

Yayati



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Reviews

Thorough information! Its such a good study. Sure, it is perform, still an amazing and interesting literature. Once you begin to read the book, it is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding.
(Evie Emmerich)

YAYATI

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Oxford University Press, New Delhi, India, 2007. Paperback. Book Condition: New. First Edition. In the Mahabharata, King Yayati is cursed to old age in the prime of life for a sexual misdemeanour of his and tries to circumvent the catastrophe by demanding that his son, Pooru, lend him his youth in exchange for the curse. This unusual myth about a parent's aggression against his offspring has inspired some of India's most eminent writers to explore it in fiction, poetry, and drama. Girish Karnad was only twenty-two when he attempted his interpretation in the play, *Yayati*. What makes his version of the tale so resonant, and startlingly original, is that he rejects the traditional glorification of the son's "self-sacrifice" and, against a backdrop of lust, jealousy, and racial tensions, foregrounds the tragic choices with which the young prince and his bride are confronted. Angry, energetic, ambitious, and strongly influenced by the tragic vision of the Existentialists, the play immediately established Karnad's reputation as a dramatist in Kannada and launched him on his celebrated career in the Indian theatre. *Yayati* has been translated into different Indian languages and has continued to be performed all over the country during the half century since it was written.

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