

## मेघदूतं - कालिदास

१

कञ्चित् Some(one) [Yaksha]

कान्ताविरहगुरुणा weighed down with the difficulty of viraha, separation from a loved one (kanta)

स्वाधिकारात्प्रमत्तः Unable to carry out his tasks

शापेनास्तंगमितमहिमा His strength/greatness lost by the curse

वर्षभोग्येण भर्तुः year long separation?

यक्षश्चक्रे ?

जनकतनया Sita's [Janaka's daughter]

स्नानपुण्योदकेषु bathing place

स्निग्धच्छायातरुषु soft/gentle shadow of a tree

वसतिम् stays

रमगिर्याश्रमेषु at Ramagiri Ashram

*Cursed for his misdeeds,  
Stripped of strength,  
a year separated from his lover,  
our Yasksha mopes under the gentle tree shade,  
in Ramagiri, where Sita bathed.*

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तस्मिन्नद्रौ At the peak of the mountain [Supposedly चित्रकूट]

कतिचिदबला the one left weak [the helpless one = lover]

विप्रयुक्तः deprived of

स कामि that Yaksha who is sensual

नीत्वा मासान् After/spending many months

कनकवलयभ्रंश Gold armlet slips [from]

रिक्तप्रकोष्ठः weakened arm

आषाढस्य प्रथमदिवसे First day of Ashadha

मेघः cloud [megha]  
आश्रित्तुषानुं embracing the mountain top [सानु]  
वप्र [against river] bank  
क्रीडापरिणतगज elephant playing by bending down  
प्रेक्षणीयं appealing to the eye  
ददर्श To him [Yaksha] appears

*There, atop a mountain,  
The months of separation from his helpless beloved,  
Causing his frame to be so weakened,  
That his golden armlet from his forearm slips!  
Our Yaksha sees the first Rainclouds of Ashadha,  
Embracing the mountain top,  
A lonesome elephant, playfully butting against the riverbank.*

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तस्य स्थित्वा Standing thus (in remorse)  
कथमपि पुरः Somehow, in front of him is  
कौतुगाधानहेतु That which creates (आधान) longing (कौतुक) [in the mind]  
अन्तर्बाष्पश्चिरम् Trying to control inner tears -  
अनुचरः राजराजस्य -servant of Kuber [Yaksha]  
दध्यौ upon this, he stands thinking:  
मेघालोके भवति As looking at the cloud creates/induces  
सुखिनोऽप्यन्यथावृत्ति चेतः in otherwise happy (सुखि) people's minds are moved  
कण्ठाश्लेषप्रणयिनि Those yearning to embrace the necks of their lovers  
दूरसंस्थे situated at the distance  
जने किं पुनः Of them then what?

*Beholding this sight,  
This servant of Kubera,  
Is struck by emotion,  
Even as he stems his anguish:  
This sight of the Raincloud,  
induces such emotion even in those at peace,  
What then must be his state,  
He who is so distantly separated from-,  
-Though wishing to embrace the neck of-, his beloved?*

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प्रत्यासन्ने Thereafter, after Ashadha

नभासि In Sravana, the rainy season {Malli}

दयिताजीवितालम्बनार्थं He being anxious to 'extend'/support his wife's life

जीमूतेन The carrier of water, the cloud

स्वकुशलमयीं Tidings of his well being

हारयिष्यन्प्रवृत्तिम् To send the news

स He,

प्रत्यग्रैः कुटजकुसुमैः Offered freshly fallen Kutaja flowers

कल्पितार्घाय To whom the offering (अर्घ्य) is made, the raincloud

तस्मै प्रीतः प्रीतिप्रमुखवचनं [Welcomed] using sweet words

स्वागतं व्याजहार spoke [व्याजहार] welcoming words [to the cloud]

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धूमज्योतिः Smoke, light

सलिलमरुताम् Water, wind

संनिपातः क्व मेघः Where is such a cloud made of/composed of the above

संदेशार्था क्व And where is the message!

पटुकरणैः The instrument/organ possessing intelligence/competence

प्राणिभिः प्रापणीयाः Beings possessing the above organs

इति उत्सुक्त्वात् Excited by (the idea of sending the message)

अपरिगणयन् Not taking into account

गुह्यकः तं He [Yaksha]

ययाचे Asked [the cloud]

कामार्ता हि Those suffering from love

प्रकृतिकृपणा Are wretched and hence unable to-

चेतनाचेतनेषु -distinguish those with and without the ability for thought

६

जातं वंशे [The world knows that] Born in families  
भुवनविदिते पुष्करावर्तकानां The world knows that- to these two families  
जनामि तां I know this  
प्रकृतिपुरुषां You powerful being  
कामरूपं You can take the shape you desire  
मघोनः ministers of Indra  
तेनार्थित्वं त्वयि If you apply that meaning to you, in that sense  
विधिवशाद्दूर बन्धुर्गतोऽहं Me being separated from my lover  
याच्चा मोघा Though it might be fruitless  
वरममधिगुणे Due to your stature  
नाधमे Lower people (non great)  
लब्धकामा Even if it is successful

७

सनत्तानां त्वमसि We who are suffering from separation  
शरणं तत्पयोद You are our savior  
प्रियायाः to my loved one  
सदेशः मे हर Take my message  
धनपतिक्रोधविश्लेषितस्य Afflicted by Kubera's anger  
गन्तव्या ते Go there  
वसतिरलका नाम to the place named Alaka  
यक्षेश्वराणां where Yakshas live  
बाह्य उद्यानस्थितहरशिरश्चन्द्रिका [that home] that is lit by moonlight Garden in which  
धौतहर्म्या Shining white homes

८

त्वामारूढं As you go up  
पवनपदवी Path of the wind  
उद्गृहीतालकान्ताः Braided hair of women waiting for their husband's return  
प्रेक्षिष्यन्ते Those waiting-  
पथिकवनिताः -wives of traveling men

प्रत्ययात् from this experience  
आश्वसत्यः they are assured [of husbands returning home]  
कः संनद्धे When you appear and get ready (for work)  
विरहविधुरां Those [wives = जायां] afflicted by विरह  
त्वय्युपेक्षेत जायां those neglected  
न स्याद् अन्यः अपि अहमिव no others like me  
जनो यः पराधीनवृत्तिः who am dependent on someone else

९

थं चावश्यां and you, definitely  
दिवस गणनआ तत्परं deeply engged in counting days  
एक पत्नीं faithful wife /sill in love with the yaksha  
अव्याप्पनां not dead, still staying alive  
अविहतगतिः your course unimpeded  
दृक्क्ष्यस्ति will see  
भ्रतुः जायां your brother's wife (Yaksha's wife)  
आशाबन्धः held/tied/bound by hope  
कुसुमदृशं flower like  
प्रायशो normally/usually  
हाङ्गनानां of women  
सद्यः at one,now  
पाति falling?  
प्रणयि हृदयं heart full of love  
विप्रयोगे when separated  
रुणद्धि keeps together/prevents from giving away

*And you, when you get there (अलका) unimpeded,  
you will encounter my faithful wife, pining for  
me, counting days,  
barely kept alive from the burden of separation  
the delicate heart of women separated from their lovers  
is held together by a wisp of hope.*

## १०

मन्दं मन्दं नुदति पवनश्चानुकूलो Slowly the tailwind moves  
यथां त्वां वामश्चायं नदति On your left  
मधुतं चातकस्ते सगन्धः The Chataka birds proudly sing behind you  
गर्भाधान क्षण The moment of pleasure/ literally impregnation of birds  
परिचयाम् नूनम् आबध्दमालाः (Standing in lines)[Clouds are attributed to inducing the period of gestation in birds]  
सेविष्यन्ते नयनसुभगं Experiencing this enjoyment  
खे भवन्तं बलाकाः in the sky, are the cranes

## ११

प्रभवति कर्तुं यच्च You enable/induce  
महीम् उच्छिन्नीन्ध्राम् अवन्ध्यां The growth of mushrooms on the fertile [अवन्ध्यां] ground  
तच्छ्रुत्वा ते श्रवणसुभगं गर्जितं Hearing this pleasant sounding thunder  
मानसोत्काः to Manasa lake [swans will travel]  
आ कैलासात् Until Kailasa mountaints  
बिसकिसलयत् छेदपाथेयवन्तः The lotus stalks, packed as food for the journey  
संपत्स्यन्ते नभसि Till the end of the journey, in the sky-  
भवतो राजहंसाः सहायाः The swans will accompany.

## १२

आप्रुच्छस्व प्रियसखममुं Take leave of your friend (Ramagiri) [having embraced him]  
तुङ्गमालिङ्ग्य शैलं Embracing the mountain  
वन्द्यैः पुंसां [About the mountain]: (Slopes that posees) Those who revere  
रघुपतिपदैरङ्कितं मेखलासु Lord Rama on the slopes  
काले काले Over years and seasons  
भवति भवतो The repeated-  
यस्य संयोगमेन्त्य -Coming together of-  
स्नेहव्यक्तिश् चिर विरहजं The affection that you elicit [from the mountain]  
मुञ्चतो बाष्पमुष्णम् causing him to sheds hot tears

१३

मार्गं तावच्छृणु About your path, listen-  
कथयतह त्वत् प्रयाणानुरूपं I will tell you about your journey  
संदेशं मे तदनु My message, then,  
जलद श्रोष्यसि श्रोत्रपेयं That which is worthy of hearing, your ears will drink  
खिन्नः खिन्नः When you are tired  
शिखरिणु पदं न्यस्य When you place your foot on the mountain top  
गन्तासि यत्र On your journey  
क्षीणः क्षीणः परिलघु [you will] shrink and become light  
पयः स्रोतसां चोपभुज्य You will go drink from streams and nourish yourself

१४

अद्रेः शृङ्गं The big cloud  
हरति यवनः  
किंस्विदित्युन्मुखीभिः  
दृष्टोत्साहश्चकितचकितं  
मुग्धसिद्धाङ्गनाभिः The innocent wives of Siddhas  
स्थानादस्मात्  
सरसनिचुलात्  
उत्पद्मुखः खं  
दिङ्नागानां पथि  
परिहरन्स्थूलहस्तावलेपान्

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रत्नच्छायाव्यतिकर  
इव प्रेक्ष्यमेतत्पुरस्तात्  
वल्मीकाग्रात्प्रभवति  
धनुःखण्डमाखण्डलस्य  
येन श्यामं  
वपुरतितरां  
कान्तिमापत्स्यते ते  
बर्हेणेव  
स्फुटिततुचिना  
गोपवेषस्य विष्णोः

## १६

त्वय्यात्तां As you come  
कृषिफलमिति bringing the fruits of the land  
भ्रूविकारानभिज्ञैः [women] Those uneducated in manipulating eyebrows  
प्रीतिसिग्धैर् With great love and innocence  
जनपद वधूलोचनैः The village women look  
पीयमानः take in /drink in [your sight]  
सद्यः दीरोत्कषण सुरभि The sweet smelling land ploughed recently  
क्शेत्रमारुह्य You will climb a  
मालं hilly spot/plateau  
किञ्चित्पश्चाद् व्रज Go a little west  
लघुगतिर्भूय Then quickly go  
एवोत्तरेण northwards  
*पामरः opposite of पंडित, unsophisticated used to describe the women here*

## १७

त्वामासार Your rains will  
प्रशमितवनः उपस्रवं Extinguish the forest fires  
साधु मूर्ध्ना On the peak [of the mountain]  
वक्ष्यति अथ्व श्रमपरिगतं Extinguish your tiredness  
सानुमान् आम्रकूटः The Amrakuta mountain  
न क्षुद्रोऽपि Even lowly people  
प्रथमसुकृतापेक्षया those who have helped you before, when arrives [asking for help/ as guest]  
संश्रयाय When he comes as your guest  
प्रप्ते मित्रे receive their friends  
भवति विमुखः Will not turn his face  
किं पुनर्यस्तथोच्चैः What then of such an exalted one [as Amrakuta]



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छन्नोपान्तः The slopes [covered]

परिणतफलद्योतिभिः By ripe mangoes

काननाम्रैः Wild mangoes

स्त्वय्यारूढे As you move towards

शिखरमचलः The peak of the mountain [Amrakuta]

स्निग्धवेणीसवर्णे Dark oiled hair

नूनं Therefore

यास्यति अमरमिथुनं प्रेक्षणीयामवस्थां This appears beautiful to divine couples

मध्य श्यामः The center appears black as the nipple

स्तन As the breast

इव भुवः of the earth

शेषविस्तारपाण्डुः the rest appearing white

१९

स्थित्वा तस्मिन् Sitting there

वनचतवधू The wives of the forest folk

भुक्तकुञ्जे [living in] arbors/gardens

मुहूर्तं For a short while

तोयोत्सर्गं द्रुततरगतिस्तत्परं Having rained there, you will go fast

वर्त्म तीर्णः Cross the road

रेवां The Narmada river

द्रक्ष्यस्युपलविषमे You will see the river bank

विन्ध्यपादे विशीर्णा The Vindhyas appear as

भक्तिच्छेदैरिव [with] Drawing /lines

विरचितां [is] Decorated

भूतिमङ्गे The body of

गजस्य The elephant's [body]

## २०

तस्यास्तिकैर्वन गजमदः वासितं At Narmada, encountering the mada of wilde elephants you will [pour out your water]

वान्तवृष्टिः Pour out

जम्बूकुञ्जप्रतिहतरयं [where] the jambu plants impede the river

तोयमादाय गच्छेः There drink the Narmada water

अन्तःसारं घन तुलयितुं Inner water

नानिलः शक्ष्यति तां [Something to do with wind?]

