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महाकविश्रीसोमदेवभट्टविरचितः

कथासरित्सागरः

KATHAASARITSAAGARA

'OCEAN' WHERE ALL 'RIVERS OF STORIES' ENTER

of

MAHAKAVI SOMADEVA BHATTA

कथामुखं नाम द्वितीयो लम्बकः

SECOND SWELL OF THE RIVER  
named  
'INTRODUCTORY TALE OF THE STORY'

द्वितीयस्तरङ्गः / SECOND WAVE

Sanskrit text, Translation and Explanation  
by  
*Narayanalakshmi*

# ANCIENT WISDOM

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

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Narayanalakshmi, also known as Tejaswini in her ascetic life spent most of her life in the Himalayan terrain, engaged in the penance of knowledge. She is well-versed in all philosophies and is a scholar in Sanskrit language. Her mission life is to retrieve the lost knowledge of the ancient Rishis and offer it unblemished to all the seekers of the Truth. She is from Bangalore, Karnataka, India.

## महाकविश्रीसोमदेवभट्टविरचितः कथासरित्सागरः

कथामुखम् नाम द्वितीयो लम्बकः

SECOND 'LAMBAKA' NAMED 'INTRODUCTORY TALE'

द्वितीयस्तरङ्गः/SECOND WAVE

गत्वाथ दूरमध्वानं राजा वसतिमग्रहीत् दिने कस्मिन्नंश्चिदरण्यसरसस्तटे ॥1॥

After travelling for some distance, the king camped that day in some bank of a lake in the forest.

शयनीयगतः श्रान्तस्तत्र सेवारसागतं सायं संगतकं नाम जगाद कथकं नृपः-

"कथामाख्याहि मे कांचिद्दृदयस्य विनोदिनीं मृगावतीमुखाम्भोजदर्शनोत्स्वकाङ्क्षिणः" ॥3॥

Lying on the bed tired and exhausted, he spoke to Sangataka, a man employed for his enjoyable company and who was good in telling stories, "Tell me some story that will soothe my heart. I feel so restless, desiring to see the lotus-face of Mrgaavatee."

अथ संगतकोऽवादीत्-"देव किं तप्यसे वृथा, आसन्न एव देव्यास्ते क्षीणशापः समागमः।

संयोगा विप्रयोगाश्च भवन्ति बहवो नृणाम्। तथा चात्र कथामेकां कथयामि शृणु प्रभो" ॥5॥

Sangataka then said, "Why do you suffer wastefully?

The union with your wife will soon happen for sure, since the curse has ended.

Separations and union are always happening to men. Hey Prabhu! I will tell you a story, listen.

STORY OF SHREEDATTA

मालवे यज्ञसोमाख्यो द्विजः कश्चिदभूत्पुरा। तस्य द्वौ सुतौ साधोर्जायेते स्म जनप्रियौ।

एकस्तयोरभून्नाम्ना कालनेमिरिति श्रुतः, द्वितीयश्चापि विगतभय इत्याख्यया भवत् ॥7॥

There once lived a Brahmin named YajnaSoma in the city of Maalava.

That good man had two sons who were liked by all the people. One of them was named KaalaNemi (the felly of the wheel of Time). The other one was named VigataBhaya (fearless).

पितरि स्वर्गते तौ च भ्रातरौ तीर्णशैशवो विद्याप्राप्त्यै प्रययतुः पुरं पाटलिपुत्रकम् ॥8॥

After the father died, these two who had grown out of their childhood, journeyed to the city of PaataliPutraka to acquire learning.

तत्रैवोपात्तविद्याभ्यामुपाध्यायो निजे सुते देवशर्मा ददौ ताभ्यां मूर्ते विद्ये इवापरे ॥9॥

After they both had completed all the learning, DevaSharma, their teacher gave in marriage to them his two daughters, who were like two other forms of Sarasvati.

अथान्यानवीक्ष्य तानाद्यान्गृहस्थानीर्ष्याया श्रियं होमैः स साधयामास कालनेमिः कृतव्रतः ॥10॥

KaalaNemi feeling envious seeing other householders, who were all quite rich, took to the observance of some vows and performed rites to please Shree (Goddess of wealth).

सा च तुष्टा सती साक्षादेवं श्रीस्तमभाषत -"भूरि प्राप्स्यसि वित्तं च पुत्रं च पृथिवीपतिं, किं त्वन्ते चौरसदृशो

वधस्तव भविष्यति, हुतमग्नौ त्वया यस्मादमर्षकलुषात्मना" इत्युक्त्वान्तर्दधे लक्ष्मीः।

Pleased by his effort, Goddess Lakshmi appeared in front of him and said. "You will attain abundant wealth and also a son who will rule a kingdom. But you will be executed like a thief, because you performed fire-rites with your mind infected with envy!" So saying, the Goddess vanished.

कालनेमिरपि क्रमात् महाधनोऽभूत्किं चास्य दिनैः पुत्रोऽप्यजायत ॥13॥

KaalaNemi in course of time became very rich. What more! He had a son also within a few days.

श्रीवरादेष संप्राप्त इति नाम्ना तमात्मजं श्रीदत्तमकरोत्सोऽपि पिता पूर्णमनोरथः॥14॥

As the child was born by the boon of 'Shree', the father whose desires were all fulfilled, named his son as ShreeDatta (given by Shree).

क्रमात्स वृद्धिं संप्राप्तः श्रीदत्तो ब्राह्मणोऽपि सन् अस्त्रेषु बाहुयुद्धेषु बभूवाप्रतिमो भुवि॥15॥

ShreeDatta grew well in time. Though he was Brahmin, he had mastered skills like wrestling and other 'weapons which could be empowered by deities' (Astra), and was unparalleled in the Earth.

कालनेमेरथ भ्राता तीर्थार्थी सर्पभक्षितां भार्यामुद्धिश्य विगतभयो देशान्तरं ययौ॥16॥

KaalaNemi's brother VigataBhaya, who desired to visit sacred places, went off to another country, since his wife had been bitten by a snake.

श्रीदत्तोऽपि गुणजेन राज्ञा वल्लभशक्तिना तत्र विक्रमशक्तेः स स्वपुत्रस्य कृतः सखा॥17॥

राजपुत्रेण तेनास्य सहवासोऽभिमानिना बाल्ये दुर्योधनेनेव भीमस्यासीत्तरस्विना॥18॥

ShreeDatta was made a companion of Prince VikramaShakti by king VallabhaShakti, who could recognize the talents in a man. The company of the arrogant prince was like that of Bheema with the impetuous Duryodhana in their childhood (tainted by enmity).

द्वावेतस्याथ मित्रत्वं विप्रस्यावन्तिदेशजौ क्षत्रियौ बाहुशाली च वज्रमुष्टिश्च जग्मतुः॥19॥

This Brahmin ShreeDatta later became a friend of two men of warrior-caste named BaahuShaali and VajraMushti.

बाहुयुद्धजिताश्चान्ये दाक्षिणात्या गुणप्रियाः स्वयंवरसुहृत्त्वेन मन्त्रिपुत्रास्तमाश्रयन्॥20॥

महाबलव्याघ्रभटावुपेन्द्रबल इत्यपि तथा निष्ठुरको नाम सौहार्दं तस्य चक्रिरे॥21॥

Some sons of ministers of the south who were defeated by him in wrestling and who appreciated the talent he had, sought his friendship by themselves. Thus, MahaaBala, VyaaghraBhata, UpendraBala, and also Nishturaka became his close friends.

कदाचिदथ वर्षासु विहर्तुं जाह्नवीतटे श्रीदत्तः सह तैर्मित्रै राजपुत्रसखो ययौ॥22॥

After some years, once ShreeDatta accompanying the prince along with his own friends, went to bank of River Gangaa.

स्वभृत्यास्तत्र तं चक्रुर्निजं राजसुतं नृपम्, श्रीदत्तोऽपि स तत्कालं राजा मित्रैरकल्प्यत॥23॥

The servants of the prince made him the king (when playing some game). ShreeDatta's friends made ShreeDatta the king for the time being (in a playful mood, to tease the prince.)

तावता जातरोषेण राजपुत्रेण तेन सः विप्रवीरो रणायाशु समाहूतो मदस्पृशा॥24॥

The arrogant prince felt infuriated and invited ShreeDatta, the Brahmin wrestler for a wrestling match.

स तेन बाहुयुद्धेन श्रीदत्तेनाथ निर्जितः, चकार हृदि वध्यं तु वर्धमानं कलङ्कितः॥25॥

And in the ensuing match, he was defeated by ShreeDatta. Feeling insulted, he decided to put the rising hero to death.

