

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2004 – 05 & thereafter)

SUBJECT CODE: EL/AC/BM13

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2007
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
FIRST SEMESTER

COURSE : ALLIED – CORE
PAPER : IMPACT OF BIBLE AND CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY ON ENGLISH LITERATURE

TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 100

SECTION – A

I Attempt any THREE of the following in not more than 500 words each : (3x15=45)

1. The influence of the Bible on the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins.
2. The glorious representation of the Female Creative Power in Indian Mythology.
3. The various literary genres in the books of the Bible.
4. The theme of fertility in the myth of Proserpina and Pluto.
5. The legend of Hiawatha.

SECTION – B

II Write short notes on any FIVE of the following: (5x5=25)

1. The Holy Grail
2. Creation – Vishnu and Shiva
3. African Creation Myth
4. Parallelism in the Bible
5. The Authorised Version of the Bible.
6. Isis and Osiris
7. The theme of justice in the myth of Orestes
8. Dionysius

SECTION – C

III. Trace the Biblical influence with reference to theme, idea, parallelism and style in: (1x15=15)

- i) It was the winter wild
While the heaven born Child
All meanly wrapt in the rude manger lies;
Nature in awe to him
Had doff'd her gaudy trim,
With her great Master so to sympathise;
It was no season then for her
To wanton with the sun, her lusty Paramour.

- John Milton (from 'Ode on the Morning of Christ's Nativity')

(OR)

WHEN I consider how my light is spent
Ere half my days in this dark world and wide,
And that one talent which is death to hide,
Lodged with me useless, though my soul more bent
To serve therewith my Maker, and present
My true account, lest He returning chide,
'Doth God exact day labor, light denied?'
I fondly ask. But Patience to prevent
That murmur soon replies, 'God doth not need
Either man's work or his own gifts. Who best
Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state
Is kingly: thousands at his bidding speed,
And post o'er land and ocean without rest;
They also serve who only stand and wait.'

- John Milton ('On His Blindness')

- ii) **Identify the myth used in the following poems and attempt an interpretation of the poems in the light of the myth / legend / theme: (1x15=15)**

The Lotos blooms below the barren peak,
The Lotos blows by every winding creek,
All day the wind breathes low with mellower tone;
Thro' every hollow cave and alley lone
Round and round the spicy downs the yellow Lotos-dust is blown.
We have had enough of action, and of motion we,
Roll'd to starboard, roll'd to larboard, when the surge was seething free,
Where the wallowing monster spouted his foam-fountains in the sea.
Let us swear an oath, and keep it with an equal mind,
In the hollow Lotos-land to live and lie reclined
On the hills like Gods together, careless of mankind.

- Tennyson (from 'The Lotos Eaters')

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(OR)

When he loudly takes the vow
of monogamy
in bed
and says

Dear
I'll never touch
anyone else
in this life
not even in my heart
he's Lord Rama

When he hides himself
behind dark glasses
enjoying women
fore and aft
on buses and off
and takes special pleasure
in two separate houses
far apart
he's Lord Krishna

And so on and so forth
if you look more deeply
inside this man
you'll see
even a thousand
avatars there

But stand aside:
he's no less
than an avatar himself

- V. Indira Bhavani (from 'Avatars')
