



Ex Libris

K.K. Venugopal

VIDYĀPATI: BANGĪYA PADĀBALI
SONGS OF THE LOVE OF RĀDHĀ AND KRISHNA TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BY ANANDA COOMARASWAMY AND ARUN SEN WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS FROM INDIAN PAINTINGS

LONDON: THE OLD BOURNE PRESS,
15 HOLBORN, E.C.
1915.

Ly. Malcolm Wallace

1915

VIDYĀPATI

VIDYĀPATI: BANGĪYA PADĀBALI

SONGS OF THE LOVE OF RĀDHĀ AND KRISHNA TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BY ANANDA COOMARASWAMY AND ARUN SEN WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS FROM INDIAN PAINTINGS

LONDON: THE OLD BOURNE PRESS,

15 HOLBORN, E.C.

1915.

The whole creation will be consumed and appear infinite and holy, whereas it now appears finite and corrupt. This will come to pass by an improvement of sensual enjoyment.

—*William Blake.*

Be drunken with love, for love is all that exists.

—*Shamsi Tabrīz.*

INTRODUCTION.

VIDYĀPATI THĀKUR is one of the most renowned of the Vaishnava poets of Hindustān. Before him there had been the great Jāyadeva, with his *Gītā Govinda* made in Sanskrit; and it is to this tradition Vidyāpati belongs, rather than to that of Rāmānanda, Kabīr, and Tul'sī Dās, who sang of Rāma and Sītā. Vidyāpati's fame, though he also wrote in Sanskrit, depends upon the wreath of songs (*pada*) in which he describes the courtship of God and the Soul, under the names of Krishna and Rādhā. These were written in Maithilī, his mother-tongue, a dialect intermediate between Bengālī and Hindī, but nearer to the former. His position as a poet and maker of language is analogous to that of Dante in Italy and Chaucer in England. He did not disdain to use the folk-speech and folk-thought for the expression of the highest matters. Just as Dante was blamed by the classical scholars of Italy, so Vidyāpati was blamed by the pandits: he knew better, however, than they, and has well earned the title of Father of Bengālī literature.

Little is known of Vidyāpati's life¹. Two other great Vaishnava poets, Chandī Dās and Umāpati, were his contemporaries. His patron Rājā Shivasimha Rūpanārāyana, when heir-apparent, gave the village of Bisapī as a rent-free gift to the poet in the year 1400 A.D. (the original deed is extant). This shows that in 1400 the poet was already a man of distinction. His patron appears to have died in 1449, before which date the songs here translated must have been written. Further, there still exists a manuscript of the Bhāgavata Purāna in the poet's handwriting, dated 1456. It is thus evident that he lived to a good age, for it is hardly likely that he was under twenty in the year 1400. The following is the legend of his death: Feeling his end approaching, he set out to die on the banks of Gangā. But remembering that she was the child of the faithful, he summoned her to himself: and the great river divided herself in three streams, spreading her waters as far as the very place where Vidyāpati sat. There and then he laid himself, it is said, down and died. Where his funeral pyre was, sprang up a Shiva

¹What is here given is mainly derived from: G. A. Grierson, 'The Vernacular Literature of Hindustan,' and Dinesh Chandra Sen, 'History of Bengali Literature.'

lingam, which exists to this day, as well as the marks of the flood. This place is near the town of Bāzītpur, in the district of Darbhanga.

Vidyāpati's Vaishnava *padas* are at once folk and cultivated art—just like the finest of the Pahārī paintings, where every episode of which he sings finds exquisite illustration. The poems are not, like many ballads, of unknown authorship and perhaps the work of many hands, but they are due to the folk in the sense that folk-life is glorified and popular thought is reflected. The songs as we have them are entirely the work of one supreme genius; but this genius did not stand alone, as that of modern poets must—on the contrary, its roots lay deep in the common life of fields and villages, and above all, in common faiths and superstitions. These were days when peasants yet spoke as elegantly as courtiers, and kings and cultivators shared one faith and a common view of life—conditions where all things are possible to art.

It is little wonder that Vidyāpati's influence on the literature of Eastern Hindustān has been profound, and that his songs became the household poetry of Bengal and Behar. His poems were adopted and constantly sung by the great Hindū lover, Cāitanya, in the sixteenth century, and they have been adapted and handed down in many dialects, above all in Bengālī, in the Vaishnava tradition, of which the last representative is Rabīndranāth Tagore. A poem by the latter well resumes and explains the theory of the Vaishnava lovers:

*Not my way of Salvation, to surrender the world!
Rather for me the taste of Infinite Freedom,
While yet I am bound by a thousand bonds to the wheel:
In each glory of sound and sight and smell
I shall find Thy Infinite Joy abiding:
My passion shall burn as the flame of Salvation,
The flower of my love shall become the ripe fruit of Devotion.*

This leads us to the subject of the true significance of poems such as Vidyāpati's. It is quite true, as Mr. Nicholson says, that students of oriental poetry have sometimes to ask themselves, 'Is this a love-poem disguised as a mystical ode, or a mystical ode expressed in the language of human love?'¹ Very often this question cannot be answered with a definite 'Yes' or 'No': not because the poet's meaning is vague, but because the two ideas are not at all mutually exclusive. All the manifestations of Kāma on earth are images of Pursuit or Return.

¹ *The Tarjumān al-Ashwāq*, 1911, p. 7.

As Vidyāpati himself says (No. LXIII) :

*The same flower that you cast away, the same you use in prayer,
And with the same you string the bow.*

It is quite certain that many poems of Vidyāpati have an almost wholly spiritually significance.¹ If some others seem very obviously secular, let us remember that we have no right to detach such poems from their context in books and still less any right to divorce them from their context in life.

We may illustrate this point by a comparison with poetry of Western Europe. Take for example a poem such as the following, with a purely secular significance (if any true art can be said to be secular) :

*Oh ! the handsome lad frae Skye
That's lifted a' the cattle, a' oor kye,
He's t' aen the dun, the black, the white,
And I hae mickle fear
He's t' aen my heart forbye.*

Had this been current in fifteenth century Bengal, every Vaishnava would have understood the song to speak as much of God and the Soul as of man and maid, and to many the former meaning would have been the more obvious.

On the other hand, there are many early mediæval Western hymns in which the language of human love is deliberately adapted to religious uses, for example :

*When y se blosmes springe,
And here foules songe,
A suete love-longynge
Myn herte thourh out stong ;
Al for a love newe,
That is so suete and trewe,
That gladieth al mi song.*

Here the 'new love' is Christ.

Finally, there are other Western lyrics, and very exquisite ones, that could equally be claimed as religious or secular, for example :

*Long ago to thee I gave
Body, soul and all I have—
Nothing in the world I keep.²*

¹ I do not here refer to the details of concrete symbolism (for which see Purnendu Narayan Sinha, 'The Bhāgavata Purāna, a Study,' Benares, 1901), but to the common language of mysticism.

² Translated by Henry Newbolt from the French of Wenceslas.

The Western critic who would enquire what such a poem meant to its maker and his hearers must be qualified by spiritual kinship with him and with them. Let us demand a similar qualification from those who propose to speak of Oriental poetry:

*Wer den Dichter will verstehen,
Muss in Dichter's Lande gehen,—*

if not in physical presence, at least in spirit.

In ecstasy, man is beside himself: that this momentary escape from 'himself' is the greatest gift life offers, is a promise, as it were a foretaste, of Release, warranting us that Nirvāna is something more than annihilation. At the same time, be it well understood that such ecstasies are not rewarded to those who are followers of Pleasure, nor to those that cling to self-will. In Vaishnava literature this is again and again emphasized. It is not till the ear ceases to hear the outside world, that it is open to the music in the heart, the flute of Krishna.

If the objection is still made that our poet sings rather of human than divine love, —and we do not deny that he worships physical beauty, albeit the critics have told us that Rabīndranāth Tagore is the first Indian poet to do so,—we answer with him that Love is One, and we would also quote the very splendid passage of the *Prema Sāgara* where the doubt is resolved, "How could the love of a certain milk-maid have brought her salvation, notwithstanding that her love for Krishna was paramours, and she knew him not as God, but as man?" The answer is given as follows:

Shrī Krishna sat one moonlit night at the edge of a deep forest, playing his flute with intent to lure the milk-maids from their homes. The Braj girls could not rest nor resist the call, and abandoning the illusion of family and the ties of duty, they hurried in confusion from their homes to the forest. But one was seen and detained by her husband; yet she, in the intensity of her absorption in the thought of Hari, abandoned her body and was the first to reach Him. Perceiving the love of her heart, He gave her final release.

The king to whom the story has been thus far related, remarks that the milk-maid did not worship Krishna knowing him to be God, but regarded him as an object of sensuous desire, and asks, 'How then was she saved by her love?' The answer is given that even they who worship Krishna unawares obtain emancipation; just as the water of life makes the drinker immortal, without question whether he knows or does not know its virtue.¹ Should anyone with any purpose worship, he will be emancipated. Shrī Krishna was revered in many ways, and in

¹ Thus the Hindūs hold that it is better to be the foe of God, or to use His name in vain, than to live without knowledge of Him and without speaking His name.

each was salvation obtained. Thus, "Nand, Yashodā and others knew him as a child, the milk-maids as a lover, Kāns worshipped him by fear, the cowherds called him their friend, the Pāndavas knew him as an ally, Shishupāl worshipped him as a foe, the Yaduvamsīs thought him one of themselves, the Yogīs, Yatīs and Mūnis meditated upon Him as God; but at last everyone of these obtained deliverance. What wonder then if one milk-maid by devotion to Him, was able to cross the sea of life,—to reach the further shore?"¹

This pure humanism is the Vaishnava equivalent for: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto these, ye have done it unto Me," and "The worship of God is . . . loving the greatest men best."

We may also give here the Indian answer to the objection sometimes raised respecting the morality of Krishna Himself,—much as the Pharisees questioned the right of Christ to pluck the ears of corn. The Bhāgavata Purāna in one place answers as Blake or Nietzsche might, that *dharma* is not the same for the great and the small. More than this, it is a fault in logic to subject to ethical criticism a Power Who is by hypothesis Infinite, beyond the Pairs of opposites. As Purnendu Narayan Sinha expresses it: "Nothing that we know, nothing that we are composed of, nothing that shapes our experiences, that causes our likes and dislikes, limits Krishna. He is the absolute, for the relatives we know of, or which we may even think of, have no place in Him."² And indeed, this ought to be obvious to anyone that understands the language of mythology; for the multiplication of Krishna's form in the circular dance, and at Dvārakā, and the fact already alluded to, of His accessibility in every form, are clear indications of His Infinity. It is nowhere suggested that the illusion of family and the ties of duty may be abandoned except in self-surrender to Him.

It must also be remembered that the Krishna Līlā is not a historical record (as Nilakantha remarks, 'The narration is not the real point'); His Līlā in Brindāban is eternal, and Brindāban is the heart of man. We are thus concerned with ideas and symbols, and not with history. The most that an objector could then adduce, would be to suggest that the symbolism may be unwisely chosen, and may be misunderstood. I should treat this objection with respect, and would agree that it may be valid from the standpoint of the objector. But I do not think it is valid from the standpoint of the lover. I would not even say, Let those who are able to take this passionate literature only in a carnal sense (and we have admitted that much of it has a carnal as well as a spiritual sense), therefore ignore it; for if the worship of loveliness is not Love, it is none the less a step on the way to Love.

¹ *Prema Sāgara, Ch. xxx.*

² *loc. cit. p. 302.*

Again, however, it is not meant to imply that the pastoral and romantic conditions indicated in Vaishnava literature do not exist, and have never existed, anywhere in India. On the contrary, if India is the classic country of lyrical poetry, this is because she is also the classic country of love.¹ Love is certainly of more significance to the Indian consciousness than to the European, and the Western fear of voluptuousness is hardly known in the East. But just as beauty was never in India glorified as an end in itself, so romantic love never obtained there such hold and possession over life and art as it has in the West. To put the same conclusion in other words, the Indian culture is nowhere corrupted by sentimentality. The reason of this is to be found, I think, in a wide-spread and deep-rooted consciousness of the principle of Impermanence. It is just this consciousness of evanescence which gives to the voluptuous and passionate art of Ajantā the spiritual significance that is all the more impressive because of its sensuous setting. Non-attachment is a greater quality than non-participation. Where life is transparent, the enjoyment of life is never a spiritual bondage. One might almost believe that to the Ajantā painters and the Vaishnava poets had been granted the prayer of Socrates,—“O beloved Pan, and all ye other gods of this place, grant me to become beautiful in the inner man, and that whatever outward things I have may be at peace with those within.”

A few words are needed to explain the method of translation. The rendering is line for line, and often word for word, but whenever a choice lay between expressing the letter and the spirit of the original, the latter has been considered of the first importance. Vidyāpati reflects a certain view of life: it is this, rather than the form of his utterance, however perfect, that touches us most nearly. A single word in the original is often rendered by two or three in the translation, for the terseness of the Bengālī could rarely be repeated. Notwithstanding that our translation does not pretend to be metrical, much care has been taken with the phrasing, to make it readable: for it would appear that alike in music and poetry, *rasa* is more closely bound up with phrasing than with a regular division into bars or feet.¹ At the same time, a few examples of the original text are quoted in the ‘Notes,’ in order to give the reader some idea of their form.

¹*We have already mentioned the ‘Gītā Govinda.’ It needs scarcely to be said that Indian lyrical poetry is of still older ancestry. The reader of Kālidāsa’s ‘Shakuntalā,’ for example, will find there innumerable parallels both to Vidyāpati’s combined tenderness and wisdom, and his quaint conceits. These parallels are so many that we have made no attempt to mention them in the ‘Notes.’ The same spirit, too, is already recognizable in the lyrical passages of the ‘Rāmāyana.’ All this is no more than to say that Vidyāpati is essentially and typically Indian.*

It should be noticed that the songs here translated are but a part of Vidyāpati's *Baṅgīya Padāvalī*. Two hundred and two songs are given in the edition of Kālīprasanna Kāvyaḥbhisarad which we have chiefly used; and there are over nine hundred in that of Shrī Nagendranath Gupta published in Nāgarī character for H. H. the Mahārājah of Darbhanga,—to whom I am indebted for a copy of the edition. The order of our versions follows that of Kālīprasanna Kāvyaḥbhisarad; the songs omitted are those which are almost repetitions of those translated, or of which we could not make a satisfactory rendering.

It has been very difficult to find such words as can express Vidyāpati's transparency. English since the Elizabethan age has grown poor in purely lyrical words and idioms, for modern literature, like modern plastic art or music, rarely deals with unmixed feelings. To present Vidyāpati in English in a form at all comparable with the original, would require all the facility and elegance of the Elizabethans joined to nearly all the seriousness of the earliest English lyrics. I say nearly all, for Vidyāpati is a very conscious artist, with a considerable sense of humour; and though he is certainly far more serious than the elegant Elizabethans, he is not in any sense a primitive.

The rendering of certain words in the original demands a brief explanation. *Sakhī* (the *chetī* of Mr. Bain's beautiful Sanskrit imitations), meaning a girl-friend and confidante of the heroine, usually used in the vocative, is translated as 'my dear.' *Dūtikā*, the messenger or go-between, is a *sakhī* or any woman who carries messages between the lovers: but often, too, the poet himself is the messenger, and in this case there is perhaps a conscious reference to the artist as go-between God and the soul. The *gopīs* are the milk-maids of Gokula, of whom Rādhā is Krishna's beloved.

Añcala, meaning the upper part of the *sārī*, thrown across the breast and over the shoulder, also forming a head-veil, we have translated, not quite accurately, as 'wimple,' for want of a better word. *Nībibanda*, which means the knotting of the *sārī* round the waist, is rendered as 'zone' or 'girdle,' though it is not properly a separate garment.

The word *rasa* can never be adequately translated into English, and perhaps it should be adopted there as a loan-word, together with such others as *karma*, *yoga*, *dharma*, *samsāra*, *nirvāna*. *Rasa*, like the word 'essence,' has both a concrete and an abstract significance; it has, amongst others, such meanings as juice, nectar, essence, taste, flavour, savour, lust, and in an abstract sense, taste, appreciation, passion, ecstasy, love and so forth. *Rasa* is equally the essential element

¹ According to Hindu theory, Kāvya (poetry) includes both prose (gadya-kāvya) and verse (padya-kāvya).

in love and in art. It would be defined from the Indian standpoint as an emotion provoked by the recognition of reality. From *rasa* are derived the two important words *rasika* (a connoisseur, lover), and *rasavanta* or *rasamanta* ('possessing *rasa*,' said either of an individual or of a work of art).

It is a canon of Indian dramatic criticism, not only that *rasa* is unique, but that those only can experience *rasa* who are temperamentally qualified to do so by virtue acquired in a former life,—*Poeta nascitur non fit*. All these associations give great weight to Vidyāpati's splendid aphorism :

Rasa bujha, i rasamanta

'None knoweth love but the lover, none ecstasy save the ecstatic.'

If we apply this to life and art, it means what Blake meant when he said that enthusiasm is the first and last principle of criticism.

It should not be forgotten that Vidyāpati's songs, like those of all the Vaishnava poets—from Jāyadeva to Rabīndranāth Tagore—were meant to be sung ; and as the latter says himself, "In a book of songs the main thing is left out : to set forth the music's vehicle, and leave out the music itself, is just like keeping the mouse and leaving out Ganapati himself" (*Īiban-smṛti*, p. 148). The *padas* of Vidyāpati may still be heard on the lips of Bengālī singers, albeit often in corrupt forms.

It may also be noted that song was constantly illustrated by the conventional language of descriptive gesture. We are able to partly compensate the lack of this in reproducing the eleven illustrations from Indian sources ; for although not designed directly to illustrate Vidyāpati's text, there is to be found in these an immediate expression of the same ideas. A further account of all the illustrations is appended to the 'Notes.'

Finally, in the matter of transliteration : since these versions are intended rather for the *rasika* than for the *pandit*, we have done no more than mark the long and short vowels of Indian names and words occurring in this Introduction or in the text. The reader will not go far wrong if he pronounces such words as if in Italian. C has the the sound of ch in *church* : for ś and ṣ we have used sh throughout.

It is by an inexcusable oversight that the poet's name has been printed as Vidhyāpati throughout the text.

ANANDA COOMARASWAMY.

BRITFORD, December, 1914.

KRISHNA PŪRBBARĀGA





Like a flash of lightning mated with a fresh cloud.

I.

Krishna : Some damsel I saw, supremely fair—
A moon unstained, that slowly rose,
Or a golden vine.

