**ST. JOSEPH’S UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU - 27**

**M.A. ENGLISH – II SEMESTER   
END SEMESTER EXAMINATION: APRIL 2024**

**(Examination conducted in May / June 2024)**

**EN 8218 – INDIAN LITERATURE II**

**(For current batch students only)**

**Time: 2 Hours Max Marks: 50**

**This paper contains TWO printed pages, FOUR parts and SEVEN questions.**

**PART A**

**I. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 180-200 words each. (1x15=15 Marks)**

1. Based on your engagement with texts from both Indian Writing in English and translated or Bhasha literature, which of the two fields do you think is more adept at capturing the essence of Indian literature? Explain using relevant examples from your reading.
2. “The energy of the folk…comes from the fact that while it seems to support traditional values, it is also capable of subverting them, looking at them from various points of view ... The form can give rise to a genuine dialectic”. What do you understand by the term “genuine dialectic” in the above passage? Based on your readings of modern Indian literature do you agree that the folk can both support as well as subvert traditional values. Give examples to illustrate.

**PART B**

**II. Answer BOTH of the following questions in 120-150 words each. (2x10=20 Marks)**

1. “It is an irony of Fate and a mockery of Time that Kubi should have become a symbol of everything he had disbelieved, fought against, rejected.”   
     
   Does the above concluding statement of the short story “Kubi and Iyala'' suggest that Kubi’s principles of logic and reason were ultimately compromised by the prevailing superstitious beliefs in Bhairapura, despite his efforts to resist them? Explain your stance based on your reading of the short story.
2. *“Raag Darbari* begins with the journey of Ranganath, a kurta-clad, jhola-carrying Delhi intellectual, to the absurd and complex world of Shivpalganj which though rural is neither pastoral nor innocent”. Discuss what role does this particular beginning play in the world of *Raag Darbari.*

**PART C**

**III. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 75-100 words each. (1x5=5 Marks)**

1. How does Paul Zacharia use the perspective of a frog(s) in the short story “Once Upon a Time…” to explore existential themes and human concerns?
2. Discuss DR Nagaraj’s distinction between “civilizational minorities” and “societal minorities”?

**PART D**

**IV. Read the following poem by Malathi Maithri titled *Perish her intellect: cruel is her servitude”* and answer the question that follows:**

**(1x10=10 Marks)**

Her grandmother once carried her husband

to his mistress’s house, in a basket.

As for her father, he had a family

in every village; he’d set off on visits

driving his fine bullock cart.

Her husband, not to be outdone,

would rape the women who weeded his fields.

Eldest son sold off some land, so

he could gad about with prostitutes.

Knowing all this, full well, she brings

freshly laundered clothes to her youngest son

as soon as the drums summon him

to the village festival: asking only

that he return in good time for his meal.

Perish her intellect: cruel is her servitude.

In a note to the poem it is stated that Malathi Maithri parodies a poem from Puranannuru a 2nd century Tamil text where a woman sends her family to war one by one and loses her kin. The last line of that poem is “Perish her intellect: cruel is her courage”. Based on the note you just read, analyze the title of the poem. Does the poem have a caste dimension? Illustrate your choice.