रिक्तः सर्वो भवति हि लघुः With expelled of obnoxious matter are light

पूर्णता गौरवाय Those filled with matter (metaphor for experience/knowledge) are respected

## २१

नीपं दृष्ट्वा हरितकपिशं

केसरैरर्धरूढे

रावि'भूतप्रथममुकुलाः

## २३

उत्पश्यामि I see

दृढतमपि सखे मत्प्रियार्थे You are traveling fast

यियासोः [wishing to travel]

कालक्षेपं ककुभसुरभैः You will spend time smelling the Kutaja flower

पर्वते पर्वते ते on each mountaintop

शुक्लापङ्क्तैः The peacocks

सजलनयनैः with happy tears in eyes

स्वागतीग्रत्य केकोः vocalize their welcome

प्रत्युद्यातः कथमपि Despite these [?]

भवान्गन्तुमाशु You [I pray] please get ready to leave

व्यवस्येत् try and proceed

## २४

पाण्डुच्छायोपवनवृतयः The white flowered hedges

केनकैः सूचिमित्रैः The flowers with pointed ends

नीडारम्भैः [birds ] building [nests]

गृहबलिभुजाम् nests of

आकुल ग्राम चैत्याः disturbed by the domestic birds

त्वय्यासन्ने You will arrive

परिणतफलश्यामजम्बूवनान्तः weighed down by the black by the Jambu fruits

संपन्त्यन्ते *lit.* Will be [where the geese...]

कतिपयदिनस्थायिहंसा The geese that have halted for a few days

दशार्ण In the place called दशार्ण

## २५

तेशां दिक्षु Reaching there

प्रथितविदिशा the famous Vidisa

लक्षणाम् राजधानीं which is the beautiful capital

गत्वा सद्यः Go there now and you will-

फलम् अविकलं -receive all fruits

कामुकत्वस्य लब्धा of Kama, passion

तीरोपान्तस्तदितसुभगं On the bank [of Vetravati], thundering

पायस्ति स्वादु You will [drink] good tasting water?

यस्मात् सभृभङ्गं मुखमिव पयो Face with bent eyebrows seen in the water

वेत्रवस्याश्चलोर्मि Waves of Vetravati

## २६

नीचैराख्यं

गिरिमदिवसेस्तत्र विश्रामहेतो

वत्संपर्कात्पुलकिनमिव

प्रौढपुष्पैः कदम्बैः

याः पण्यस्त्रीरतिपरिमलोद्गरिभिर्नागराणा

मुद्गामानि

प्रथयति शिलावेशमभिर्यौवनानि

## २७

विश्रान्तः सन्नज Take rest there

वननदीतीरजान निषिञ्चन् Jasmine flowers along the the Vananadi banks

उद्यानानां Gardens (along the banks)

नवजल कणैर्यूथिकाजालकानि You bring fresh water

गणदस्वेद पनयन Those (woman) sweat flowing on cheek

रुजाक्लान्त fatigued

कर्णोत्पलनां Lotus (on) ears

छायादानात्क्षणपरिचितः Give then shade

पुष्पलावीमुखानाम् Flower girls/sellers (?)

## २८

यदपि भवतः Though your (path)

वक्रः पन्था (Though) the path is not straight/twisted (a detour)

प्रस्थितः उत्ताशां As you proceed northwards

सौध उत्सङ्ग प्रणय विमुखो Don't turn away from the terraces of mansion<sup>1</sup> of

म स्म भूरुज्जययिन्याः In the city of Ujjaini

विद्युद्दामस्फुरितचकितौः The lightning causing fright

तत्र पौराङ्गनानां The city-dwelling women

लोचनैर्वच्चितोऽसि the look (of lightning) in their eyes

लोलापाङ्गङ्गैश्च The tremulous/quivering eyelashes

यदि न रमसे If you have not seen/experienced (= not lived)

## २९

वीचिक्षोभस्तनित The noisy

विहगस्रेणिकाँऐइजुणायाः The formations of those that fly in the sky (hamsa), like the blot over

संसर्पन्त्याः The turbulence/eddies

स्खलितसुभगं stumbling (of the river)

दर्शितावर्तनाभेः Looks like the navel (of the river)

निर्विन्ध्यायाः पथि On the road to the Nirvindhya river

भव रसाभ्यन्तरः संनिपत्य Enjoy this

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<sup>1</sup>सुधा = limestone, those washed with limestone, i.e., buildings

स्त्रीणामाद्यं Women's first gesture

प्रणयवचनं Loving expressions

विभ्रमो

हि प्रियेषु Of love

३०

वेणीभूतप्रतनुसलिला That thin braid-like stream of water

नामतीतस्य सिन्धुः as the river Sindhu appears

पाण्डुच्छया having pale face

तटरुहतरुभ्रम्भिर्जीर्णपणैः Filled with dried leaves

सौभाग्यम् ते who wishes for your good fortune

सुभग विरहावस्थया व्यञ्जयन्ती as is the appearance of one who is suffering from viraha

कार्ष्यं येन her emaciation

त्यजति विधिना स त्वयैवोपपाद्यः cause her to leave (alleviate her pain)