Eyes twin lotus-blooms, dyed with sūrm,
The playground of waves of love—
Twin timid partridges, snared by Nature
With nought but a rope of collyrium !

A garland of ivory-pearls caressed the burden
Of her mountain breasts—
Kāma pouring celestial streams from a brimming conch
On a golden Shambhu !

The sacrificer of a hundred offerings on a sacred shore
Were blest by such reward !

*Vidhyāpati says : It is Gokula's lord,
The herd-girls' darling.*

II.

Krishna: Your hair dismays the yak, the mountain sinks into the vale,
Fearing your face, the moon is fading in the sky,
The antelope is fearful of your eyes, your voice dismays the koil,
Your gait alarms the olifant, he hides him in the wood :

Why came you not for speech with me, fair may?
All these have fled afar in fear of you,
How then should you in turn fear me?

Dismayéd by your breasts, the unblown lily lingers under lake,
The globéd jar leaps into fire,
The honey-apple and the pomegranate abide aloft,
And Shambhu drinks his poison.

Dismayéd by your arms, the golden lily-root leaves not the mud,
Affrighted by your fingers, the flower-stems are shivering !
*Vidhyāpati asks : How many shall I cite
Of spells of Love like these?*

III.

Krishna: Which of the gods this fair face fashioned?
Beauty-surpassing, heart's-bliss-granting,
Garland-victress of the Triple Worlds.

The sun-bright eyes of her fair face
Are tricked with sūrm—
Restless wagtails on a golden lotus,
At play with pitch-black snakes.

The vine of down from her navel's well
Is a serpent thirsting for air :
Thinking in terror her nose is Garuda's beak
It hides in the valley of her bosoms' hills.

Love with three arrows conquered Three World's,
Still two of the arrows remained :
Very cruel is Nature to slay the love-lorn,
Surrendering those to her two eyes !

*Vidhyāpati says : Hearken, fair maids
Who haunt the well of Love :
Rājā Shivasimha Rūpanārāyana
And Lakshmī Devī be witness.*

IV.

Krishna : Why did that moon-face cross my path?
Just for one moment her eyes met mine,
Whose sidelong glance is all too keen :
An ill day that for me !

My thoughts were set upon her breasts,
Love lay waking in my heart,
Her voice was ringing in my ears :
I would have gone, my feet refused to move.

*The bonds of hope constrain me yet :
Love is a tide, says Vidhyāpati.*

Krishna: Fair-face, red brow-spot, there-behind the heavy jet-black hair—
As if the sun and moon together rising left the night behind.

Ah damsel fair! with what and what devoted care,
Has Nature given to you the utmost beauty of the moon.

A grass green bodice binds your breasts, a glimpse is only seen;
So jealously you cover them,—but never snow may hide the hills!

Dark sūrm decks your curving restless eyes,
As if the bees would rest their weight upon some wind-bent lotus.

*Hearken, young thing, says Vidhyāpati; these charms, you know them all,—
Witness be Rājā Shrivasiṃha Rūpanārāyana and Lakshmī Devī.*

VI.

Krishna: She left the shrine at cowdust-time, passing gliding
Like a flash of lightning mated with a fresh cloud.

Tender of age she was, a garland deftly woven :
A glimpse could not content my hope, but Love's fire fiercer fanned.

Bright was her body, shining under wimple with the sheen of gold :
Long locks, small middle, sidelong-glancing eyes.

And softly smiling, pierced me with the arrows of her eyes,—
Lord of the Five Gaurs, live for ever, says Vidhyāpati!

VII.

Krishna: Laughing, talking, milk-white girl,
Nectar-showering as autumn moon at full :

Jewel of beauty surpassing, passing before me,
Gainly of gait as olifant-king.

Small was her middle as any lion's, her frail frame breaking
With the burden of the honey-apples of her breasts.

Her lovely eyes shone white beside the sūrm that dyed them,
Bees, as it were, mistaking them for spotless water-lilies.

*Says Vidhyāpati: The Lord of lovers
Sorely tholes the sight of Rādhā's loveliness.*

VIII.

Krishna : I could not see her clearly :
Like a vine of lightning flashing from a wreath of cloud,
She plunged an arrow in my heart.

Half the wimple had slipped, half was her face in smiles,
Half a wave in her eyes :
Half of her bosom I saw, half of the wimple filling,—
Love consumes me ever since.

Bright was her body withal, and golden cups her breasts,
Her bodice, Love transformed :
My wits were routed,— meseems this snare
Was set by Kāmadev.

Pearl-teeth arow her lips did meet,
That murmured gentle words.

Vidhyāpati says : *Grief haunts my heart :*
I saw her indeed, but hope was not sated.

IX.

Krishna : Beholding that my love was at her bath,
She pierced my heart with arrows five,—
The stream of water pouring from her tresses,
Was her moon-face weeping, frightened by their gloom.

The wet cloth clung upon her corse,—
So might Kāma shake a hermit's heart !
Twin breasts were cakravākas sweet,
United by the gods upon the self-same shore,—
Caged in the prison of her arms,
Lest they should fly away in fear.

Vidhyāpati, the poet, sings :

The precious maid her lover meets !

X.

Krishna: A joyous day this day for me!
I saw my love when she was bathing,
A stream of water pouring from her hair,—
The clouds were showering strings of pearls!

Wiping her face intentify,
As though she cleansed a golden mirror,—
Discovering both her breasts,
Where had been set inverted golden cups,

She let her zone fall free:
That was the bound of my desire, says Vidhyāpati.

XI.

Krishna: Rāi of the lily face had not yet climbed the bank,
When she beheld brave Kān before her :
'A maid demure, with hanging head, in company of elders,
How was I to see her face?'

But matchless was the bright may's art :
Stepping before them all, she called aloud,
With half-averted face,
And broke withal her string of pearls,
Crying aloud : 'My garland's broken !'
Every person, one and all, was gathering up the beads,—
Then she gazed on Shyāma !

Her partridge-eyes beholding Krishna's moon-fair face,
Were drinking draughts of dew :
*Each on the other gazing, spread abroad the taste of bliss,—
That Vidhyāpati knoweth well.*

XII.

Krishna : She smiled a little when she saw me lurking there—
As if the rising moon lit up the night :
And when she rained on me her sidelong glances,
The heavens became a swarm of bees.

Who knoweth whose the maid may be,
Setting my heart a-shake, and vanishing ?
The humble-bee is prisoned in the lotus-flower of love,—
I was amazed to see the timid fair one passing by.

Then was made manifest the beauty of her breasts,—
(Whose heart does not the golden lily snare ?)
Half was she hidden, half revealed,
Her globéd breasts told me of her desire.

*Vidhyāpati says : That was love's dawn :
Whom does Madan's secret arrow spare ?*

XIII.

Dātikā : The flower is open all amidst the thorns ;
The frenzied bee can find no place of rest,
But haunts continually the nectar-laden jasmine,
Reckless of life in eager thirst.

He honey-life, you honey-heap,
Already hiding hoarded sweets,—
The maddened bee has neither home
Nor rest without your jasmine-self.

Deep in your heart consider this :
Why should you be the murderer of a bee ?
*For Vidhyāpati avows : He will return to life,
If He may drink the nectar of your lips.*

XIV.

Krishna: Wheresoever her twin feet fall,
A lotus-flower uplifts them :
Wheresoever her body passes swaying,
There is the lightning's undulation !

Surpassing radiance that I beheld,
Has made her seat amidst my heart :
Wheresoever her eyes are opened,
There are water-lilies seen !

