1. **K. Ramanjan**

This study material has been prepared for B.A. English Literature Paper-III Modern Literature (A) (Poetry) students of Vth semester for the session 2021-22 of Lucknow University

* Born in 1929, at Mysore, Karnataka.
* A poet translator and academician.
* He is towering figure in the post Independence Indian English Poetry.
* He is also considered as cultural link between India and America, we may call him a cultural ambassador of India Responsible for popularizing many Indian Texts in Europe and American through his translation into English.
* He had a sound knowledge of Tamil & Kannada languages.
* 1959 he went to U.S.A. on Fulbright Scholarship, and earned his Ph.D. in Linguistics from Indiana University.
* He taught Dravidian Literature at Chicago University, U.S.A. as Professor till his death in 1993.
* He never return to India and had settled in U.S.A. their permanently, so he may be called a poet of Indian Diaspora.
* He is also called as poet of intellect and follows the Imagist tradition of Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot etc.
* Though living in America he never ceased to be an Indian, his roots may be seen and recognize on his poetry.
* He is gifted with the Art of translating the experience of one culture into another. His American experience colours his “Still another view of grace.”
* Dev Benegal, co-writer and co-director with British film-maker Stephen Fry, had made a feature film on A. K. Ramanujan, the mathematician. This fantastic film deals with the story of a man with amazing talent and passion for Mathematics.
* According to Dev Benegal, Ramanujan was a man with sparkling eyes, tremendous charisma and great sense of humor.
* He further says, as reported in Times of India, “Every Indian who has been successful in Information Technology and in digital world owes it to Ramanujan in some way or the other. What Ramanujan did is really the D.N.A. of digital technology.”

**Work:**

* **The Striders,** (1966)
* **Relations,** (1971)
* **Second Sight,** (1986)

These collections are his poetry in English.

Ramanujan has translated the following work:

* **Fifteen Tamil Poet,** (1965)
* **The Interior Landscape,** (1967)
* **Speaking of Siva,** (1972)
* **Samskara,** (1976), U.R. Ananthamurthys award winning Kannada novel.
* **Poems of Love and War,** (1984)
* **Folks Tales of India,** (1992)

He has extensively contributed in the following Magazines and Journals.

* **The Atlantic Monthly**
* **London Magazine Poetry, (Chicago)**
* **Quest**

His poem **Obituary** was published in 1971 in his collection of poems **“Relations.”** The treatment of poem is ironical and reflects upon what happens in poor Indian family after passing away of its “Mukhiya” or head of the family, generally father.

The narrator or poet goes into memory lane and remembers his father after his death and thinks over the legacy what father has left behind. In the poem we see that the father leaves no wealth and material objects for his heirs and what he left behind a table with full of dust papers “debt and daughter” bedwetting grandson and a dilapidated house.

These lines are told in an ironical framework where unmarried daughters are considered as liability for heirs to marry them with hefty dowry. This practice is prevalent world over, in Pre-Islamic Arabia people use to bury their girls child alive. They used to think that a girl child would bring disgrace to the family. They use to do it after birth of a girl child but in 21st. centaury we are not giving them an opportunity to come in this world alive, we kill them in fetus.

That is why sex-determination through USG in mother’s womb has been declared illegal and crime in India.

Work Consulted and Cited:

* **'Eternal Rhythms'**, 2012, Oxford University Press, India.
* **'The Infinite Riches'**, 1999, Oxford University Press, India.
* **'A compendious History of English Literature'**, 2001, Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
* Iyenger, KRS, **'Indian Writing in English'**, 2017, Sterling Publishers Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi.