

Exploring the Themes of Identity and Human Existence in Girish Karnad's Hayavadana

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Abstract: *This paper investigates the complex themes of identity and human existence as portrayed in Girish Karnad's Hayavadana. It examines the intricate processes through which individuals construct a sense of self within the broader context of society and the world. The study explores how personal experiences, cultural backgrounds and societal interactions influence the formation of identity, both individually and collectively. It also addresses fundamental philosophical questions concerning the nature of humanity, particularly our relationships with others and our place within the universe. Identity is presented as a multifaceted concept, shaped by an individual's beliefs, values, perceptions and self-awareness. Furthermore the paper emphasizes that human existence is profoundly interconnected with our relationships with family, friends and the wider community. Girish Karnad's play Hayavadana, first performed in 1971, is a two act theatrical work. Through a rich blend of mythology and folklore, Karnad explores the complexities surrounding the human quest for completeness. The narrative not only questions the notion of personal identity but also examines the struggles individual face in their pursuit of wholeness within an ever evolving social and cultural framework*

Keywords: Identity, Completeness, Mythology, Folklore, Human Quest