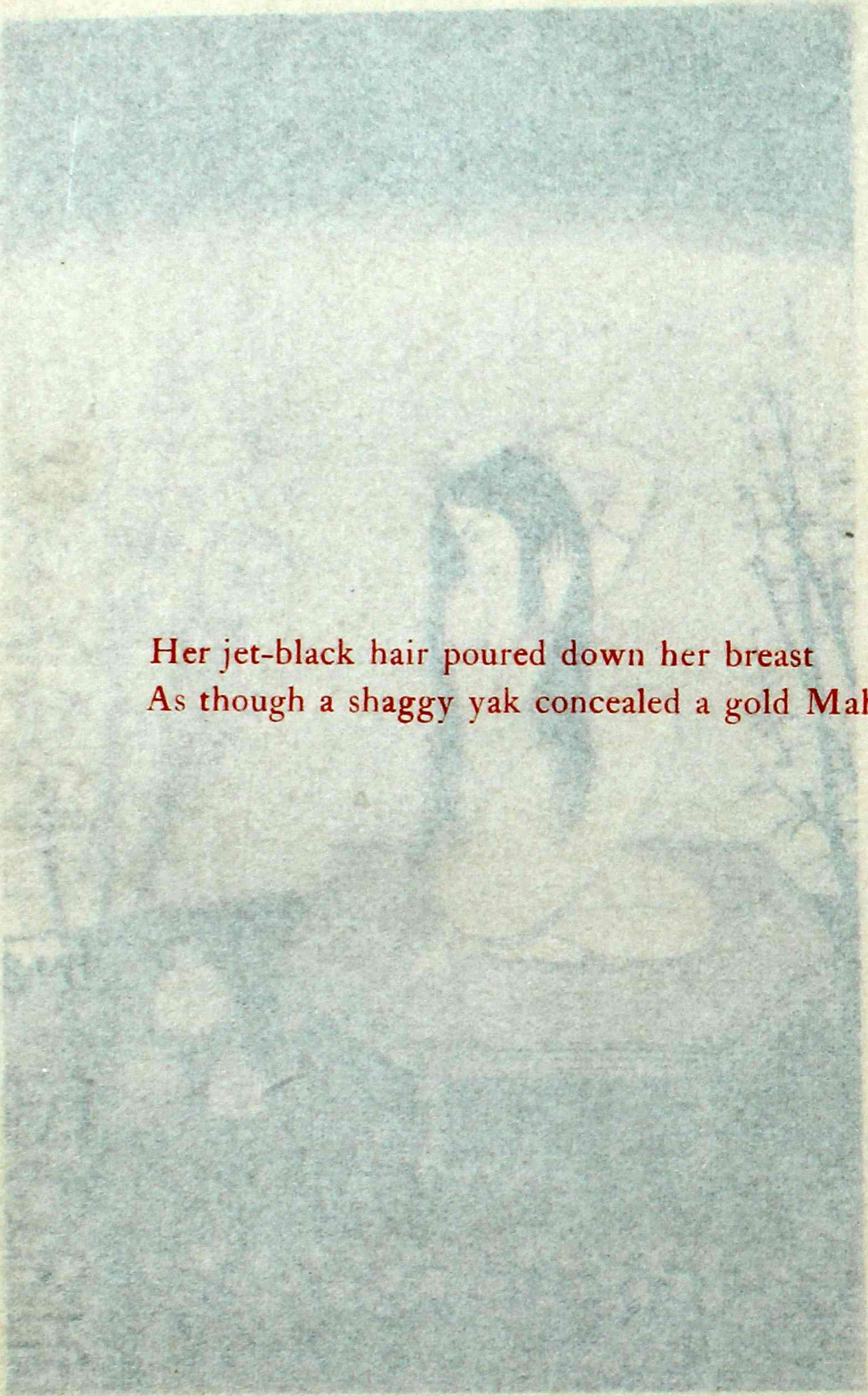
Wheresoever her light laugh rings,
There very nectar sours in envy :
Wheresoever fall her sidelong glances,
Fly the myriads of Madan's arrows !

Even an instant to behold such loveliness
Suffices to eclipse the Triple Worlds :
But and I see her once again,
My mourning may depart !

*Says Vidhyāpati: In sooth,
For your dear sake, I'll bring her.*

RĀDHĀ BAYAHSANDI





Her jet-black hair poured down her breast
As though a shaggy yak concealed a gold Mahesh.

XV.

Datika : Childhood and youth are mingled both,
Her eyes have taken the road to her ears :
Wily are her words, and her low laugh
As if the moon appeared on earth.

She takes a mirror to array herself,
And asks : 'What is the game of love, my dear ?
How many times she secretly regards her bosom,
Smiling to see her breasts !

First like a jujube, then like an orange,—
Love day by day enfolds her limbs :
O Mādhava, I saw a girl surpassing fair,
Childhood and youth were one in her !

*Saith Vidhyāpati : Oh foolish man,
The wise would say, The twain have met.*

XVI.

Dūtikā: Day by day her breasts grew great,
Her hips increased, her middle waned :
Madan now enlarged her eyes,
All of her childhood fled in fear.

Breasts that are jujubes first, and then like oranges,
Daily the sting of Love increasing them :
Thereafter waxing greater than the pummalo,
Now they are twin ripe honey-apple fruits.

Ah Mādhava ! I saw the fair one freely,
I suddenly beheld her as she bathed ;
The filmy muslin clung upon her breast,—
Happy he who sees her thus !

Her jet-black hair poured down her breast
As though a shaggy yak concealed a gold Mahesh :
Hearken Murāri, Vidhyāpati saith :
So fair a may may dally with a man of worth.

XVII.

Krishna : Now and again her eyes to their corners fly,
Now and again her filmy robe receives them ;
Now and again her serried teeth laugh out,
Now and again the smile delays upon her lips.

Sometimes she hurries nervously, sometimes she walks but slowly,
Now for the first time learning Madan's lessons :
She steals a glance at her breasts' buds,—
Sometimes she draws the wimple close, sometimes she stands astonished.

Childhood and youth are met in her,
None knoweth which is first or last :
Hearken, O Kāna, says Vidhyāpati,
The marks of youth and childhood are indivisible.

XVIII.

Krishna: Childhood and youth are face to face,—
She stands uncertain, in the hold of rival factions :
Sometimes she binds her hair, sometimes she lets it fall,
Sometimes she hides her body, sometimes she leaves it bare.

Her tranquil eyes are somewhat troubled,
There where the breasts arise are purple stains,
Her restless feet reflect her heart's unrest :
Madan awakes, whose eyes were shut.

Hearken, Murāri, saith Vidhyāpati:
Sustain with patience till I bring her.

XIX.

Datikā: The little buds are peeping shyly,
Her eyes have stolen the dancing of her feet,
Her hand remains continually upon her robe,
She is ashamed to question her companions.

Oh Mādhav ! How shall I recite her growing-up?
E'en Madan's heart, beholding her, must be ensnared !
Love is forsooth the ruler of her heart :
Setting the jars upon her breast, he straightens out her form.

She bends her mind to learn the lore of love,
Just as the deer to hear the song :
Strife springs up twixt youth and childhood,
Neither admits defeat or victory.

Lo, Vidhyāpati's enquiry,—
Shall she not leave her childhood finally ?

XX.

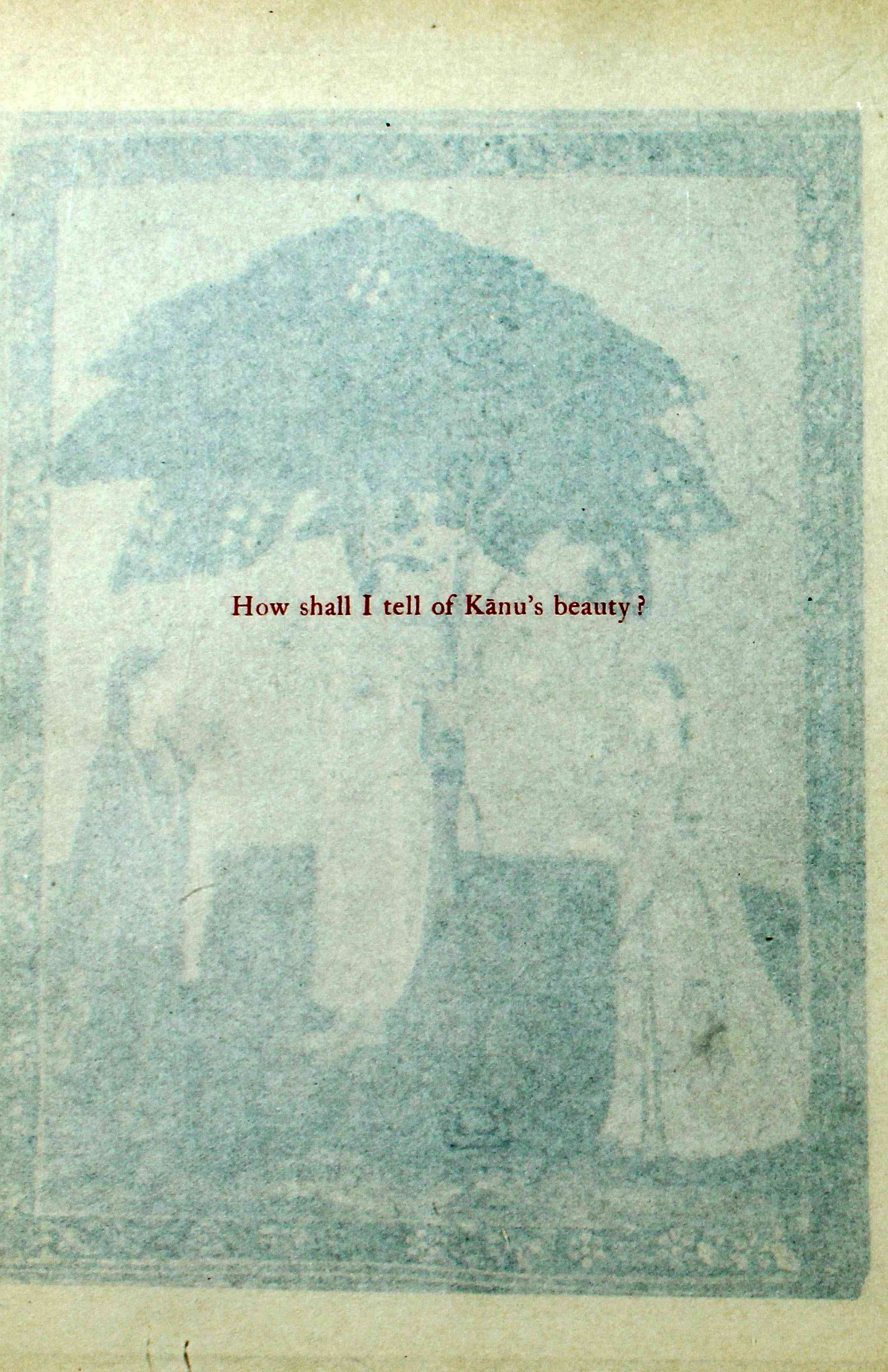
Dūtika : Now youth advanced, childhood withdrew,
Her eyes have caught the dancing of her feet,
Twin eyes performed the task of messengers,
Her laughter hid, and shame was born.