ज्ञात्वा च तमभिप्रायं राजपुत्रस्य शङ्कितः श्रीदत्तः स तैर्मित्रस्तत्समीपात्तदपासरत्॥26॥

Getting a hint of his intention, and feeling apprehensive, ShreeDatta ran away with his friends.

उपसर्पन्स चापश्यद्गङ्गामध्यगतां स्त्रियं द्वियमाणां जलौघेन सागरस्थामिव श्रियम्॥27॥

They all reached the bank of River Gangaa. There, ShreeDatta saw a woman in the middle of the river getting carried away by the flooding waves, like Goddess Lakshmi in the (Milk) Ocean getting carried away.

ततश्चावततारैतामुद्धर्तुं जलमध्यतः षड्बाहुशालिप्रमुखान्स्थापयित्वा तटे सखीन्॥28॥

He made his six friends with mighty shoulders wait at the shore, and jumped inside the river to rescue that woman from the floods.

तां च केशेष्वपि प्रासां निमग्नां दूरमम्भसि अनुसर्तुं स्त्रियं सोऽपि वीरस्तत्रैव मग्नवान्॥29॥

He caught hold of her hair to pull her towards him; but she kept on sinking inside the river waters. That brave man also sunk inside the river along with her.

निमज्ज्य च ददर्शात्र स श्रीदत्तः क्षणादिति शैवं देवकुलं दिव्यं न पुनर्वारि न स्त्रियम्॥30॥

The moment he was deep inside the waters, ShreeDatta saw a beautiful temple of Shiva. The water was not there any more; nor the woman.

तद्दृष्ट्वा महदाश्चर्यं श्रान्तो नत्वा वृषध्वजं उद्याने सुन्दरे तत्र तां निनाय विभावरीम्॥31॥

He was surprised by all these wondrous occurrences.

ShreeDatta saluted VrshaDhvaja (Shiva - with the flag having the emblem of bull).

Feeling tired, he spent the night in the beautiful garden there.

प्रातश्च देवमीशानं सा पूजयितुमागता ददृशे तेन मूर्तेव रूपश्रीः स्त्रीगुणान्विता॥32॥

In the morning, he saw a girl with all the characteristics of a woman in perfection, who was beauty personified and who had come there to offer worship to Ishaana (Lord of all - Shiva).

ईश्वरं पूजयित्वा च सा ततो निजमन्दिरं ययाविन्दुमुखी, सोऽपि श्रीदत्तोऽनुजगाम ताम्,

ददर्श मन्दिरं तच्च तस्याः सुरपुरोमम्।

That moon-faced girl offered worship to Shiva and returned to her house. ShreeDatta followed her, and saw her abode which was like the 'city of Suras' (Svarga).

प्रविवेश च संभ्रान्ता सावमानेव मानिनी।

साप्यसंभाषमाणैव तमन्तर्वासवेशमनि तन्वी न्यषीदत्पर्यङ्के स्त्रीसहस्रोपसेविता॥35॥

That proud girl entered her house in a fluster, as if she had been offended by some one. That beautiful girl of slender-build, without saying anything to him, sat on the cot, attended by thousands of maids.

श्रीदत्तोऽपि स तत्रैव निषसाद तदन्तिके।अथाकस्मात्प्रववृते तया साध्व्या प्ररोदितुम्।

निपेतुः स्तनयोस्तस्याः संतप्ता बाष्पबिन्दवः,श्रीदत्तस्य च तत्कालं कारुण्यं हृदये गतम्।

ततः स चैनां पप्रच्छ-"का त्वं दुःखं किं तव, वद सुन्दरि, शक्तोऽहं तन्निवारयितुं यतः"॥38॥

ShreeDatta also sat near the cot. Then that good lady suddenly started to weep aloud.

Hot tear drops fell on her breasts. Compassion rose in the mind of ShreeDatta immediately.

He asked her, "Who are you? What is causing you so much sorrow? Tell me O beautiful girl! I can solve any problem of yours!"

ततः कथंचित्सावादीत्-"वयं दैत्यपतेर्बलेः पौत्र्यो दशशतं, तासां ज्येष्ठा विद्युत्प्रभेत्यहम्॥39॥

She somehow took hold of herself and said,

"We are the ten hundred grand daughters of King Bali, the king of Daityas.

I am the eldest and my name is VidyutPrabhaa (lustre of lightning).

स नः पितामहो नीतो विष्णुना दीर्घबन्धनम्, पिता च बाहुयुद्धेन हतस्तेनैव शौरिणा॥40॥

Our grandfather was taken away by Vishnu for a prolonged imprisonment. Our father was killed by that Shouri (Vishnu -born in the dynasty of ShooraSena) in a wrestling match.

तं हत्वा तेन च निजात्पुरान्निर्वासिता वयम्, प्रवेशरोधकृत्तत्र सिंहश्च स्थापितोऽन्तरे॥41॥

After killing him, he expelled us from our own city. He kept a lion inside the city to stop us from entering it.

आवृतं तत्पदं तेन दुःखेन हृदयं च नः, स च यक्षः कुबेरस्य शापात्सिंहत्वमागतः।मर्त्यैश्चाभिभवस्तस्य शापान्तः

कथितः पुरा। पुरप्रवेशोपायार्थं विज्ञप्तो विष्णुरादिशत्॥43॥

(यक्ष्यते इति यक्षः - Yakshas are those who serve Kubera the wealth-deity.)

That lion stays inside that place, and grief stays inside our hearts.

He is actually a 'Yaksha' who has become a lion by the curse of Kubera. His curse will end when he gets defeated by the mortals; so it was ordained in the past. When we requested Vishnu that we should be allowed inside the city, he told us about this condition.

अतः स शत्रुस्माकं केसरी जीयतां त्वया, तदर्थमेव चानीतो मया वीर भवानिह॥44॥

Therefore you must somehow win over that lion. That is why O brave one, you were brought by me here.

मृगाङ्काख्यं खड्गं च जितात्स्मादवाप्स्यसि पृथिवीं च यत्प्रभावेण जित्वा राजा भविष्यसि"॥45॥

When you defeat him you will acquire a sword named 'Mrgaankakaa (with the moon symbol)'.  
By the power of that sword you will conquer the whole Earth also and will become a king."

तच्छ्रुत्वा स तथेत्यत्र श्रीदत्तोऽतीततद्धिनः अन्येद्युर्देत्यकन्यास्ताः कृत्वा तत्पुरं ययौ॥46॥

Hearing her words, ShreeDatta was ready to do what she said, and spent that night there itself.  
The next day he went to that city guided by those 'Daitya princesses'.

जिगाय बाहुयुद्धेन तं सिंहमुद्धतम्।सोऽपि शापविमुक्तः सन्बभूव पुरुषाकृतिः॥47॥

He defeated that wonderful lion in a wrestling combat.  
The lion was freed of the curse, and attained the form of a Yaksha.

दत्त्वा चास्मै स खड्गं स्वं तुष्टः शापान्तकारिणे सहासुराङ्गनादुःखभारेणादर्शनं ययौ॥48॥

He was pleased by ShreeDatta's valour; gifted the sword to the redeemer of his curse; and vanished along with the weighty grief of all the Asura princesses.

सोऽथ सानुजया साकं श्रीदत्तो दैत्यकन्यया बहिर्गतमिवानन्तं तद्विवेश पुरोत्तमम्॥49॥

Along with that Daitya princess followed by her sisters, ShreeDatta entered that excellent city which was like the huge serpent Ananta coming out of the dark hole.

अङ्गुलीयं विषघ्नं च सास्मै दैत्यसुता ददौ। ततः सोऽत्र स्थितस्तस्यां साभिलाषोऽभवद्युवा॥50॥

The Daitya's daughter gifted him a ring which could remove poison. That young man who stood in front of her, became infatuated with love towards her.

साथ युक्त्या जगादैर्न "वाप्यां स्नानमितः कुरु, आदायैर्न च मज्जेस्त्वं खड्गं ग्राहभयापहम्"॥51॥

She tricked him by saying, "You bathe in this well; but take this sword also with you to save yourself from the crocodiles."

तथेति वाप्यां मग्नः सञ्श्रीदत्तो जाह्नवीतटात् तस्मादेव समुत्स्थौ यस्मात्पूर्वमवातरत्॥52॥

ShreeDatta agreed and went under the waters, but got out in the same bank of River Gangaa, from where he had jumped into the waters previously.

