

ISSN-0976-8165



# THE CRITERION

AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL IN ENGLISH

Bi-Monthly Peer-Reviewed eJournal

**VOL. 15 ISSUE-3 JUNE 2024**

**15 YEARS OF OPEN ACCESS**

Editor-In-Chief: **Dr. Vishwanath Bite**  
Managing Editor: **Dr. Madhuri Bite**

[www.the-criterion.com](http://www.the-criterion.com)

AboutUs: <http://www.the-criterion.com/about/>

Archive: <http://www.the-criterion.com/archive/>

ContactUs: <http://www.the-criterion.com/contact/>

EditorialBoard: <http://www.the-criterion.com/editorial-board/>

Submission: <http://www.the-criterion.com/submission/>

FAQ: <http://www.the-criterion.com/fa/>



ISSN 2278-9529

**Galaxy: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal**  
[www.galaxyimrj.com](http://www.galaxyimrj.com)

## The Pain of Ageing

**Dr. R. Prabhakar**  
Associate Professor,  
Dept. of English,  
Vikrama Simhapuri University,  
Nellore, AP, India.

I, like the ancient Sibyl,  
Suffer from gout  
With five gray hairs  
As cursed soul, oscillate  
Between heaven and hell  
As an insatiable nomad.  
At this desolate lonely age  
After losing my mother-like-wife,  
I wait for death like Sibyl.  
If people ask, 'What do you want at this dying age?'  
I do profess, "I want to die."  
I hanker for death;  
To get transformed  
From death-in-life to life-in-death.

I delve deep through  
My furrows of memory lanes of hard times  
Like an explorer of the antiques.  
I was like the Moses  
And worked like a bullock

Cultivated the infertile land (my family).

I ploughed the rough land,

And sowed the hale and hearty seeds.

O! God! There was sprout,

But no ripe,

Rock ... but no water.

My offspring scattered like Jews,

And flew with mighty, and wimpled, wings

Leaving me alone.

Today . . .

I, as an orphan, though

Lead my offspring to the Promised Land.

There is no promise in my life at this dying age.

I starve, hankering for death;

The perpetual tranquilizer

Where are you . . . ?

My life companion:

My death? My savior!

Batter my shattered heart,

Ravish me... Betroth me...

Receive my tiny burden

Leave my rest... Leave my rest.