Continually she sets her hand upon her robe.
Speaks every word with hanging head :
Her hips have gained their full-grown glory—
She leans on her companions when she walks.

*Hearken, O Kāna : I have drawn my own conclusions,
Hearken now, and make your own decision :
The savour of this matter is well-known to Vidhyāpati,—
Record I take of Rājā Shivasimha and Lakshmī Devī.*

RĀDHĀ PŪRBBARĀGA





How shall I tell of Kānu's beauty?

XXI.

Radha : How shall I tell of Kānu's beauty?
Who shall describe that dream-shape?
His lovely form is a fresh cloud,
His yellow garment the lightning's flash.

So black, so black his waving hair!
The peacock-plume so near the moon's orb!
For fragrance of the screw-pine and the jasmine,
Madan casts away his flower-arrows in dismay.

Vidhyāpati asks : What more shall I say?

Nature has emptied Madan's treasury !

XXII.

Rādhā : I had desired to look on Kānu,
But when I saw him I was filled with fear :
Ever since then I am both fond and foolish,
I have no knowledge at all what I say or do.

My twin eyes wept like dripping rain,
Unceasingly my heart went pit-a-pat :
I cannot think what made me look on him, my dear,
Just for that whim, I lent my life into another's hand !

I cannot tell what that dear thief has done to me,—
When I beheld him, he did steal my heart, and went away,
And as he went he showed so many signs of love,
The more I would forget, the less I may !

Hearken, fair maid, says Vidhyāpati :
Have patience in your heart, for you shall meet Murāri.

XXIII.

Radhā : A peerless beauty I beheld, my dear,
If you but listen, you may know it was the vision of a dream :
Twin lotus-feet that wore a string of moons,
From them two tender tamāl-shafts arising,—

Around them twined a vine of lightning,
(He slowly passed along Kālindī's bank) :
Upon his leaf-like hands another string of moons—
The lustre of the sun on new-blown flowers.

Twin flawless bimba-fruits were ripe,
Above them sat a tranquil parrot :
Over him twin restless wagtails,
Over them a serpent coiled about his head.

My playful maid, explain :
Why did he steal my wits when I beheld him thus ?
Vidhyāpati says : *It is a sign of love ;*
Well have you weighed the worthy wight.

XXIV.

Rādhā: How can I tell the limits of my grief, my dear?
The blowing of that flute diffuses poison through my frame:
Insistently I hear it sounding,
And then my heart and body melt in shame.

In that supreme instant, my body fills to overflowing,
I dare not lift my eyes lest anyone should know of it:
In the company of elders, waves of emotion sweeping through me,
I draw my dress across each limb to hide it carefully.

With softest steps I walk about the house—
Kind fate has so far hidden my secret shame—
But rapture fills my heart and body, my girdle slips!
Vidhyāpati is dazed! What can he say?

SAKHĪ-SHIKSHĀ-BACANĀDI



Who then will save me when my life is dying?

Sakhī: Happy is your birth, and blest your beauty!
 For all are crying upon Kānu, Kānu,
 And he is laden deep with love of you.

The longing cloud desires the cātak,
 The moon desires the partridge,
 The vine upholds the full-grown tree,—
 There is amazement in my heart!

When there you stood with hanging hair,
 Across your breast but half its veil,
 Then Kānu, seeing all, was sorely troubled,—
 Tell me, dear damsel, what is your intent?

When you laughed and showed your teeth,
 With hand on hand held over head,
 And your unconscious glances pierced his heart,—
 Then seeing him, you took a maiden on your lap!

Such is my tale of you, O beauty,
 Advise you thereupon:
You are the idol of his heart, and he a frame forlorn,
Says Vidhyāpati the poet.

XXVI.

Sakhī: Hearken, hearken, O virtuous Rādhā:
Murdering Mādhava, what is the good you will gain?

By day the moon is pale and lonely,
Likewise *he* waxes thinner and thinner:
His rings and bracelets slip,—
I think he must remake them many times.

*I cannot understand your ways;
The poet rests his head upon his hands!*

XXVII.

Sakhī: Make your decision, Beauty :
Kāna is waxen wood for want of you,
Sometimes he laughs for little cause :
What would he say with passionate words ?

Very sorry are his sighs,
He cries, *O Wel-a-way :*
His helpless body trembles,
None can hold him still.

Saith Vidhyāpati: Dear maiden,
Witness Rūpanārāyana.

XXVIII.

Sakhī: Harken fair damsel, to good advice,
For I shall teach you special wisdom :
First you shall sit beside the bed,
With bended neck, but half regarding him.

And when your lover touches you, push out your hand,
Remaining silent, uttering never a word :
And when he takes you forcibly and clasps you to his side,
Passionately you shall exclaim, *Nay, nay!*

In his embrace, your body you shall wrench aside,
Breaking away in the moment of delight.

Saith Vidhyāpati: What can I say?

Yoursel the Guru shall teach e'en Love himself.

XXIX.

Sakhī: Now hear me, daughter of a king,
For I have come to speak with you :
You have destroyed the life of precious Kāna,—
What work is this that you have wrought?

When day declined, I think,
You walked beside the water's edge,
And when you saw him, did embrace
Some maiden's neck, demurely smiling :

And showing him your moon-face,
You put him in a sorry plight.
Then suddenly you came away, before he saw you well :
Now he is weeping, *Wel-a-way*.

Giving him just a glimpse of your breast,
You stole his heart :
Vidhyāpati enquires : O Beauty,
How shall Kānu live?

XXX.

Sakhī: Attend my teaching, artless maid,
And I shall give you good advice :
First you shall deck your hair with jewels,
And paint your curving eyes with sūrm.

Then you shall go to him with all your body folded close,
And seeming to be dumb, shall stay apart :
My dear, at first you shall not go anigh him,
But with wanton glances, fair one, shall awaken Love.

Hiding your breasts, your shoulders showing,
Your girdle knotted fast,
You shall appear offended, yet be loving,
You shall refrain desire, that ever springs afresh.

*Says Vidhyāpati: This is the first degree :
They that be worthy shall taste the fruit.*

XXXI.

Radhā : I know not the taste of love, nor the colour of desire :
How may I have ado, my dear, with yonder swain,
That I should love him as you ask ?
A young thing I, afraid of shame.

What can I tell you, dearest maiden ?
I may not dare to have ado with him.
He is a herdsman lover, new-enflamed,
With all five arrows Love awakens his desire.

No sooner seeing me, but he will clip me tight :
Who then will save me, when my life is dying ?
Vidhyāpati says : *Your fears are vain,*
Believe me, that his love is not of such a sort.

XXXII.

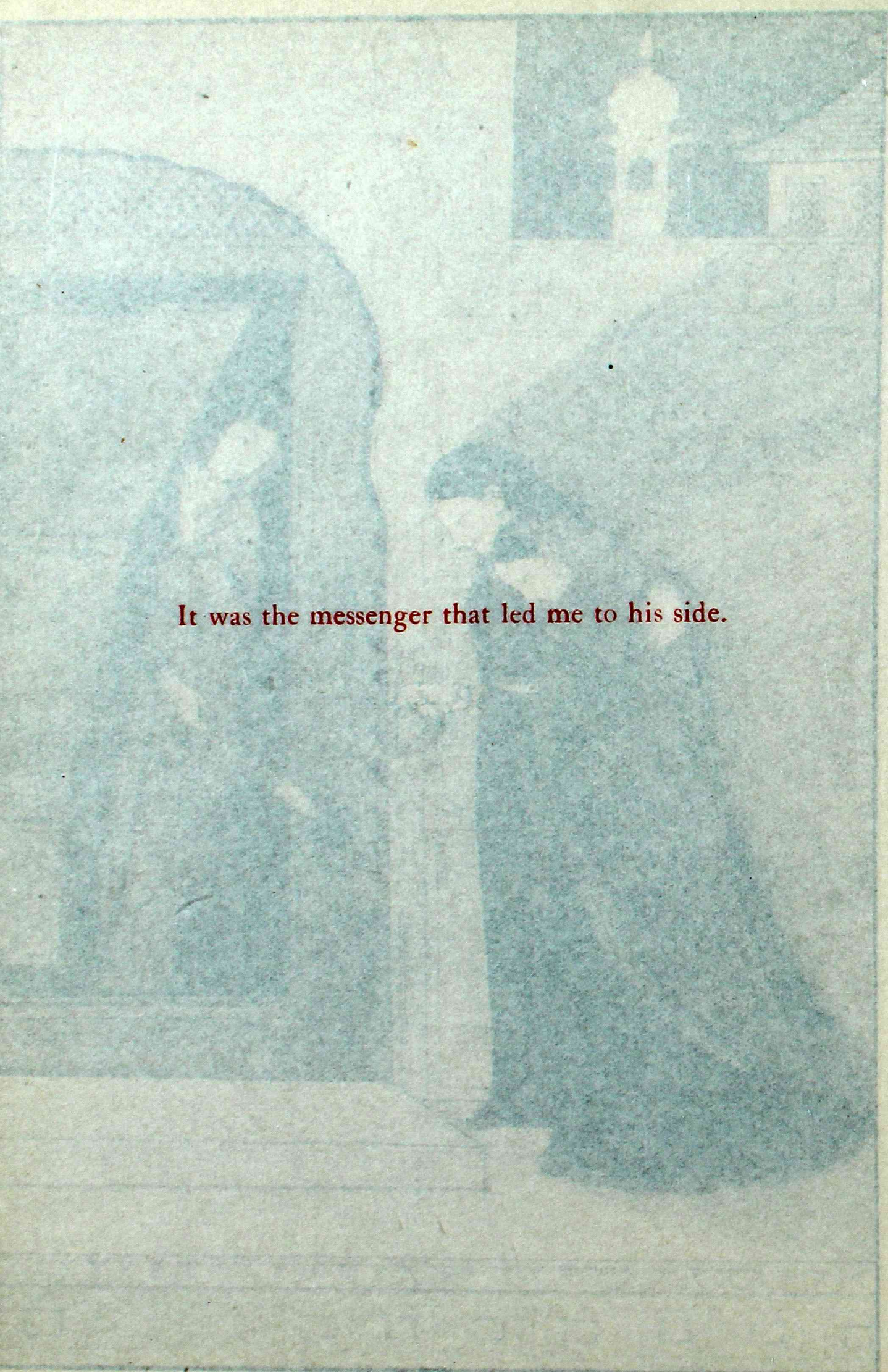
Radha: Leave me, dear maid, I pray you,—
I will not go whereas he is:
Nought do I know the skill of words,
Or art of signs, nor how to pretend offense.

