AK RAMANUJAN

AK Ramanujan is a pioneering modernist poet of India. He is one of India's finest poets, translators, folklorists, essayists and scholars of the twentieth century. Ramanujan produced four poetry collections in English. Ramanujan was born on 16th March in the year 1929. His father Attipat Asuri Krishnaswamini was a professor of mathematics and also an astronomer, his mother was an orthodox Brahmin. He received his BA and MA degrees in English language and literature from the university of Mysore. Ramanujan taught at several universities in South India, after which he pursued a graduate diploma in theoretical linguistics from Deccan University in Poona, where he was a fellow. At the age of thirty, he was awarded a Fullbright scholarship at Indiana University, where he would also complete a Ph.D in Linguistics. In 1962, Ramanujan joined the University of Chicago, where he enjoyed an illustrious career as Professor of Linguistics and Professor of South Asian Languages and Civilisations. He taught at several prestigious U.S. colleges such as Harvard University, University of Wisconsin and University of California, Berkeley. Ramanujan was fluent in many languages including English, Kannada and Tamil.

In Ramanujan's poetry we can see the fusion of typical Indian thoughts and Western thoughts. His poetic self presents a unique amalgam of the traditional and the modern. His sensibility is rooted in the Indian heritage and his vision is definitely that of a modernists. Ramanujan has knowledge of Indian mythology, folk- lore and religion which is reflected in several of his poems. Though he is primarily concerned with human relationships, nature also plays a major role in his poems. According to him man and nature are not separate altogether, there is a link between them.