

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.*

२

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.*

३

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?*

४

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]

५

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
दृक्क्ष्यस्मि 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

१५

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]

१८

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 सभ्रुभङ्गं मुखमिव पयो Face with bent eyebrows seen in the water

वेत्रवस्याश्चलोर्मि Waves of Vetravati