any women, then he should marry the girl. Yayati married Devayani and shukracharya cursed Sharmistha to be lifetime servant or maid to Devayani later Sharmistha develops a secret affair towards Yayati. Shukracharya cursed Yayati for his traitness old age.

Yayati confesses and later shukracharya gave a way to recover and get his youngness. Yayati requested to his kingdom but no one stepped forward to get his pre-mature old age. That one of his son Pour, who born for Sharmistha with Yayati. His wife Chitralakha first feels proud and later regrets her husband's action for losing her own happiness.

Later, Chitralakha takes poison and puts an end to her life. This opens the eyes of Yayati for being selfish and returns his youthness of Pour to him and leave into the forest as a hermit.

**V. Conclusion**

As per the Mythological terms Yayati character has been portrayed as a pleasure seeker. Because of his transformation of his premature old age to his son portrays him as ego and selfish personality throughout the play Chithralekha demise has brought him to realize his own mistakes. Thus the way author Girish Karnad drawn the play into an interesting and without arming the historical and Mythological terms.

**References**

- Vanitha.S and Abidi.s. A "Myth and Reality in Girish Karnad Plays Yayati" Vol3, Issue 3, 2016, Web.
- Watts, Akanksha Deep Inder Kaur. Yayati: "Myth or Reality" Vol 4, Issue 4, 2017, Web.