

ANXIETY BY A K RAMANUJAN

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THE TEXT

Not branchless as the fear tree,
It has naked roots and secret twigs
Not geometric as the parabolas
Of hope, it has loose ends
With a knot at the top
That's me.

TEXT CONTD...

Not wakeful in its white snake

Glassy ways like the eloping gaiety of waters,
it drowns, viscous and fibered as pitch.

Flames have only lungs. Water is all eyes.

The earth has bone for muscle.

And the air is a flock of invisible pigeons.

But anxiety

Can find no metaphor to end it.

ANALYSIS

Ramanujan puts anxiety in a process of continuity.

He explains it indirectly, not directly.

'Fear' is the kindred of anxiety. So he begins with it. The source of all tension is the individual

ANALYSIS CONTINUED

- The poem refers to the complex Indian problems like growth of population, poverty,
- illiteracy, lack of hygienic sense and the problem of unemployment. 'Fear' is the source of all
- tension in the poem. Fear may be because of communal conflict, Maoism and terrorism,
- apparently the problems are having 'loose ends'.

CRITICAL COMMENTS

- The poem refers to the complex Indian problems like growth of population, poverty,
- illiteracy, lack of hygienic sense and the problem of unemployment.
- 'Fear' is the source of all tension in the poem.