खड्गाङ्गुलीयके पश्यन्पातालादुत्थितोऽथ सः विषण्णो विस्मितश्चासीद्वञ्चितोऽसुरकन्यया॥53॥

He found himself coming out of the netherworld, and also saw that he held in his hands the ring and the sword.  
(It was a real occurrence; not a dream!) He understood that he had been cheated by the Asura princess. He was surprised and also dejected.

ततस्तान्सुहृदोऽन्वेष्टुं स्वगृहाभिमिखं ययौ। गच्छन्निष्ठुरकाख्यं च मित्रं मार्गं ददर्श सः॥54॥

He then went towards his house to search for his friends.  
On the way he saw the friend named Nishturaka.

स चोपेत्य प्रणम्याथ नीत्वैकान्ते च सत्वरं तं पृष्टस्वजनोदन्तमेवं निषष्टुरकोऽब्रवीत्॥55॥

Nishturaka went near him; greeted him; took him to some solitary place quickly; and questioned by him, recounted what had happened to all of his friends.

गङ्गान्तस्त्वां तदा मग्नमन्विष्य दिवसान्बहून् स्वशिरांसि शुचा छेतुमभूम वयमुद्यताः॥56॥

"After you entered the Gangaa waters, we searched for you for many days; and (not finding you) we decided to slice off our heads feeling extremely sorrowful.

'न पुत्राः साहसं कार्यं जीवन्नेष्यति वः सखा' इत्यन्तरिक्षाद्वाणी नस्तमुद्योगं न्यवारयत्॥57॥

'Do not do such a daring act, sons! If you keep living, he will come back to you later'.  
Thus a voice from the sky stopped our suicide-venture.

ततश्च त्वत्पितुः पार्श्वमस्माकं प्रतिगच्छतां, मार्गं सत्वरमभ्येत्य पुमानेकोऽब्रवीदिदम्॥58॥

Then, as we started to walk in the path to meet your father, a man quickly approached us and said,  
"नगरं न प्रवेष्टव्यं युष्माभिरिह सांप्रतं यतो वल्लभशक्तिः स विपन्नोऽत्र महीपतिः।दत्तो विक्रमशक्तिश्च राज्ये संभूय मन्त्रिभिः।प्राप्तराज्यः स चान्येद्युः कालनेमेरगाद्गृहम्।श्रीदत्तः क्व स ते पुत्र इति चामर्षनिर्भरः तमपृच्छत्।

स चाप्येनं नाहं वेद्रीत्यभाषत।प्रच्छादितोऽमुना पुत्र इति तेन निषूदितः कालनेमिः स शूलायां राज्ञा, चौर इति क्रुधा। तद्दृष्ट्वा तस्य भार्यायाः स्वयं हृदयमस्फुटत्।पापं पापान्तराक्षेपक्रूरं हि क्रूरकर्मणाम्॥63॥

तेन चान्विष्यते हन्तुं सोऽपि विक्रमशक्तिना श्रीदत्तस्तद्वयस्याश्व। यूयं तद्रम्यतामितः"॥64॥

"Do not enter the city now! King VallabhaShakti has died! The ministers consecrated VikramaShakti as the next king. As soon as he got the kingdom, he went to KaalaNemi's house (in search of ShreeDatta to take revenge on him.) The king impatient with anger, asked KaalaNemi, 'Where is your son ShreeDatta?' He told him that he did not know anything. Thinking that he was hiding his son, the king became very angry and had him impaled on the stake as a thief. Seeing that scene, his wife's heart broke.

Men of cruel deeds are so cruel that they tend to keep adding one sinful act over another without stopping.

VikramaShakti is at present searching for ShreeDatta and his friends, to get them killed.

You people get away from here fast.'

इति तेनोदिताः पुंसा शोकार्तास्ते निजां भुवं बाहुशाल्यादयः पञ्च संमन्त्र्योज्जयिनीं गताः॥65॥

Warned by him like this, those five men Baahushalya and others consulted each other feeling apprehensive, and went off to Ujjayini.

"प्रच्छन्नः स्थापितश्चाहं त्वदर्थमिह तैः सखे।तेदेहि तावद्रच्छावस्तत्रैव सुहृदन्तिकम्"- एवं निष्ठुरकाच्छ्रुत्वा

पितरावनुशोच्य सः निदधे प्रतिकारास्थामिव खड्गे दृशं मुहुः॥67॥

"I was made to stay here unseen by others for yours sake only waiting for you my friend, so, let us also go off to where our friends are staying." Listening to Nishturaka's words of advice, and feeling sad about the death of his parents, ShreeDatta fixed his eyes again and again on the sword, as if making it a repository of his revenge.

कालं प्रतीक्षमाणोऽथ वीरो निष्ठुरकान्वितः प्रतस्थे तान्सखीन्प्राप्तुं स तामुज्जयिनीं पुरीम्॥68॥

Then that brave man, deciding to wait for a suitable time, started towards the city of Ujjayini, accompanied by Nishturaka, in order to meet his friends.

आमज्जनान्तं वृत्तान्तं सख्युस्तस्य च वर्णयन् श्रीदत्तः स ददर्शैकां क्रोशन्तीमबलां पथि॥69॥

He told his friend Nishturaka all the events that had happened after he entered the waters of Gangaa.

At that time he saw a woman weeping aloud on the road.

"अबला भ्रष्टमार्गाहं मालवं प्रस्थिता" इति तां ब्रुवन्तीं दयया सोऽथ सहप्रस्थायिनीं व्यधात्॥70॥

ShreeDatta felt kind towards that lady who was lamenting, "I am a helpless woman. I have to reach Maalava (Ujjayini); but I have lost my way", and took her also along with him.

तया दयानुरोधाच्च स्त्रिया निष्ठुरकान्वितः कस्मिंश्चिच्छून्यनगरे दिने तस्मिन्नुवास सः॥71॥

Accompanied by that woman whom he had helped out of compassion, and along with his friend Nishturaka, he reached an empty city the next day, and stayed there.

तत्र रात्रावकस्माच्च मुक्तनिद्रो ददर्श तां स्त्रियं निष्ठुरकं हत्वा हर्षातन्मांसमश्नतीम्॥72॥

In the middle of the night, he woke up and saw that the woman had killed Nishturaka, and was eating his flesh delightfully.

उदतिष्ठत्समाकृष्य सोऽथ खड्गं मृगाङ्ककम्, सापि स्त्री राक्षसीरूपं घोरं स्वं प्रत्यपद्यत्॥73॥

He immediately got up wielding his sword Mrgaankakaa.

That woman also stood up in the form of a terrifying Raakshasi (evil demoness).

स च केशेषु जग्राह तां निशाचरीम्।तत्क्षणं दिव्यरूपत्वं संप्राप्ता तमुवाच सा॥74॥

He held her hair and was ready to cut off the head of that 'night-moving creature'.

She immediately changed into a divine form and said-

"मा मां वधीर्महाभाग मुञ्च नैवास्मि राक्षसी, अयमेवंविधः शापो ममाभूत्कौशिकान्मुनेः॥11॥

"Do not kill me, hey good man! I am not a Raakshasi. I had been cursed by Sage Kaushika (Vishvaamitra) to become like this.

तपस्यतो हि तस्याहं धनाधिपतिनामुना विघ्नाय प्रेषिता पूर्वं तत्पदप्राप्तिकाङ्क्षिणः।



ततः कान्तेन रूपेण तं क्षोभयितुमक्षमा लज्जिता त्रासयन्त्येनमकार्षं भैरवं वपुः।

तदृष्ट्वा स मुनिः शापं सदृशं मय्यथो दधे- 'राक्षसी भव पापे त्वं निघ्नन्ती मानुषान्' इति।

त्वत्तः केशग्रहे प्राप्ते शापान्तं मे स चाकरोत्, इत्यहं राक्षसीभावमिमं कष्टमुपागमम्।

मयैव नगरं चैतद्ग्रस्तमद्य च मे चिरात् त्वया कृतः स शापान्तस्तद्गृहाणाधुना वरम्"॥80॥

When he was absorbed in penance, I was sent by Kubera to create obstacle to his penance, as he was afraid of the Sage attaining his position. I was not able to disturb him with my beautiful form. I felt embarrassed.

So I took on a terrifying huge form. Then the Sage seeing my form gave a curse I deserved- "Hey sinner! Become a Raakshasi and eat the humans." He told me that I will be redeemed of my curse when I would get pulled by my hair. This is how I got this horrible form of a Raakshasi. This city belongs to me. I have kept it captured from a long time. You have ended my curse. So accept a boon now."

