Of the clever kAlIdAsa

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(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.)

(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.)

(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 thing 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.)

कालिदासाय न खलु अरुच्यत एतद्। कांचित् नद्वकविं सः स्वकशे आनीतवान् तं एतद् सुभाषितं च दत्तवान्।

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

स्वस्ति श्री भोजराजन् त्वमबिलभुवने कथार्थिकः सत्यवक्ता // पिता ते संगृहीताः
नवनवतिमिता रत्नकन्याः मदीयः। // तांस्त्वं देहीति राजसि सक्लवुधक्षेत्राणायते
सत्यं एतद् // नो या जानन्ति यत्तन्मकृतिमयि नो देहि लक्षं ततो भए ॥ //

(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 ! )

दरवारे कविः तत् काव्यं अपठत्। न खलु वक्तुं अश्वकन्यवन् केशिपि विद्वाना: यत्
जानन्ति तत् काव्यं इति। अतः अप्राप्तोत् कविः लक्षरूपकाणि। चतुर्मः खलु
कालिदासः।

(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 ! )