

«tathā!» 'iti ca sa tad-bhṛityas tasmin praveçayad grihe  
nîtvā Mrigāṅkadattaṃ taṃ datta-çayyaṃ sadîpake. 51

gate tasmin vahirdvāraṃ baddhvā çrīṅkhalayā, 'atra saḥ  
Mrigāṅkadatto 'paçyat taṃ mayûraṃ pañjara-sthitam. 52  
«so 'yam ukto 'munā kshattrâ çikhî!» 'ity ālocya, kautukāt  
tasya ca 'udghâṭayāmāsa mayûrasya sa pañjaram. 53  
mayûraḥ sa ca nirgatya, nipuṇaṃ vîkshya, pādayoḥ  
Mrigāṅkadattasya muhur nipapāta luloṭha ca. 54  
luṭhatas tasya dṛiṣṭvā ca kaṇṭha-baddhaṃ sa sūtrakam  
rājaputro mumoca 'āçu, matvā taṃ tena pîḍitam. 55  
sa mukta-kaṇṭha-sūtraç ca mayûras, tasya paçyataḥ,  
sampanno 'bhût tadā tasya mantrî Bhîmaparākramaḥ. 56  
tato Mrigāṅkadattas taṃ āçlishya 'utsukam ānatam,  
«sakhe, kathaya! kiṃ tv etad?» iti papraccha vismayāt. 57  
avocad atha samhrishtaḥ sa taṃ Bhîmaparākramaḥ:  
«çriṇu, deva! sva-vṛttāntam ā mûlāt kathayāmi te: — 58

Tadā 'aham Nāga-çāpena vibhrashto bhavad-antikāt  
bhramann aṭavyāṃ, samprāpam ekaṃ çālmali-pādapam. 59  
tasmin nikhāta-rûpāṃ ca Gaṇeça-pratimāṃ aham  
dṛiṣṭvā praṇamya, tad-mûle pariçrānta upāviçam, 60  
acintayāṃ ca: «dhik! sarvaṃ idaṃ pāpam mayā kṛitam,  
«rātri-Vetāla-vṛttāntam āvedya svāmine tadā. 61  
«tad ihaiva tyajāmy etam ātmānaṃ aparādhinam.»  
ity ālocya 'atra devāgre sthito 'bhûvam abhojanaḥ. 62  
gate katipayāḥe ca, ko 'pi tena 'āgataḥ pathā  
vṛiddha-pānṭhas taros tasya châyāyāṃ samupāviçat. 63  
«evaṃ mlāna-mukhaḥ, putra, kiṃ sthito 'si 'iha nirjane?»  
iti dṛiṣṭvā ca so 'pṛicchat sādhuṃ mām anubandhataḥ. 64  
tato mayā sva-vṛttānte yathāvad vinivedite,  
sa vṛiddha-pathikaḥ prītyā dhîrayan mām abhāshata: 65  
«ātmānaṃ hañsi viro 'pi katham strīvat? striyo 'pi vā  
«dhairyam āpadi na 'ujjhanti, tathā ca 'imāṃ kathāṃ çriṇu: 66

Nagaryāṃ Koçalākhyâyāṃ Vimalākara ity abhût  
rājā, tasya ca putro 'bhût Kamalākara-saṃjñakaḥ, 67  
yas tejo-rûpa-dâṭṛitva-guṇaiḥ çlāghyo vinirmame  
Dhâtrâ 'iva Skanda-Kandarpa-Kalpadruma-jigîshayā. 68  
tasya 'ekadā kumārasya dikshu stutyasya vandibhiḥ  
gāthām ekam papāṭha 'eko vandî paricitaḥ puraḥ: 69

«padmāsādana-sotsava-  
«nānā-mukhara-dvijâli-parigîtam

«kamalākaram aprāptā,  
«kva ratim hañsāvalī labhatām?» 70  
evaṃ muhuḥ paṭhan priṣṭas tena vandî jagāda taṃ  
sa Manorathasiddhākhyāḥ kumāraṃ Kamalākaram: — 71