इति तस्याः वचः श्रुत्वा श्रीदत्तः सादरोभ्यधात्-"किमन्येन वरेणाद्य जीवत्वेष सखा मम"॥81॥

Hearing her words, ShreeDatta spoke with all humbleness,

"What boon could I ask for? Let my friend become alive."

एवमस्त्विति सा चास्मै वरं दत्त्वा तिरोदधे।अक्षताङ्गः स चोत्स्थौ जीवन्निष्ठुरकः पुनः॥82॥

She gave the boon saying, "Let it be so!" and immediately vanished.

Nishturaka again got up alive, getting cured of all the wounds.

तेनैव सह च प्रातः प्रहृष्टो विस्मितश्च सः ततः प्रतस्थे श्रीदत्तः प्राप चोज्जयिनीं क्रमात्॥83॥

Happy and also surprised, ShreeDatta continued his journey along with his friend and soon reached Ujjayini.

तत्र संभावयामास सखीन्मार्गोन्मुखान्स तान्, दर्शनेन यथायातो नीलकण्ठानिवाम्बुदः॥84॥

His sight delighted his friends who were waiting for him, like a cloud suddenly appearing delights the peacocks.

कृतातिथ्यविधिश्चासौ स्वगृहं बाहुशालिना नीतोऽभूत्कथिताशेषनिजवृत्तान्तकौतुकः॥85॥

Having received the due welcome for a guest, he was taken by BaahuShaali to his house. He related all the wonderful events that he had experienced.

तत्रोपचर्यमाणः सन्पितृभ्यां बाहुशालिनः स उवास समं मित्रैः श्रीदत्तः स्वगृहे यथा॥86॥

Treated well by Baahushaali's parents, ShreeDatta lived in that house along with his friends, as comfortably as in his own house.

कदाचित्सोऽथ संप्राप्ते मधुमासमहोत्सवे यात्रामुपवने द्रष्टुं जगाम सखिभिः सह॥87॥

Once, spring festival came. He went with his friends to see the festivities in the garden.

तत्र कन्यां ददर्शैकां राज्ञः श्रीबिम्बकेः सुतां आगतामाकृतिमतीं साक्षादिव मधुश्रियम्॥88॥

He saw there the daughter of King ShreeBimbaki, who had also come there to participate in the festivities.

She was like the embodiment of the 'beauty of spring' itself.

सा मृगाङ्कवती नाम हृदयं तस्य तत्क्षणं विवेश दत्तमार्गेव दृष्ट्यास्य सविकासया॥89॥

Her name was Mrgaankavatee (beautiful like the moon).

In a moment, she entered his heart as if she found a way through his fully opened eyes.

तस्या अपि मुहुः स्निग्धा प्रथमप्रेमशंसिनी न्यस्ता तं प्रति दूतीव दृष्टिचक्रे गतागतम्॥90॥

Her glance also, which was filled with attraction and which expressed her first sensation of love, was sent to him acting like her messenger but was withdrawn again and again.

*(The moment ShreeDatta saw her, his eyes opened wide, getting stuck by her beauty which was like a host of flowers opening wide at the arrival of spring. Her beautiful form had entered his heart now through the wide open gates of his eyes. Attracted by ShreeDatta, Mrgaankavatee also looked at him.*

*It was the first time she had been ever attracted by a man and her eyes expressed her new love. Yet feeling shy she turned her glance away from the man who won her heart. But again attracted by him she looked at him, only to shy away again. This went on for some time.)*

[We find here that Sangataka uses the word 'Mrga' to make up the names of the sword and the heroine; as if to soothe the mind of the king who is highly anxious to meet Mrgaavatee, his wife.]

प्रविष्टां वृक्षगहनं तामपश्यन्नथ क्षणात् श्रीदत्तः शून्यहृदयो दिशोऽपि न ददर्श सः॥91॥

Mrgaankavatee entered a thick grove of trees and disappeared. Losing sight of her within seconds, ShreeDatta felt his heart completely empty. He was unable to know where he was, and had lost the sense of directions.

"ज्ञातं मया ते हृदयं सखे मापह्वं कृथाः, तदेहि तत्र गच्छावो यत्र राजसुता गता" इत्युक्तश्चेङ्गितज्ञेन सुहृदा बाहुशालिना, तथेति स ययौ तस्याः संनिकर्षं सुहृत्सखः॥93॥

"I understand your mind friend! Do not try to hide your feelings. Come! Let us both go there where the princess has gone" said BaahuShaali, skilled in the expression or interpretation of internal sentiments by seeing the external gesture (Ingitajna). Accepting his words, ShreeDatta guided by his good friend went to meet her.

हा कष्टमहिना दष्टा राजपुत्रीति तत्क्षणं आक्रन्द उदभूतत्र श्रीदत्तहृदयज्वरः॥94॥

"Ha! The tragedy! The princess has been bitten by the snake!" - a cry arose the very next moment, increasing the fever of ShreeDatta.

"विषमङ्गुलीयं च विद्या च सुहृदोऽस्य मे अस्तीति गत्वा जगदे कञ्चुकी बाहुशालिना॥95॥

"My friend here has a magical ring which will remove the poison, and also the learning connected to such treatments" - said BaahuShaali to the chamberlain at guard (Kanchuki) going near him.

स च तत्क्षणमभ्येत्य कञ्चुकी चरणानतः निकटं राजदुहितुः श्रीदत्तमनयद्रुतम्॥96॥

Immediately that chamberlain fell at the feet of ShreeDatta and took him quickly near the princess.

सोऽपि तस्यास्तदङ्गुल्यां निचिक्षेपाङ्गुलीयकं, ततो जजाप विद्यां च, तेन प्रत्युञ्जिजीव सा॥97॥

ShreeDatta slipped that ring in her finger, and recited a magical chant. She immediately became alive again.

अथ सर्वजने हृष्टे श्रीदत्तस्तुतितत्परे तत्रैव ज्ञातवृत्तान्तो राजा बिंबकिराययौ॥98॥

Everyone was happy and praised ShreeDatta. King Bimbaki came there hearing about all this.

तेनासौ सखिभिः सार्धमङ्गुलीयकः प्रत्याजगाम श्रीदत्तो भवनं बाहुशालिनः॥99॥

Without taking back the ring (from the princess's hand), ShreeDatta went with the king to the palace, accompanied by his friends.

तत्र तस्मै सुवर्णादि यत्प्रीतः प्राहिणोन्नृपः तद्बाहुशालिनः पित्रे समग्रं स समर्पयत्॥100॥

Whatever gold and other gifts were sent by the grateful king was offered to Baahushaali's parents by ShreeDatta.

अथ तं चिन्तयन्कान्तां स तथा पर्यतप्यत यथा किंकार्यतामूढा वयस्यास्तस्य जज्ञिरे॥101॥

Later, ShreeDatta suffered much by the thoughts of the girl who had attracted him.

His friends were unable to remove his distress in any manner.

ततो भावनिका नाम राजपुत्र्याः प्रिया सखी अङ्गुलीयार्पणव्याजातस्यान्तिकमुपाययौ, उवाच चैनं

"मत्सख्यास्तस्याः सुभग सांप्रतं त्वं वा प्राणप्रदो भर्ता मृत्युर्व्याप्येष निश्चयः"॥103॥

At that time a close friend of the princess named Bhaavanikaa came to meet him on the pretext of returning the ring, and said to him, "Hey good man! It has to be decided whether you will now become the husband and revive her life, or allow death to take her away." (*The princess will give up her life if you do not meet her.*)

इत्युक्ते भावनिकया श्रीदत्तः स च सापि च बाहुशाली च तेऽन्ये च मन्त्रं संभूय चक्रिरे॥104॥

When Bhaavanikaa spoke like this, all three of them, ShreeDatta, Bhaavanikaa and BaahuShaali and also the other friends discussed together to arrive at a solution.

"हरामो निभृतं युक्त्या राजपुत्रीमिमां वयं निवासहेतोर्गुप्तं च गच्छामो मथुरामितः"

इति संमन्त्रिते सम्यक्कार्यसिद्ध्यै च संविदि अन्योन्यं स्थापितायां, सा ययौ भावनिका ततः॥106॥

"Let us take away the princess secretly using some strategy; go off from here; and live at Mathuraa."

After this discussion, and planning well the part everyone had to play for the accomplishment of their venture, Bhaavanikaa went off.

अन्येदुर्बाहुशाली च वयस्यत्रितयान्वितः वणिज्याव्यपदेशेन जगाम मथुरां प्रति॥107॥

Next day, BaahuShaali with his three of friends left for Mathuraa on the excuse of some trade he had to do.

