

46. Yajñadatta, the sacrificer, well versed in Vedic rites spoke thus to his wife who was a very chaste lady.

*Yajñadatta said :—*

47-48. O mistress ! where is that gambling rogue of a son, Guṇanidhi ? Or let it be. Why should I ask for him ? Where is that auspicious ring which you took off at the time of applying unguents on my body ? Bring it quickly and give it to me.

49-51. The mistress was frightened at these words. While she was engaged in arranging for bath and midday sacred rites she replied—“O lord, I am busy arranging the various articles of offerings for worship. O lord, fond of guests, the guests may be unnecessarily detained. While I was busy cooking the pudding I kept the ring somewhere in some vessel just now. What a pity ! I have forgotten it. I do not know where it has been kept.

*Dikṣita said :—*

52-53. O truthful lady who has given birth to a base boy, whenever I asked “Where has the son gone ?” you used to say, “Dear lord, just now he has gone out after finishing his lesson of the Vedas, in the company of two or three friends for revision of the lesson”.

54. Where is your silk saree red like madder which I had presented to you and which used to hang down here in the house always ? Tell me the truth. Do not be afraid.

55. That gem-set golden vase which I had given you is also missing. That tripod with a velvet cushion which I had given you is nowhere to be seen.

56. Where is that bell metal pot made in the South ? Where is that copper pot made in Bengal ? Where is that ivory casket intended for curios and trinkets ?

57. Where is that wonderfully fine statuette of a lady lighting a lamp, shining like the moon, and brought from the hilly province ?

58. Why should I unnecessarily speak much ? O lady of a noble family, it is futile to be angry with you. I shall take food only after I marry again !