

Degree – iii (English Honours)

Paper – vii

Book – Indian Poetry in English

A.K. RAMANUJAN

A.K. Ramanujan is regarded as a great renowned poet, and linguist of India. Though Ramanujan was an expatriate academician teaching linguistics in Chicago. The Indian sensibility and experience were deeply rooted in him. He retained an unfractured Indian spirit.

With only three volumes, *The Striders* (1966), *Relations* (1971), and *Selected Poems* (1976), Ramanujan proved himself to be one of the most talented and extraordinary Indian poets. He also translated with cogent competence some of the **Vachanas** from Kannada and the classic *karunthohai* in fifteen poems from a **Classical Tamil Anthology**. His most recent work *Second Sight* was published in 1986.

Indian myth, history, culture, heritage and above all, its topography and environment from the myriad threads in the fabric of his poetry. To quote him, 'I must seek and will find my particular hell only in my Hindu mind.' The family is usually the central metaphor on his poetry and explores the hinterland of memory, giving his experiences disturbingly

vivid forms. His poetry has nothing palpably American or British; it communicates most naturally the unaffected the Indian sensibility.

He articulates his artistic identity thus : ‘ English and mu disciplines given me mu outer forms... linguistic, metrical, logic and other such ways of shaping experience; and my first thirty years in India, my frequent visits and field trips, my personal and professional preoccupations with Kannada, Tamil, the classic and folklore give me my substance, my inner forms, images and symbols. They are continuous with each other, and I no longer can tell what comes from where.’

Ramanujan style has been described as limpid and calm. Ramanujan tried to extend the resources from the English language in his poetry. in rhyme and rhythm, he showed variety; he wrote both in accented-based rhythms and verse libre. His poems reveal an acute sense of precision, the contours of phrases, and a monitoring of the rise and fall of rhythm.

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