स गच्छन्स्थापयामास वाहनानि पदे पदे राजपुत्र्यभिसाराय गूढानि चतुराणि च॥108॥

On the way, he arranged for vehicles at every step for the fast and concealed journey of the princess.

श्रीदत्तोऽपि ततः कांचिद्बहिः सहितां स्त्रियं सायं राजसुतावासे पाययित्वा मधु न्यधात्॥109॥

ShreeDatta then found some wretched (sinful) woman with her daughter; hid them in the harem of the princess; got them drunk well and left them there unconscious.

ततोऽत्र दीपोद्देशेन दत्त्वाग्निं वासवेशमनि प्रच्छन्नं भावनिकया निन्ये राजसुता बहिः॥110॥

Bhaavanikaa meanwhile engaged herself in lighting the lamps and set fire to the residence; and took away the princess outside.

तत्क्षणं तां च संप्राप्य श्रीदत्तः स बहिः स्थितः प्राक्प्रस्थितस्य निकटं प्राहिणोद्वाहशालिनः॥111॥

ShreeDatta who was waiting outside, went near Mrgaankavatee and sent her off to BaahuShaali who had gone off earlier.

ददौ मित्रद्वयं चास्याः पश्चाद्भावनिकां तथा तन्मन्दिरे च दग्धा सा क्षीबा स्त्री सुतया सह॥112॥

He also sent two of his friends behind her along with Bhaavanikaa.

That drunken woman was burnt along with her daughter in the palace.

लोकस्तु तां सखीयुक्तां मेने दग्धां नृपात्मजाम्। प्रातश्च पूर्ववत्तत्र श्रीदत्तो ददृशे जनैः॥113॥

Everyone assumed that the princess had died along with her friend.

In the morning, people saw ShreeDatta engaged in his usual duties.

ततो रात्रौ द्वितीयस्यां स गृहीतमृगाङ्ककः श्रीदत्तो प्रययौ पूर्वप्रस्थितां तां प्रियां प्रति॥113॥

On the second night, ShreeDatta took his Mrgaankakaa (sword) and went off to join his beloved who had already gone off.

तया च रात्र्यातिक्रम्य दूरमध्वानमुत्सुकः विन्ध्याटवीमथ प्राप स प्रातः प्रहरे गते॥114॥

With all excitement, he travelled a long distance that night and reached the forest of Vindhya, after the first hour (Prahara) of the morning was over.

तत्रादावनिमित्तानि पश्चात्पथि ददर्श तान् सर्वान्प्रहाराभिहतान्सहभावनिकान्सखीन्॥116॥

On the road, he saw many signs which predicted some tragic event. Then he found all his friends and Bhaavanikaa also lying wounded by some weapons, lying on the road.

ते च दृष्ट्वा निजगदुस्तं संभ्रान्तमुपागतम्-"मुषिताः स्मो निपत्याद्य बह्वश्वारोहसेनया। एकेन चाश्वारोहेण राजपुत्री भयाकुला अस्मास्वेतदवस्थेषु नीताश्चमधिरोप्य सा। दूरं न यावन्नीता च तावद्द्रच्छानया दिशा, अस्माकमन्तिके मा स्थाः, सर्वथाभ्यधिका च सा"॥119॥

They told the ShreeDatta who had arrived there with apprehension, "We were robbed by an army of horsemen, who suddenly attacked us. When we were lying helpless, one horseman among them placed the frightened princess on his horse, and rode away with her. Before they are gone far, quickly follow them in the direction they went. Do not stay with us. She is more important than all of us."

इति तैः प्रेषितो मित्रैर्मुहुः पश्यन्विवृत्य सः जवेन राजतनयां श्रीदत्तोऽनुससार ताम्॥120॥

Thus forced by his friends, ShreeDatta quickly started in the direction shown by them, to search for the princess, looking back at them again and again.

गत्वा सुदूरं लेभे च तामश्वारोहवाहिनीं युवानमेकं तन्मध्ये क्षत्रियं स ददर्श च॥121॥

तेनोपरि तुरङ्गस्य गृहीतां तां नृपात्मजां अपश्यच्च ययौ चास्य क्षत्रयूनोऽन्तिकं क्रमात्॥122॥

After travelling a long distance he found the army of horse-men. He saw a young man of warrior-caste in their midst, with the captured princess sitting on a horse. He slowly approached the young warrior.

सान्त्वेन राजपुत्रीं ताममुञ्चन्तं च पादतः अश्वादाक्षिप्य दृषदि श्रीदत्तस्तमचूर्णयत्॥123॥

When that man did not release the princess when requested politely, he kicked him with his foot; made him fall on the stony ground from the horse; and thrashed him well.

तं हत्वा च तमेवाश्वमारुह्य निजघान तान् अन्यानपि बहून्क्रुद्धानश्वारोहान्प्रधावितान्॥124॥

After killing him, he climbed that very horse, killed all the other horsemen who angrily attacked him.

हतशेषास्ततस्ते च तद्दृष्ट्वा तस्य तादृशं वीरस्यामानुषं वीर्यं, पलाय्य सभयं ययुः॥125॥

Rest of them who were alive, escaped from there in fear, after observing the extraordinary valour of the courageous man.

स चापि तुरगारूढो राजपुत्र्या तया सह मृगाङ्कवत्या श्रीदत्तः प्रययौ तान्सखीन्प्रति॥126॥

ShreeDatta seated on the horse along with Princess Mrgaankavatee, set out to meet his wounded friends.

स्तोकं गत्वा च तस्याश्वः संगामे व्रणितो भृशं सभार्यस्यावतीर्णस्य पपात प्राप पञ्चताम्॥127॥

After moving a little distance, ShreeDatta along with his wife, climbed down to rest awhile. At that time, the horse which had been wounded a lot in the battle, fell down and died.

तत्कालं चास्य तत्रैव सा मृगाङ्कवती प्रिया त्रासायासपरिश्रान्ता तृषार्ता समपद्यत्॥128॥

At that time, his beloved Mrgaankavatee was exhausted, tired and felt very thirsty, at that very place.

स्थापयित्वा च तां तत्र गत्वा दूरमितस्ततः जलमन्विष्यतश्चास्य सवितास्तमुपाययौ॥129॥

He asked her to wait there, and went in search of water. Meanwhile the Sun set, even as he was searching for water here and there.

ततः स लब्धेऽपि जले मार्गनाशवशाद्भ्रमन् चक्रवाकवत्कूजंस्तां निनाय निशां वने॥130॥

Though he got the water, he was lost in the forest and was unable to find the way back.

Wandering all over, he spent the night calling out for his partner like a Chakravaaka bird (ruddy goose).

प्रातः प्राप च तत्स्थानं पतिताश्वोपलक्षितं, न च तत्र क्वचित्कान्तां राजपुत्रीं ददर्श ताम्॥131॥

In the morning, he somehow found the place where the horse was lying dead. But his beautiful princess was not there anywhere.

ततः स मोहाद्विन्यस्य भुवि खड्गं मृगाङ्ककं वृक्षाग्रमारुरोहैनामवेक्षितुमितस्ततः॥132॥

He was shocked. He fixed his sword in the ground, and climbed the tree to see whether the princess could be seen anywhere.

तत्क्षणं तेन मार्गेण कोऽप्यागाच्छबराधिपः, स चागत्यैव जग्राह वृक्षमूलान्मृगाङ्ककम्॥133॥

At that time, a hunter-chief came that way. He saw the Mrgaankakaa sword, and immediately grabbed it off.

तं दृष्ट्वापि स वृक्षाग्रादवतीर्यैव पृष्ठवान् प्रियाप्रवृत्तिमत्यार्तः श्रीदत्तः शबराधिपम्॥134॥

ShreeDatta saw him; yet, climbed out of the tree and questioned the hunter-chief as to the whereabouts of his lover, in a pitiable manner.

"इतस्त्वं गच्छ मत्पल्लीं जाने सा तत्र ते गता, अहं तत्रैव चेष्टामि दास्याम्यसिमिमं च ते"॥135॥

"You go to my village (Palli – small village or tribal settlement) in this direction. I know that she has gone there. I am also going there only; and will give back your sword too when I reach there."

इत्युक्त्वा प्रेषितस्तेन शबरेण स चोत्सुकः श्रीदत्तस्तां ययौ पल्लीं तदीयैः पुरुषैः सह॥136॥

After told to go to his village by the hunter, ShreeDatta with renewed hope, went to that village along with his men.