All of my friends arraying me at once,—
I cannot even bind my own hair!
I never have heard what dalliance means,
How may I mix with Mādhava?

He is learned in love, a passionate swain,
And I a weak girl of scanty wisdom.
Says Vidhyāpati: What counsel do I give?
'Tis that there should be union.

PRATHAMA MILNA





It was the messenger that led me to his side.

XXXIII.

Dūtika : Hearken, hearken, beautiful Kānāi :
I give the maiden Rādhā to your care,
A lotus-damsel, softly-wrought,
And thirstier bee than you.

The feast of honey is prepared,—
Only forget the Archer's cruelty,
Touching her bosom gently
As an olifant a lily.

Making excuse to count her necklace pearls,
Your hands may lift the burden of her breasts :
She does not understand the ways of love,
But now consents, and now refuses.

The shirīsh-flower is not more delicate than she, therefore
Inure her to the Archer's way by little steps,—
The poet Vidhyāpati lays down
This prayer of a messenger upon your feet.

XXXIV.

Sakhī: When first the damsel to her leman came,
Her heart beat fast with shame and fear :
Like to a golden image, Rādhā stood quite still,
Nor moving forward, nor returning.

Taking her hands, he sets her by his side,
And she in shame and anger veils her face :
When he unfolds her face and kisses her upon her mouth,
She hides the shamefast face in Mādhav's breast.

*This is the merry song of Vidhyāpati the poet,
Delighting Rājā Shīvasimha's heart.*

XXXV.

Sakhī: The sakhī soothed her fears, and led her lovingly,—
Her leman's heart was gladdened, he took her by the hand:
But Rādhā paled at Kānu's touch,
A lotus fading in the moon's embrace.

She cries: *Oh no, no, no!* and tears are pouring from her eyes,
She lies outstretched upon the margin of the bed,
His close embrace has not unloosed her zone,—
Even of handling of her breasts has been but little.

She lifts the wimple up to hide her face,
She cannot rest, but trembles through and through.
Says Vidhyāpati: The heart of it is patience:
Step by step may Madan claim his own.

XXXVI.

Sakhī: Ah damsel fair! in dalliance is no delight,
For Madan wounds the heart with double pains.

The maidens all together setting her by Kānu's side,
The damsel breathes in frightened gasps:
When Kānu lifts her to his lap, she bends her body back,
Like the young snake, untamed by spells.

‘But shut your eyes this once, my fair one,
As a sick man drinks his draught:
A little moment's pain, and then the birth of bliss,—
Why do you turn your face away from this, my girl?’

Hearken, Murāri, saith Vidhyāpati:
You are the ocean of desire, and she is artless.

XXXVII.

Radha: How can I tell of what was done that night?
Unhappily the hours were spent with Mādhava:
He clasped my breasts and drank the nectar of my lips,
Laying his face on mine, he killed my life.

(First youth, and hence this pouring out of passion:
So rash is Kān,—he has no skill in love).
Madan-maddened, nothing recking,
He would not heed how many prayers!

Hearken, Lady fair, says Vidhyāpati:
You are but artless, and Murāri is athirst.

XXXVIII.

Radha: What can I say, my sakhī? It is shame to tell
All that my Lover did imperiously;
A young thing I, unlearned in lore of love,—
It was the messenger that led me to his side.

My body shivered at the sight of him,
He was so eager that he sprang on me,
I lost my wits in his embrace:
How can I tell what amorous play he played?

In everything my Lord behaved ungently,
How can I speak of it amongst my friends?
Why ask of it, who know it all too well?
Happy is she whom he may not distress!

*Fear not, says Vidhyāpati:
Such is the fashion of first dalliance.*

XXXIX.

Radha: Do not urge me, dearest maiden, do not urge,
What can I do, if he should soothe my fears?
Few are my years, for I am not so old as Kānu,—
I am too shamefast and too tender.

Cruel Hari played with me impatiently,
How can I tell how many woes the night bestowed?
Passion flamed up, I lost my wits,—
Who knows when he broke my girdle?

He held me close, with pinioned arms,
And then my heart was beating wildly;
I let him see my streaming eyes,
But even then Kānu had no pity.

My wicked lover parched my lips—
Abetted by the night, Rāhu devoured the moon;
He tore my twin breasts with his nails,
Just as a lion tears an elephant.

*Ah amorous woman, says Vidhyāpati,—
You knew full well Murāri was aflame!*

XL.

Sakhi: Shyāma sitting in his pride
Speaks of the night's delights :
'She is the beauteous sweet-faced Rāi,
With rapture I received her in my inmost heart.

'How many ways she kissed me,
Laughing light and low in gladness,
Diversely disporting,
My dream of delight.

'How nectar-sweet her words,
Eyebrows arching, wanton glances,
Damsel waking in my heart's core.'

This is first love, says Vidhyāpati.

XLI.

Radha : O maiden, dearest maiden, do not lead me to him,
Too young am I, and he is a burning lover :
My heart is shaken, going to his side, —
The amorous bee will spring upon the lotus.

The muslin hides my harmless body
Like wimpling waters of a lily-lake :
Oh Mother mine, how creatures suffer pain !
What Power shaped the wicked Night ?

*Says Vidhyapati : What is befitting now ?
Who cannot tell when it is dawn ?*

XLII.

Sakhi: Her gentle words she can but stammer,
Her shamefast speech will not well out :
To-day I found her most contrary,
Sometimes consenting, sometimes fearful.

At any word of dalliance, she tightly shuts her eyes,
For she has caught a glimpse of the great sea of Love :
At kissing-time she turns her face away,—
The moon has taken the lotus on his lap !

Stricken with terror if her zone be touched, the shining maiden
Knows that Madan's treasury is being rifled.
Her clothes are disarrayed, she hides her bosom with her arms,—
The jewels are exposed, and yet she knots her garment !

*What is Vidhyāpati to think, forsooth?
For at the moment of embrace, she flies the bed !*

XLIII.

Radha: Oh Hari, Why do you seek to loose my girdle?
You shall not win your will:
I cannot tell what pleasure there can be in seeing me,
But now I know your guile, O Banamāli!

If you will listen to my plea, Murāri,
I shall abuse you only very gently:
Sufficed with dalliance, what need for sight?
My soul may not endure it.

Never has like been heard,
While lamps are lit, to play with me:
The people of the house will hear our very breath!
Deal with me gently, for the people of the house are very near.

*This savour Vidhyāpati knoweth well,—
Rājā Shivasimha and Lakshmī Devī be witness!*

XLIV.

Radha: You that are skilled in passion's lore have pity on my shame,—
I will forsake it when my youth increases :
My little savour cannot satisfy you now,
The little draught will not suffice to slake your thirst.

Would you but take it drop by drop,
Daily increasing like the digit of the moon !
These little breasts of mine will hardly fill your hands as yet,—
O Hari, do not wound them with your nails, be wise in love.

Vidhyāpati exclaims: *What are these gesses,
To set such store upon a green pomegranate?*

XLV.

Radhā: You are that Banamāli that did slay Chānur :
This tender woman is the shirīsh-flower.
O cruel messenger that made this war,
And gave a jasmine-garland to an olifant !

No longer does the sūrm paint my eyes,
And wet with sweat are musk and sandal :
O wounded Mādhav, I beseech you,
Do not offer up my life upon the altar of Desire !

O Hari, Hari, let your purpose be
To spare my life until another day.
Give Love his due, impatient lover !
Says Vidhyāpati: Your wish shall be accomplished.

XLVI.

Sakhī: Amorous the swain, and little is his darling :
If hands be laid on her, how many are her wiles !
With what entreaties and persuasions have the maidens led her
To her lover's house, and laid her on his bed !

With face averted, lying closely curled,
(For who may turn the tide when passion flows?)
She hides her face beneath the wimple,—
The frightened moon escaping from the storm.

No word comes out, she hears nought that is said,
Repeatedly she folds her hands imploringly :
With covering arms she guards the treasures of her life,—
She needs no bodice to enfold her breasts.

Insistently from sight and touch alike
She keeps her jewels hidden in the granary of Love,—
A matter for her maidens' mocking many days,
Now learning her the lore of Love.

