

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted from the academic year 2009 – 10 & thereafter)

SUBJECT CODE: EL/PC/BT24

M. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2011
BRANCH VII – ENGLISH
SECOND SEMESTER

COURSE : CORE
PAPER : THE BHAKTI TRADITION
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

I. Analyse the following poem bringing out the essential features of the Bhakti tradition.
(1x25=25)

Tying bells to her ankles Mira danced away.

“I myself became the servant of my Narayan.” [she said.]
Tying bells to her ankles Mira danced away.

People said Mirabai was crazy, Mother-in-law said family destroyer.
Tying bells to her ankles Mira danced away.

A cup of poison *rana* sent, drinking it down Mira laughed.
Tying bells to her ankles Mira danced away.

Mira’s Lord is the clever Mountain Bearer, so easily the
Indestructible One was hers!
Tying bells to her ankles Mira danced away.

II. Answer any three of the following in about 1000 words each. **(3x25=75)**

1. Discuss how Mira reanimates India’s old tradition of love poetry and links it up with spiritual experience in her songs.
2. How does Bhakti literature explore the relationship between God and the individual soul? Illustrate your answer using verses from the Bhagavad Gita and the poems by Nammalwar prescribed for study.
3. Analyse the use of cosmic images by St. Francis to represent God Consciousness in “The Canticle of Brother Sun”.
4. Hopkins’ poem “Spelt from Sibyl’s Leaves” presents the diurnal contrast between day and night to parallel the illuminations and shadows of the poet's inner spiritual world. Discuss.
5. Discuss Kabir as a poet of the Nirguna Bhakti tradition.
6. How do the quatrains from Omar Khayyam’s Rubaiyat describe a state of God intoxication?