श्रमं तावद्विमुञ्चेति तत्रोक्तः पुरुषैश्च तैः प्राप्य पल्लीपतेर्गेहं श्रान्तो निद्रां क्षणाद्ययौ॥137॥

When they reached the hut of the village-chief, those men told him to rest for some time. ShreeDatta tired and exhausted, fell asleep instantly.

प्रबुद्धश्च ददर्श स्वौ पादौ निगडसंयुतौ अलब्धतद्रती कान्ताप्राप्स्युपायोद्यमाविव॥138॥

When he woke up, he found that his feet were in chains, as if they had failed in their venture of reaching his beloved.

अथ क्षणं दत्तसुखां क्षणान्तरविमाथिनीं दैवस्येव गतिं तत्र तस्थौ शोचन्स तां प्रियाम्॥139॥

He remained there lamenting for his beloved, who like destiny had given joy one moment and had shattered all hopes the next moment.

एकदा तमुवाचैत्य चेटी मोचनिकाभिधा- "आगतोऽसि महाभाग कुत्रेह बत मृत्यवे।  
कार्यसिद्धयै स हि क्वापि प्रयातः शबराधिपः, आगत्य चण्डिकायास्त्वामुपहारीकरिष्यति।  
एतदर्थं हि तेन त्वमितो विन्ध्याटवीतटात् प्राप्य युक्त्या विसृज्येह नीतः संप्रति बन्धनम्।  
भगवत्युपहारत्वे यत एवासि कल्पितः अत एव सदा वस्त्रैर्भोजनैश्चोपचर्यसे।

एकस्तु मुक्त्युपायस्ते विद्यते यदि मन्यसे, अस्त्यस्य सुन्दरी नाम शबराधिपतेः सुता।  
अत्यर्थं सा च दृष्ट्वा त्वां जायते मदनातुरा, तां भजस्व वयस्यां मे, ततः क्षेममवाप्स्यसि" ॥145 ॥

One day, a maid named Mochanikaa came there and said to him,  
"Hey good man! Why have you come here simply to die? The hunter chief has gone out on some important  
work. After he comes back you will become an offering to Goddess Chandikaa. That is the reason for which he  
brought you from the Vindhya forest through some trick and has kept you imprisoned. You are an offering made  
ready for the Goddess. That is why you are given good food and proper clothing; and kept comfortable.  
If you trust me I can tell you one way of escaping from here.

This hunter chief has a daughter named Sundaree. Whenever she sets her eyes on you, she goes to the peak of  
infatuation. Oblige my friend and save yourself."

तयेत्युक्तो विमुक्त्यर्थी स श्रीदत्तस्तथेति तां गान्धर्वविधिना गुप्तं भार्या व्यधित सुन्दरीम् ॥146 ॥

ShreeDatta, desiring his freedom agreed to her words, and married Sundaree through the Gaandharva method,  
and made her his wife secretly.

(Gaandharva marriage – one of the eight forms of marriage. Here mutual love between the couple is enough.  
Relatives need not be consulted and no ceremonies are required.)

रात्रौ रात्रौ च सा तस्य बन्धननि न्यवारयत्।अचिराच्च सगर्भा सा सुन्दरी समपद्यत ॥147 ॥

Every night, she came and unchained him. Soon Sundaree became pregnant.

तत्सर्वमथ तन्माता बुद्ध्वा मोचनिकामुखात् जामातृस्नेहतो गत्वा स्वैरं श्रीदत्तमब्रवीत्-

"पुत्र, श्रीचण्डनामासौ कोपनः सुन्दरीपिता, न त्वां क्षमेत, तद्गच्छ, विस्मर्तव्या न सुन्दरी" ॥149 ॥

Her mother came to know of all the things that happened from Mochanikaa. She felt affectionate towards her  
son-in-law and approaching him said, "Son! Sundaree's father named ShreeChanda is a very fiery tempered  
person. He will never forgive you. Therefore get away from here. But Sundaree should not be forgotten by you."

इत्युक्त्वा मोचितः श्वश्रा खड्गं श्रीचण्डहस्तगं सुन्दर्यैः निजमावेद्य श्रीदत्तः प्रययौ ततः ॥150 ॥

Freed from the prison by his mother-in-law, ShreeDatta informed Sundaree that the sword which ShreeChanda  
possessed was actually his.

विवेश चायां तामेव चिन्ताक्रान्तो निजाटवीं मृगाङ्कवत्याः पदवीं तस्या जिज्ञासितुं पुनः ॥151 ॥

Then he left that place and entered the very same Vindhya forest region, feeling anxious and desirous of  
searching the whereabouts of Mrgaankavatee.

निमित्तं च शुभं दृष्ट्वा तमेवोद्देशमाययौ यत्रस्याश्वो मृतः सोऽथ यत्र सा हारिता वधूः ॥152 ॥

He observed auspicious omens, and soon reached the place where the horse had died and from where the  
princess had got lost.

तत्र चैकं ददर्शाराल्लुब्धकं संमुखागतं, दृष्ट्वा च पृष्ट्वास्तस्याः प्रवृत्तिं हरिणीदृशः ॥153 ॥

There he met another hunter who was from a different place. He enquired him about the deer-eyed princess.

किं श्रीदत्तस्त्वमित्युक्तो लुब्धकेन च तत्र सः स एव मन्दभाग्योऽहमित्युवाच विनिःश्वसन् ॥154 ॥

That hunter asked him- "Are you ShreeDatta?"

He replied with a deep sigh - "I indeed am that unfortunate person!"

ततः स लुब्धकोऽवादीत्- "तर्हि वच्मि सखे शृणु।दृष्ट्वा सा ते मया भार्या क्रन्दन्ती त्वामितस्ततः।

पृष्ट्वा ततश्च वृत्तान्तमाश्वास्य च कृपाकुलः निजां पल्लीमितोऽरण्यादीनां तां नीतवानहम्।

तत्र चालोक्य तरुणान्पुलिन्दान्सभयेन सा मथुरानिकटं ग्रामं नीता नागस्थलं मया।

तत्र च स्थापिता गेहे स्थविरस्य द्विजन्मनः विश्वदत्ताभिधानस्य न्यासीकृत्य सगौरवम्।

ततश्चाहमिहायातो बुद्ध्वा त्वन्नाम तन्मुखात्। तामन्वेष्टुं ततो गच्छ शीघ्रं नागस्थलं प्रति"॥159॥

Then that hunter said, "Then friend, listen to my words.

Your wife was seen by me lamenting and wandering here and there, searching for you. I heard what had happened to her, and felt compassionate towards her. After consoling her, I took that poor girl, from this forest region to my own village nearby. There, I felt apprehensive by seeing the youthful hunters of the village (who might have harmed her). So I took her to a village called NaagaSthala near Mathuraa, and left her in the house of an old Brahmin named VishvaDatta, without endangering her honour in any way. Then I came here searching for you as she had told me that your name was ShreeDatta. So now go quickly to NaagaSthala and find her."

इत्युक्तो लुब्धकेनाशु स श्रीदत्तस्ततो ययौ तं च नागस्थलं प्रापदपरेद्युर्दिनात्यये॥160॥

After hearing the hunter's words, ShreeDatta immediately started towards NaagaSthala, and reached that place in the evening of the next day.

भवनं विश्वदत्तस्य प्रविश्याथ विलोक्य तं ययाचे- "देहि मे भार्या लुब्धकस्थापिताम्" इति॥161॥

He found the house of VishvaDatta; saw him; and pleaded, "Return my wife who was left here by the hunter."

तच्छ्रुत्वा विश्वदत्तस्तं श्रीदत्तं निजगाद सः-"मथुरायां सुहृन्मेऽस्ति ब्राह्मणो गुणिनां प्रियः।

उपाध्यायश्च मन्त्री च शूरसेनस्य भूपतेः। तस्य हस्ते त्वदीया सा गृहिणी स्थापिता मया।

अयं हि विजानो ग्रामो न तद्रक्षाक्षमो भवेत्। तत्प्रातस्तत्र गच्छ त्वमद्य विश्राम्यतामिह"॥164॥

Then VishvaDatta said to ShreeDatta, "In Mathuraa there is a friend of mine who is an admirer of virtuous men. He is the teacher and minister for King Shoorasena. I have left your wife in his care. This village is scantily populated and was not safe for her. Today you rest here and start tomorrow morning for Mathuraa."