Vidhyāpati finds great delight herein :
For at a sudden touch, she pushes out her hand !

XLVII.

Sakhi: Enough! and cast the trouble from your heart,
Be not afraid, go to your lover's side:
Have done with obstinacy, for I tell you
Never can be joy without its pain.

But half a grain of grief, and then a life of gladness|:
Why are you so averse to this, my girl?
Just for a moment shut your eyes,
As a sick man drinks his draught.

*Go, Beauty, go, and play love's game,
Vidhyāpati prays for your consent.*

XLVIII.

Radhā: O Hari, if you will insist on touching me,
The sin of murdering a wife will fall on you :
You are a guileful lover full of passion
I know not whether it be sweet or bitter.

When passion is outpoured, I shiver
Like an arrow-smitten bounding antelope :
O do not realise your hopes before the time,—
Savour is never lacking to the wise man's end.

Vidhyāpati says : *I see it clear,*
That honeyed fruit is never green.

XLIX.

Sakhi: How to direct the flying arrows of her restless eyes
The Archer-guru teaches her the unfamiliar lesson
(And who would practise uninformed?)

‘Oh do not take my life by force!
Toy not with me, O Kānu,—release my skirt;
I am so faint, I fear love’s war.

How can my early youth content your will at all?
A little riches cannot satisfy a beggar.
The unblown jasmine of the early spring
Cannot appease the hunger of the lusty bees:
There cannot be a happy ending of a sinful deed—
Be not so rash, when you ought rather hesitate.’

Says Vidhyāpati: Oh amorous Kānu!
The maddened elephant heeds not the goad.

L.

Sakhī: With soft persuasion all the maidens
Led her to her lover's side,
A fawn ensnaréd from the forest
Panting hard.

The sweet-face sits beside the bed
With busily averted looks,
Her mind wide-wandering,—
Love breathing hard.

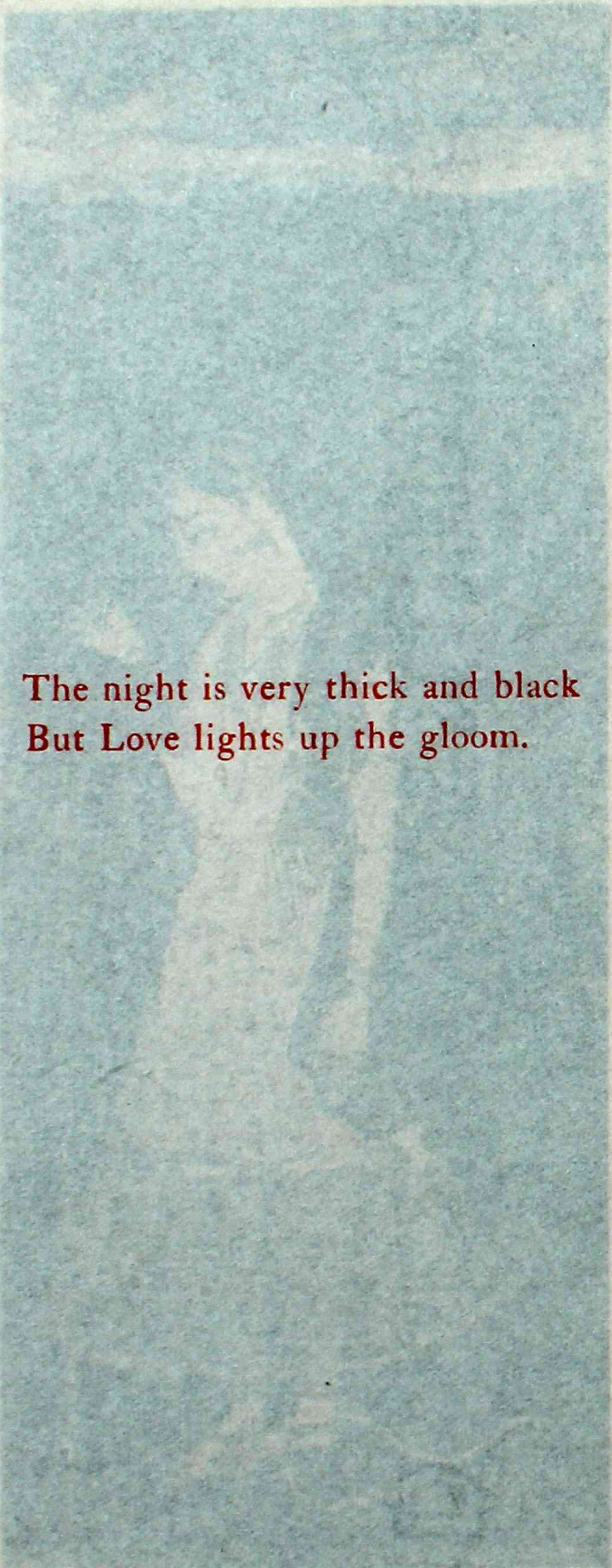
Cruel is Love, and loveliness is stubborn,
She will not follow reason :
Fast is her girdle knotted, bodice bound,
And barriers before her lips.

Her body closely swathed on neither side
A glimpse revealed,
She yields her life at a hand's touch,—
How may Hari win his will?

*Unhappy Kānta lays how many prayers
Upon the maiden's feet,
Hurting her soul (so Rādhā thinks) :
Such is the song of Vidhyāpati.*

ABHISĀRA





The night is very thick and black
But Love lights up the gloom.

LI.

Sakhī: Gainlier than a royal olifant, more graceful than the swan,
 She goes to keep her tryst :
 Her glorious body far surpasses any golden bud,
 Or flawless flash of lightning.

Her tresses far surpass the clouds, the night, the yak,
 Or bees, or moss :

Her eyebrow-tendril set on a crescent brow, surpasses
 Bow and bees and snakes.

Her face excels the golden mirror, the moon, the lily,
 Her lips the bimba-fruit and coral :

Her teeth surpass the pearl, the jasmine and the granate seed,
 Her neck the figure of the conch.

Her beauteous breasts surpass the honey apple, or cymbals twain,
 Or golden jars, mountains, or goblets :

Her arms excel the lotus-root and jungle-rope,
 Her waist the drum's and lion's.

Softer than moss her vine of down and darker than the sūrm,
 The triple folds are lovelier than rolling waves :

Her navel far surpasses any lake, or lotus-leaves,
 Her buttocks, head of olifant.

Her thighs excel the plaintain-stem, or trunk of royal olifant,
 Her hands and feet, the lotus of the land :

Her nails surpass pomegranate-seeds, the moon, or gems,
 Her speech is more than nectar-sweet.

*Says Vidhyāpati: Her shape is unsurpassed,
 Peerless is Rādhā's beauty :*

*Rājā Shivasimha Rūpanārāyana
 Is the eleventh Avatār!*

Sakhi: Rādhā's love is young,
 No obstacle can stay her :
 She has started all alone,
 Reckless of any path.

She casts away the jewelled necklace
 That weighed upon her jutting breasts :
 She casts the rings and bracelets from her hands,
 And leaves them all along the road.

The jewelled anklets from her feet
 She flings afar and hurries on :
 The night is very thick and black,
 But Love lights up the gloom.

The way is fraught with dangers
 Which love's weapon overcomes :
Vidhyāpati knows your mind—
Never was such another seen.

LIII.

Krishna : The night is late, the fair one timorous and fearful :
When will she of the olifant gait be here?
The path is filled with dreadful snakes,
How many dangers do her path beset, and she with feet so tender !

To the feet of Providence I trust her,
Success attend the Beauty's tryst !
The sky is black, the earth is sodden,—
My heart is anxious for her danger.

Heavy the darkness in every airt,—
Her feet may slip, she cannot find the path :
Her glance beguiles each living thing
Lakshmī comes in human form !

Says Vidhyāpati the poet :
The maid enamoured yields to none but Love.

LIV.

Sakhi: She veils her face, that lady shene,—
They tell the king: The moon is stolen.
O lovely lover, how may you not be seen
By watchmen keeping watch in every house?

Let not your smile flash out, sweet-face,
Murmur but soft and low the music of your words,—
For near your lips are lustrous teeth,
As near the vermeil mark is set a pearl.

Hearken, hearken, to my words of counsel,
Even in dreams may nothing hinder:
The moon differs from you but in her spots,
For she is stained, and you are stainless.

Ha! Rājā Shivasimha and Lakshmī Dev,
Says Vidhyāpati: My heart is fearless.

Sakhi: The citizens are waking on the king's highway,
 Rays of the moon light up the dome of earth :
 No peace in new-born love,—
 I am amazed to see you, Loveliness !

How many ways the damsel seeks to hide herself :
 She goes a-trysting in a boy's disguise,
 And binds her flowing tresses in a knot,
 Changing diversely the fashion of her dress.

And since her breasts may not be hidden by their veil,
 She clasps an instrument of music to her bosom :
 Thus she attains the darkness of the forest,—
 The Lord of lovers cannot know her when he sees her !

Perplexed is Mādhava, when he perceives her,
 But at a touch the riddle is resolved.

*Says Vidhyāpati: What happened then,—
 What sports of Love ensued?*

VASANTA LĪLĀ



A blue-toned illustration of a forest scene. The image shows a path or stream winding through a grove of trees. The trees are rendered in various shades of blue, creating a sense of depth and texture. The overall composition is vertical and occupies the central portion of the page.

In Brindāban the groves are green.

LVI.

