

Vidarbhān prāpya, Bhīmāya rājñe bhāryā-yutāya sah
Damayantyai ca tat sarvaṃ dṛiṣṭaṃ ṣṛutam avarṇayat. 363

tato 'tra Damayantī sâ pitarāṃ svairam abravīt:

«nihsamdehaṃ sa eva 'āryaputraḥ sūda-miṣhaṃ ṣṛitaḥ; 364

«tat tad-ānayaṇe yuktir narmadā kriyatām iyam:

«Rituparnasya nripates tasya dūto viṣṛijyatām, 365

«prāpta-mātraṃ ca taṃ bhūpaṃ evaṃ tatra bravītu saḥ:

««gataḥ kvāpi Nalo rājā, pravṛittir na 'asya budhyate; 366

««tat prātaḥ kurute bhūyo Damayantī svayaṃvaram.

««ato 'dyaiva Vidarbhesu ṣṛghram āgamyatām!» iti. 367

«tataḥ ṣṛutvaiva tad-vākyam sa rathajñāninā nripaḥ

«ekāhena 'āryaputrena sākam dhruvam iha 'eshyati.» 368

evaṃ sapitṛikā 'ālocya samdīṣya ca tadaiva sâ,

Koçalān vyasṛijad dūtaṃ Damayantī yathoditaṃ. 369

tena 'Rituparno gatvâ sa tathāiva 'uktaḥ samutsukah

jagāda sūda-rūpaṃ taṃ praṇayāt pārçvagam Nalam: 370

«Hrasvabāho! ««ratha-jñānam mama 'asti»», 'ity avadad bhavān;

«tat prāpya Vidarbhān mām adyaiva, 'utsahase yadi.» 371

tac ṣṛutvaiva Nalo, «vādhaṃ prāpayāmi», 'ity udīrya saḥ,

gatvâ varâçvān samyojya sajjam cakre rathottamam. 372

«svayaṃvara-pravādo 'yaṃ jāne mat-prāptaye tayâ

«kṛito, na Damayantī tu sâ svapne 'pi 'idṛiçi bhavet; 373

«tat tatra tâvad gacchāmi paçyāmi», 'iti vicintya saḥ

rājñas tasya 'Rituparnasya sajjam ratham upānayat. 374

ârūdhe ca nripe tasmiñs, taṃ samvāhayitum ratham

Nalaḥ pravavṛite Tārkshya-java-jaitrena ranhasâ. 375

ratha-vega-cyutaṃ vastraṃ prāptum ratha-vidhāraṇam

bruvāṇam atha mārge tam Rituparnaṃ Nalo 'bravīt: 376

«rājan, kva tava tad vastraṃ? anenaiva kṣaṇena hi

«bahūni yojanāny esha vyatikrānto rathas tataḥ.» 377

ṣṛutvâ 'etad Rituparnas tam avâdīd: «aṅga, dehi me

«ratha-jñānam idaṃ, tubhyam akṣha-jñānam dadāmy aham, 378

«yena vaçyâ bhavanty akṣhâḥ, samkhyâ-jñānam ca jāyate.

«sampraty eva ca paçya 'atra vadāmi pratyayaṃ tava: 379

«dīṣyate 'gre tarur yo 'yaṃ, samkhyām etasya te 'dhunâ

«vacmy aham phala-parṇanām, gaṇayitvâ ca paçya tam.» 380

ity uktvâ, phala-parṇāni yāvanty eva jagāda saḥ,

Nalena gaṇitāny āsañs tâvanty eva 'atra çākhinaḥ. 381

tato Nalo ratha-jñānam Rituparnāya tad dadau,

Rituparno 'py adād akṣha-jñānam tasmai Nalāya tat. 382

parikṣhate sma taj-jñānam Nalo gatvâ 'apare tarau,

samyak ca bubudhe samkhyâ patrâdishv atra tena sâ. 383

tato hrishyati yāvat sa, tâvat tasya çarīrataḥ

niragāt puruṣaḥ kṛiṣṇas; taṃ sa, «ko 'si?» 'iti priṣṭhāvān. 384

«aham Kaliḥ; çarīrāntar Damayantī-vṛitasya te

«īrshyayâ prāviçam, tena bhrashtâ dyūtena te çriyaḥ. 385