इत्युक्तो विश्वदत्तेन स नीत्वात्रैव तां निशां प्रातः प्रतस्थे प्रापच्च मथुरामपरे दिने॥165॥

Thus advised by VishvaDatta, ShreeDatta spent the night there itself, and left for Mathuraa the next day morning.

दीर्घाध्वमलिनस्तस्मिन्नगरे बहिरेव सः स्नानं चक्रे परिश्रान्तो निर्मले दीर्घिकाजले॥166॥

Feeling dusty and dirty because of the long journey, and to refresh himself he took bath outside the city itself, in a deep well of pure water.

तत एवाम्बुमध्याच्च वस्त्रं चौरनिवेशितं प्राप्तवानञ्चलगन्थिबद्धहारमशङ्कितम्॥167॥

Inside the water he found a cloth left there by a thief, which had actually been knotted at the corner with a necklace tied inside it, and was not visible on the outside.

अथ तद्वस्त्रमादाय स तं हारमलक्षणं प्रियां दिदृक्षुः श्रीदत्तो विवेश मथुरां पुरीम्॥168॥

He took the cloth and wore it but did not see the necklace. He entered the city of Mathuraa to see his beloved.

तत्र तत्प्रत्यभिज्ञाय वस्त्रं हारमवाप्य च स चौर इत्यवष्टभ्य निन्ये नगररक्षिभिः॥169॥

There the cloth was recognized; the necklace was found; and he was arrested as the thief and taken away by the guards.

दर्शितश्च तथाभूतो नगराधिपतेश्च तैः तेनाप्यावेदितो राज्ञे राजाप्यस्यादिशद्वधम्॥170॥

He was presented along with the 'necklace tied cloth' in front of the head police officer; he reported this to the king; and the king ordered him to get executed.

ततो वध्यभुवं हन्तुं नीयमानं ददर्श तं सा मृगाङ्कवती दूरात्पश्चात्प्रहतडिण्डिमम्॥171॥

As he was getting led towards the execution-ground followed by the drum sounds, Mrgaankavatee saw him from far.

सोऽयं मे नीयते भर्ता वधायेति ससंभ्रमं सा गत्वा मन्त्रिमुख्यं तमब्रवीद्यद्गृहे स्थिता॥172॥

"This is my husband that is getting dragged to the execution ground!"

Crying aloud, she immediately went to the Chief Minister in whose house she was staying, and informed him.

निवार्य वधकान्सोऽथ मन्त्री विज्ञाप्य भूपतिं, श्रीदत्तं मोचयित्वा तं वधादानाययद्गृहम्॥173॥

He immediately ordered the execution to be stopped. He took the permission of the king; got ShreeDatta released; and brought him to his house from the execution ground.

'कथं सोऽयं पितृव्यो मे गत्वा देशान्तरं पुरा, इहैव दैवाद्विगतभयः प्राप्सोऽद्य मन्त्रिताम्' इति तं मन्त्रिणं सोऽथ श्रीदत्तस्तद्गृहागतः प्रत्यभिज्ञातवान्पृष्ट्वा पपातास्य च पादयोः॥175॥

'How did this uncle of mine (Pitravya/father's brother) 'VigataBhaya', who had gone off to another country become a minister in this place?!' Thus ShreeDatta who came to that house recognized the minister as his uncle; saluted his feet and enquired about him.

सोऽपि तं प्रत्यभिजाय भ्रातुः पुत्रं सविस्मयः कण्ठे जग्राह, सर्वं च वृत्तान्तं परिपृष्टवान्॥176॥

The minister also recognized his brother's son and was surprised. He embraced him by the neck, and asked him about his story.

ततस्तस्मै स निखिलं श्रीदत्तः स्वपितुर्वधात् आरभ्य निजवृत्तान्तं पितृव्याय न्यवेदयत्॥177॥

Then ShreeDatta told his uncle in detail all that happened from when his father was executed.

सोऽपि मुक्त्वाश्रु विजने भ्रातुः पुत्रं तमभ्यधात्-"अधृतिं मा कृथाः पुत्र, मम सिद्धा हि यक्षिणी पञ्चवाजिसहस्राणि हेमकोटीश्च सप्त सा प्रादान्मह्यमपुत्राय तत्तवैवाखिलं धनम्"॥179॥

He shed tears and said to his brother's son in private, "Do not be disheartened, my son!

I have attained the support of a Yaksinee (female Yaksha). She gave me five thousand horses and seven crores of gold coins. As I do not have any son, all that is yours."

इत्युक्त्वा स पितृव्यस्तां श्रीदत्तायार्पयत्प्रियाम्। श्रीदत्तोऽप्यात्तविभवस्तत्र तां परिणीतवान्॥180॥

Having said so, that uncle gave his beloved Mrgaankavatee back to ShreeDatta.

ततश्च तस्थौ तत्रैव संगतः कान्तया तया मृगाङ्कवत्या सानन्दो रात्र्येव कुमुदाकरः॥181॥

ShreeDatta now having been endowed with all the riches married her there. Then he stayed there itself, in the company of his beloved Mrgaankavatee happily, like the night in the company of the 'moon who causes the white lotuses to bloom' (Kumudaakara-Moon).

(Night when it joins the moon, smiles with all the night-lotuses blooming wide open. Similarly ShreeDatta joined Mrgaankavatee and was all in smiles. Mrgaanka – refers to the moon which has the deer as its mark).

बाहुशाल्यादिचिन्ता तु तस्याभूत्पूर्णसंपदः इन्दोः कलङ्कलेखेव हृदि मालिन्यदायिनी॥182॥

Though he owned abundant wealth, ShreeDatta's mind grieved about BaahuShaali and others, agitating his heart like the taint in the moon.

एकदा स पितृव्यस्तं रहः श्रीदत्तमभ्यधात्-"पुत्र राज्ञः सुतास्त्यस्य शूरसेनस्य कन्यका।

मया चावन्तिदेशे सा नेया दातुं तदाज्ञया। तत्तेनैवापदेशेन हत्वा तुभ्यं ददामि ताम्।

ततस्तदनुगे प्राप्ते बले सति च मामके, यद्राज्यं ते श्रियादिष्टं तत्प्राप्स्यस्यचिरात्" इति॥185॥

Once, his uncle called him and said in private, "Son! King Shoorasena has a daughter. I have to take her to the country of Avanti and offer her in marriage there, by his order. I will take her away on that pretext and offer her in marriage to you. You will then own the army that follows her; and the army that is mine also is yours. You will soon be the ruler of the kingdom as ordered by Goddess Shree."

निश्चित्यैतच्च तां कन्यां गृहीत्वा ययतुस्ततः श्रीदत्तस्तत्पितृव्यश्च ससैन्यौ सपरिग्रहौ॥186॥

Having decided thus, ShreeDatta and his uncle took the girl and left that city, along with the army and the attendants.

ततो विन्ध्याटवीमेतौ प्रासमात्रवतर्कितौ चौरसेनातिमहती रुरोध शरवर्षिणी॥187॥

As soon as they reached the Vindhya forest, a heavy shower of arrows of a dacoit-army fell on them unexpectedly.

प्रहारमूर्च्छितं बद्ध्वा श्रीदत्तं भग्नसैनिकं निन्युश्चौराः स्वपल्लीं ते स्वीकृत्य सकलं धनम्॥188॥

Binding ShreeDatta who had fallen unconscious by the attack, and who had lost all his army, the dacoits took him to their village-settlement with all the looted money.

ते च तं प्रापयामासुश्चण्डिकासद्म भीषणं उपहाराय घण्टानां नादैर्मृत्युरिवाह्वयत्॥189॥

They took him to a terrifying temple of Goddess Chandikaa to offer him to the Goddess, and they rang huge bells as if inviting Death by that noise.

तत्रापश्यच्च तं पत्नी सा पल्लीपतिपुत्रिका सुन्दरी द्रष्टुमायाता देवीं बालसुतन्विता॥190॥

There his wife Sundaree, the daughter of the hunter-chief saw him, when she came to offer worship to the Goddess along with her baby-son.

निषिद्धवत्या मध्यस्थान्दस्यूनानन्दपूर्णया स श्रीदत्तस्तया साकं तन्मन्दिरमथाविशत्॥191॥

She was overwhelmed with joy, and removed the thieves who were standing in between her and her husband.

तदैव पल्लीराज्यं तत्प्राप पित्रा यदर्पितं प्रागेवानन्यपुत्रेण सुन्दर्यै गच्छता दिवम्॥192॥

ShreeDatta entered her house along with her. He acquired the ruler-ship of that tribal colony bestowed by her father to Sundaree when he departed from this world, as he had no other son.

