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## Aging as crisis in Modernity: A Reading of Girish Karnad's *Yayati* and Mahashwetha Devi's *Rudali*



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**Abstract** : This paper reads Girish Karnad's **Yayati** and Mahashwetha Devi's **Rudali** as texts of modernity in the Indian context. It argues against reading them as purely mythical or traditional narratives and suggests that they transform the historical mythical materials in order to carry forward their preoccupation with modern experiences. Secondly it also suggests that these texts even though pursue different styles of narration are comparable thematically in that their locus is the fixation of our modern times i.e. class and sexual relations. As an extension of these concerns they present the phenomenon of aging as crisis of modern Man.

**Key words :** modernity, modern angst, modern aging, one dimensional man, female desire, fantasy elements, pleasure principle, repression, structure of feeling, voyeurism, family drama, hegemonic practice, class relations, sexual relation, Yayati legend, rudali legend.

