

शीतं बहु बाधति ।

The cold hurts very much

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सर्वे जानन्ति यत् भोजराज्ञः दरबारे अविद्यत कविः कालीदासः । कदाचित् एकः परदेशीयः पण्डितः भोजराज्ञे सन्देशं प्रक्षिप्तवान् । सन्देशे लिखितं, आगमिष्यामि अमुकदिवसे भवतः दरबारस्य पण्डितैः सह चर्चां विवादं च कर्तुं इति । तथा भोजराजा दरबारे अकथयत् एषः पण्डितः आगमिष्यति इति ।

Everybody knows that poet kAlIdAsa was in King Bhoj's court. Once a foreign scholar sent a message to King Bhoj. It said, "I shall come on such and such date to debate and discuss with the scholars in your court". King Bhoj then mentioned in his court that this scholar was going to come.

यस्मिन् दिवसे पण्डितः आगच्छति, तस्मिन् कालीदासः पालखीधारकस्य रूपं परिदधानः तस्य स्वागताय उपस्थितः भवति । न खलु जानाति पण्डितः यत् कालीदासः एव सः । पालखीं स्कन्दयोः वहन् निर्गतः कालीदासः पण्डितेन सह । तस्मिन् काले शिशिरः भवति ऋतुः, शीतः च पवनः देहं ताडयति इव । वदति पण्डितः, शीतं बहु बाधति इति । चतुरः कालीदासः त्वरया एव पुन्र्वदति, "न तथा बाधते शीतं यथा बाधति बाधते " ।

On the day the scholar arrived, kAlIdAsa disguised himself as a palanquin carrier and went to receive him. The scholar did not know that he was indeed kAlIdAsa. Carrying the pAlakhI on his shoulders, kAlIdAsa set off with the scholar. It was winter that time and the cold wind was hitting the body. The scholar said, "The cold hurts very much," Clever kAlIdAs immediately retorted,

"Cold does not hurt as much as 'badhati' "

आत्मनेपदी खलु बाध् धतुः इति न विज्ञातं पण्डितेन । मन्यते सः, यदि एतस्मिन् राज्ये पालखीधारकाः अपि एतावत् जानन्ति संस्कृतं पण्डितैः सह मेलः मम

पराभावाय एव । तथा कालीदासं आज्ञापयति न खलु इच्छामि एतस्मिन् राज्ये गन्तुं । गृहे गमिष्यामः, इति ।

The scholar did not know that the verb “badh” was ‘Atmanep adi’ (and hence had used the wrong form bAdhati instead of the correct form bAdhate’) He thought, if even the palakhicarriers in this kingdom know the language so well, then meeting with the scholars shall certainly lead to my defeat. then he ordered kAlIdAsa, “i really do not want to go to t his extremely cold place. we should go back home.”