तं च चौरसमाक्रान्तं सपितृव्यपरिच्छदं सकलत्रं च लेभेऽसौ तं खड्गं च मृगाङ्ककम्॥193॥

ShreeDatta then got back his uncle and his army overpowered by the robbers, and also the sword Mrgaankakaa along with his wife.

तत्रैव शूरसेनस्य सुतां तां परिणीय च, श्रीदत्तोऽपि महान्राजा नगरे समपद्यत॥194॥

He married Shoorasena's daughter there itself. ShreeDatta thus became a great king of that city.

प्रतिघाय स दूतांश्च ततः श्वशुरयोस्तयोः बिम्बकेस्तस्य तस्यापि शूरसेनस्य भूपतेः॥195॥

He then sent messengers to his fathers-in-law Bimbaki and King Shoorasena.

तमुपाजग्मतुस्तौ च सेनासमुदयान्वितौ तं विज्ञायैव संबन्धं मुदा दुहितृवत्सलौ॥196॥

They came to him along with their armies, and accepted his relationship happily since they were extremely affectionate towards their daughters.

तेऽपि रूढव्रणाः स्वस्थास्तद्वियुक्ता वयस्यकाः बाहुशालिप्रभृतयस्तद्बुध्वा तमुपाययुः॥197॥

Even BaahuShaali and others who were healed of their wounds and became healthy, heard about him, and came to him.

अथ श्वशुरसंयुक्तो गत्वा तं पितृघातिनं चक्रे विक्रमशक्तिं स वीरः क्रोधानलाहुतिम्॥198॥

Along with his father-in-law, that valorous ShreeDatta attacked VikramaShakti who had killed his father, and burnt him off in the fire of his anger.

ततश्च साब्धिवलयां श्रीदत्तः प्राप्य मेदिनीं ननन्द विरहोत्तीर्णः स मृगाङ्कवतीसखः॥199॥

Having acquired the whole Earth surrounded by the ocean, ShreeDatta lived happily with Mrgaankavatee freed of his pangs of separation.

इत्थं नरपते, दीर्घवियोगव्यसनार्णवं तरन्ति च लभन्ते च कल्याणं धीरचेतसः"॥200॥

In this manner, O king, those with courageous minds cross over the ocean of the pain of a 'long-time separation' and attain all the good."

इति संगतकाच्छ्रुत्वा कथां स दयितोत्सुकः तां निनाय निशां मार्गं सहस्रानीकभूपतिः॥201॥

King Sahasraaneeka who was eager to meet his wife, spent the night listening to the story told by Sangataka on the road.

ततो मनोरथारूढः पुरःप्रहितमानसः प्रातः सहस्रानीकोऽसौ प्रतस्थे स्वां प्रियां प्रति॥202॥

Having sent the mind first seated on the chariot of thoughts, Sahasraaneeka started in the morning towards the place where his beloved was.

दिनैः कतिपयैस्तं च जमदग्नेरवाप सः मृगैरपि परित्यक्तचापलं शान्तमाश्रमम्॥203॥

Within a few days, he reached the hermitage of Jamadagni which was so peaceful that even the deer had renounced their restless behaviour.

ददर्श कल्पितातिथ्यं जमदग्निं च तत्र तं प्रणतः पावनालोकमाकारं तपसामिव॥204॥

Jamadagni welcomed the guest with due respect.



The king saluted the Sage who was sanctifying even by his very sight as if he was embodiment of penance.

स च तस्मै मुनी राजे सपुत्रां तां समर्पयत् चिरान्मृगावतीं राज्ञीं सान्मदामिव निर्वृतिम्॥205॥

After a long time of separation, queen Mrgaavatee returned to the king along with her son, like the 'liberation' accompanied by bliss.

शापान्ते तच्च दंपत्योस्तयोरन्योन्यदर्शनं आनन्दबाष्पपूर्णायां ववर्षवामृतं दृशि॥206॥

The 'sight of each other' at the 'end of the curse' was filled with blissful tears, and showered nectar in all the directions.

तत्पूर्वदर्शनं पुत्रमालिङ्गयोदयनं स तं मुमोच नृपतिः कृच्छ्राद्रोमाञ्चेनेव कीलितम्॥207॥

Seeing his son for the first time, the king held him in his embrace and could let him go only with great difficulty as if he had been attached to him through the horripilation.

ततः सोदयनां राज्ञीं तामादाय मृगावतीं आ तपोवनमुद्राष्पैरनुयातो मृगैरपि

आमन्त्र्य जमदग्निं च प्रतस्थे स्वां पुरीं प्रति प्रशान्तादाश्रयात्समात्सहस्रानीकभूपतिः॥209॥

Then taking permission from Sage Jamadagni, King Sahasraaneeka started towards his own city along with his wife Mrgaavatee and son Udayana from that penance-grove, the abode of supreme peace, followed by the deer even, which had moist eyes.

शृण्वन्विरहवृत्तानि प्रियाया वर्णयंश्च सः उत्तोरणपताकां तां कौशाम्बीं प्राप्तवान्क्रमात्॥210॥

Listening and narrating to his beloved, the events that happened when they were separated, Sahasraaneeka soon reached the city of Kaushaambi decorated by flags on top of all the buildings.

समं च पत्नीपुत्राभ्यां प्रविवेश स तां पुरीं पीयमान इवोत्पक्षमराजिभिः पौरलोचनैः॥211॥

He entered the city along with his wife and son, as if getting drunk by the array of eyes of the citizens.

अभ्यषिञ्चच्च तं तत्र झगित्युदयनं सुतं यौवराज्ये महाराजः प्रेर्यमाणः स तद्रुणैः॥212॥

Impressed by the virtues of his son Udayana, he consecrated him immediately on the throne as the heir prince.

स्वमन्त्रिपुत्रांस्तस्मै स मन्त्रहेतोः समर्पयत् वसन्तकरुमण्वन्तौ तथा यौगन्धरायणम्॥213॥

He appointed the 'sons of his ministers' named Vasantaka, Rumanvaan, and Yaugandharaayana as his consultants.

"एभिर्मन्त्रिवरैरेष कृत्स्नां प्राप्स्यति मेदिनीम्" इति वाग्दुदभूद्विव्या पुष्पवृष्ट्या समं तदा॥214॥

"This one will acquire the entire Earth supported by these best of ministers" - a divine voice rose like this from the sky, along with a shower of flowers.

ततः सुतेः न्यस्तभरः स राजा चिरकाङ्क्षितं जीवलोकसुखं भेजे मृगावत्या तया सह॥215॥

After depositing the weight of the kingdom to his son, the king enjoyed the pleasures of the mortal world along with Mrgaavatee which he had desired from a long time.

अथ तस्य जरां प्रशान्तिदूतीमुपयातां क्षितिपस्य कर्णमूलं

सहसैव विलोक्य जातकोपा बत दूरे विषयस्पृहा बभूव॥216॥

The 'desires for pleasures' moved immediately far in anger as it were, looking at the 'old age', the messenger of peace, present at the edge of the king's ears.

(As age overtook the king, the hair at the ends of his ears turned white. The king lost interests in the sense pleasures. It appeared as if, by seeing the messenger of peace (silenced mind), all the desires got angry and went off.)

ततस्तं कल्याणं तनयमनुरक्तप्रकृतिकं निवेश्य स्वे राज्ये जगदुदयहेतोरुदयनम्

सहस्रानीकोऽसौ सचिवसहितः सप्रियतमो महाप्रस्थानाय क्षितिपतिरगच्छद्विमगिरिम्॥217॥

King Sahasraaneeka enthroned  
 his virtuous son 'Udayana' (one who rises high in all noble things), in the kingdom,  
 who was loved by all the people and who was the 'cause of the rise of the world';  
 and went off to the 'Snow Mountain' along with his wife and ministers,  
 to prepare for the great journey ahead.

(उदयन - Udayana- a person who can rise high or who can achieve higher states

जगत् उदय हेतु - 'Jagat- Udaya -Hetu' -one who will cause the world to rise to the highest state of prosperity

महाप्रस्थान - great journey / Death/ to prepare for the after life by doing penance)

इति

महाकविश्रीसोमदेवभट्टविरचिते कथासरित्सागरे कथामुखलम्बके द्वितीयस्तरङ्गः॥

THUS ENDS THE 'SECOND WAVE' OF THE 'INTRODUCTORY TALE-LAMBAKA'  
 IN THE 'OCEAN OF THE RIVERS OF STORIES' COMPOSED BY THE 'GREAT POET SOMADEVA BHATTA'