

## **Indianness and Relationships in the Poetry of A.K. Ramanujan**

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Indianness can be defined as the traditional, inherent and territorial elements of India which are borne by the Indians since antiquity. There have been a number of poems which reflect India through language, imagery, sensibility or theme and which makes an Indian as 'Indian'. Indianness in a poem is something that is not really definable yet remains a very remarkable character in Indian poems. Indianness can also be defined in terms of what and how Indians are and what makes them what they are. Ramanujan is fundamentally a poet of memories. His memories are basically based on his familial relations that he generally recalls through his poetry. He lived in Chicago but was not away from India by heart. His poems depict the glimpse of our culture and tradition. He has completely intertwined his Indianness, i.e. Indian families and their relations in his poetry. As A.N. Dwivedi points out, "The most delicate and luminous of the poems are those which picture experience of India, and particularly his family life....." (1). In other words it can be said that he had made India alive in Chicago's atmosphere. And he has painted a realistic and vivid picture of his familial relationships whose roots are grounded in the present day culture. The love of A.K. Ramanujan for his family is very profound and significant. The Indian sensibility is to be found in every Indians and family has a significant space in the hearts and minds of Indians. The family figures most eminently in Ramanujan's poetry. Actually, the family may be considered as one of the prime motif of his verse. Ramanujan's poetry is primarily based on the memories of his past life, that he can't obliterate even after residing in west. The sense of Indianness was always lingering in his mind and by the time he occupied its place in his heart. His poetry, we can say, addresses both individual and racial memory.....

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