

चतुरस्य कालीदासस्य ।
Of the clever kAlIdAsa

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घोषितं कदाचित् भोजराज्ञा, यदि कोऽपि कविः मम दरबारे नूतनं काव्यं पठति तर्हि ददामि तस्मै लक्षरुप्यकाणि इति । श्रुत्वा एतद्, बहवः खलु आगताः कवयः दरबारे स्वकाव्यपठनं कर्तुं ।

(King Bhoj once proclaimed, "If any poet reads a new poem in my court , I shall give him One Lakh Rupees". Having heard this indeed many poets thronged the palace in order to read their poetry.)

परन्तु दरबारे अविद्यन्त केचन विद्वानाः ये कं अपि काव्यं प्रथमश्रुत्यनन्तरं एव सम्पूर्णतया पुनरोक्तुं शक्ताः । इतरे च द्वितीयपठनानन्तरं पुनरुक्तवन्ताः । अन्ये तृतीयपठनात् पुनरुक्तवन्ताः ।

(However, in the court there were several scholars who could re-recite a poem completely just after having listened to it once. Then there were others who could re-recite it after they had heard it twice, and yet others who could do it after the third reading.)

अतः यदा कोऽपि कविः आगतवान्, स्वस्य नवकाव्यं च पठितवान्, केचन विद्वानाः अकथयन् न खलु नूतनं एतद् । पश्य, वयमपि एनं जानीमहे । ततः पुनरवदन् तद् काव्यं । तदनन्तरं ये द्विपाठिनः अभवन् तेऽपि तदेव अकथयन् अवदन् च काव्यं । तदनन्तरं त्रिपाठिनः तथैव अकुर्वन् । अतः न कोऽपि कविः प्राप्नोतुं अशक्नोत् लक्षरुप्यकाणि ।

(So whenever any poet came and read his new poem, some scholars sad, this is not really new. see, we also know it. Then they recited the whole poem. then those who could remember things after they had heard it twice said the same thinf and recited the poem. Then those who remembered things after they had

heard them thrice did the same thing. Hence no poet was able to claim the lakh rupees.)

कालीदासाय न खलु अरुच्यत एतद् । कंचित् नवकविं सः स्वकक्षे आनीतवान् तं
एतद् सुभाषितं च दत्तवान् ८

(kAlIdAsa didnt really like this. He took one poet to his room, and gave him the following subhAshhita -)

स्वस्ति श्री भोजराजन् त्वमखिलभुवने धार्मिकः सत्यवक्ता // पित्रा ते संगृहीता
नवनवतिमिता रत्नकोट्यो मदीयः । // तांस्त्वं देहीति राजन् सकलबुधजनैर्ज्ञायते
सत्यं एतद् // नो वा जानन्ति यत्तन्ममकृतिमपि नो देहि लक्षं ततो मे ॥ //

(O King Bhoj, let there be good ! You are the (greatest) just and true-speaker in the whole world. 99 Crores of precious stones belonging to me were taken by your father. Give them back t me, O king .. all the scholars in your court know that this is true. If they do not, then they do not know my poem either. Then give me the lakh !)

दरबारे कविः तत् काव्यं अपठत् । न खलु वक्तुं अशक्नुवन् केऽपि विद्वानाः यत्
जानन्ति तत् काव्यं इति । अतः अप्राप्नोत् कविः लक्षरुप्यकाणि । चतुरः खलु
कालीदासः ।

(The poet read this poem in the court. None of the scholars were able to say that they knew this poetry . So the poet got one lakh rupees. kAlIdAsa was indeed clever !)