The cold hurts very much
by: Kedar Naphade, ksn2@lehigh.edu

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.

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 kAlIdAsa immediately retorted, “Cold does not hurt as much as ‘badhati’

"तथा बाधते शीतं बाधति।"

“तथा बाधते शीतं यथा बाधति बाधते।”
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 kAlldAsa, “i really do not want to go to t his extremely cold place. we should go back home.”