Kavi: Came the lord of seasons,—Royal Spring :
The hosts of bees besieged the mādhavī flowers,
The sun's rays reached their youthful powers,
The keshara flowers upheld the sceptre of the king.

Fresh pītal flowers composed the royal throne,
Golden blossoms raised the state umbrella,
And mango-buds the crest above :
Before the king the koils sang the pancam-note.

The peacocks danced, the bees buzzed,
The twice-born sang the blessing spells :
Enamoured of the southern breeze,
The pollen of the flowers upraised a canopy.

Jasmine and honey-apple bore the banner :
Pātal the quiver, rows of ashoka trees the arrows.
Seeing the allied kimshuk and labanga-vine
The Winter season broke before the Spring.

The army was a swarm of honey-bees
That rooted out the Winter utterly :
The rescued lotus came to life,
Offering its fresh leaves for a throne.

*There is delight in Brindāban, says Vidhyāpati,
Befitting what shall there befall.*

LVII.

Kavi: In Brindāban renewed the groves are green,
The flowers new-spread :
The Spring is new, and the new southern breeze
Excites the swarms of lusty bees.

The bloom of youth disports,
The bowers beside Kālindī's banks display unwonted loveliness,
New snares of love are laid :
The bees are frenzied by new sappy buds,
The callow koils are a-calling.

The new young maidens, maddened with new longings,
Are hurrying to the groves.
A new Lord reigns : the lusty lovers young
Are bright with new-found lustre.

*For ever and for ever new diversions such as these
Delight the heart of Vidhyāpati.*

LVIII.

Kavi: Drunken are the honey-bees in honey-season
With the honey of the honey-flowers :
In Honey-Brindāban resides
The Honey-Lord of honey-love.

Amid the companies of honey-maids
Is honey-honey-dalliance :
Honeyed are the blissful instruments of music,
Honeyed hands are beating honey-measures.

Honeyed is the dance's sway,
Honeyed are the movements of the dancers,
Honeyed are their happy songs,
And honeyed are the words of Vidhyāpati.

LIX.

Kavi: The blissful night of Spring holds sway
Glad dalliance among, and passionate rāsa-dance ;
And lovely Rādhā, jewel of maids, is filled with longing,—
Skilled in the dance, He bathes with her in bliss.

Merrily the company of maidens dancing,—
Golden bangles tinkling tunefully,—
Now will they sing an amorous air
The mode of Spring, more passionate than any other.

Rabāb, pināsh, and mahātik are sounding :
Murali sports, delighting Rādhā's heart.
The merry poet Vidhyāpati sings
What Rūpanārāyan his lord, well knows.

MĀNA



The illustration is rendered in a light, textured blue-grey color on a cream-colored background. It depicts a scene with two figures. A large, seated figure, possibly a deity or a person of high status, is shown in profile, wearing a large, ornate, multi-tiered headdress. To the left, a smaller figure is kneeling or bowing towards the larger figure. The background features a large, semi-circular archway. The entire scene is framed by a simple, dark blue border.

He who was wont to wear a yellow weed, now grovels at your feet.

Krishna : Refrain your wrath, disdainful lady :
 Breasts that are globes of gold, and serpent-necklace,
 By these I swear,—
 If ever I touch another girl, forsaking you,
 May I be bitten by that necklace-serpent !

Or if you will not trust my protestation,
 Inflict on me at will a fitting penance :
 Bound in the rope of your two arms, bruise me with your hips,
 Rest on my body the weary burden of your breasts,
 Prison me night and day within your bosom's gaol !

Vidhyāpati says : *This penance is befitting !*

LXI.

Datika: He who was wont to wanton with a flute, has cast away his jewels,
He who was wont to wear a yellow weed, now grovels at your feet,—
There was a time your eyes would overflow, might you not see him,
Now you will not so much as look upon his face!

Beauty, abandon your bitter mood,
Lusty Kānu is praying at your feet :
By happy hap this amorous Shyām is yours,
By happy hap the tide of spring,—

By happy hap this love's attainment,
By happy hap this blissful night,—
Damsel disdainful, will you forsake your Krishna's body,
And spend your life henceforth in lonely weeping?

*These be love's ways, says Vidhyāpati,—
Yet prayer's denial deserves no praise.*

LXII.

Dātika : One little moment of a day you keep your youth,—
The days are floating by :
Evil and good, these two will travel at your side,—
The only final gain is what you give to others.

Beauty, you have had part in killing Hari,
All day and night he thinks of only you,—
This is his hour of separation !

In sorrow's sea he swims or sinks,—
Show him your globéd breasts :
O worthy fair one, Gokula's Lord preserve,
And win the praise of the Triple Worlds !

*Of a myriad lovers, whosoever looks on Kāna,
Deems that day is blest :
Frenzied is Hari by reason of your fury
The poet Vidhyāpati avows.*

LXIII.

Rādhā: You shall not tell me otherwise, my dear :
Little by little I came to know him better,
That Kānu is so cunning.

He made a sweetmeat of some knotty wood,
By smearing treacle on it :
Filling with poison a golden jar,
He added a layer of milk !

Yet surely Kān is good, and I am bad,
Because his words beguile me :
In heart and speech He is the same,
Matchless amidst a myriad.

*The same flower that you cast away, the same you use in prayer,
And with the same you string the bow :
Such is the quality of Kānu's speech,
The poet Vidhyāpati avows.*

LXIV.

Datika : O lovely wrathful lady, stony-heart,
In such a plight he is, and yet you say no word!

True love's way is not of such a sort ;
It is befitting you should mix with him.

When for his loneliness his life is forfeit,
With whom will you continue anger then?

Who says your heart is soft?
Never was heart so hard as yours!

*If now you do not mix with Mādhava,
The poet Vidhyāpati will never speak with you again.*

LXV.

Kavi: With hanging head, she writes upon the ground,
Whoever utters Shyāma's name, she utterly ignores :
Over her glowing robe her hair falls free,
She casts away her jewels and all her fine array.

Her face is like a lord of rosy lilies, void of sap :
The earth is flooded with her streaming tears.
Just then the Lady of the Forest came
And said : 'Fair maid, go we to serve the Sun.'

But she of the hanging head made no reply,
Says Vidhyāpati: She went away.

LXVI.

Krishna : 'Why veil your face, dear beautiful?

You've stolen my wits away :

You have no dread of slaying men,

Your courage is unbounded !

'O wrathful lady, my heart is frenzied,

No more I may sustain the pangs of Madan,

But come to you for refuge.

'Whether two towering hills, or cups of gold,

I gaze and cannot tell :

And on each breast is Shambhu revered,

Framed in his crescent moon.

'I fain would touch them with these lotus hands

If fate be not forbidding :

I seek a sanctuary at your feet—

(O that the damsel may be kind !)

Seeing her restlessness, I was distraught,

My heart beat fast.

Hearken, young damsel, says Vidhyāpati :

Bestow some boon on Kāna.

LXVII.

Krishna: Hearken, hearken, worthy Rādhā,
For what offence do you refuse my company?

How many stars have risen in the sky,
But the moon is another Avatār!

What more in special can I say?
In a host of a myriad Lakshmīs I have eyes for none.

*And hearing this the maiden's heart dissolved in tears,
And his desires were realised.*

*Vidhyāpati says: There was reunion;
All were astonished at the tale!*

LXVIII.

Krishna: Your high round breasts—like golden cups—
And sidelong glances, have stolen my wits away :
O lady fair, forbear your bitter fury,
And give the frenzied bee his draught of honey !

I clasp your hands, my fair sweet girl,
Be not so cruel, have pity on my lot :
How many times must I advise you
I may no more sustain the sting of love !

*Vidhyāpati says: You know full well,
That hope deferred is worse than death.*

LXIX.

Dātika : Hearken, O Mādhava : Rādhā is waxen wilful,—
How carefully and in how many ways I warned her,
And yet the beauty gave no answer !

The lovely creature when she hears your name,
Covers her ears with her hands :
She who thought that your love was for ever new,
Now will not even hear you speak !

I laid before her a lock of your hair,
Flowers and grass and pān :
But the wrathful face of a lily she would not turn,—
She sat unmoved, with face averted.

*This heart of yours forsooth, is lightning's very essence,—
How shall I soothe your fury ?
Vidhyāpati says : A kind word would be fitting ;
But you yourself be still, O Kāna.*

LXX.

Radha: At last, my dear, I see how Kāna is uncouth :
An axe of brass, useless for any work,
A layer of tinsel over it !

Albeit I showed him angry eyes, how came it that the mountains
Slipped in two thick roads?
Taking the shālmal for the sandal, he clasped it close,—
But there was a thorny dart !

He who has spent his life amongst the beasts,
What can he know of Rati's ways?
This is a night of nectar, but I spent it vainly
With yonder boorish Herdsman !

Vidhyāpati says: Hearken, young woman:

He is not ever a boor !

You are uncouth yourself, your trade is herding too,

You cannot lay such blame on Hari !

LXXI.

Radhā : There bloomed a flower of golden shene,
My hope was high the fruit would be a gem,
I fed its roots with streams of milk ;
I saw no fruit, and all was vanity !

I am the simple daughter of a cowherd,
And this unworthy love is worse than death ;
What woe, Alas, has Fate afflicted me,—
For hope of gain, I lost my all !

This is Vidhyāpati's conclusion :
You cannot make a dog's tail straight.

LXXII.

Krishna : The sun is in the East, the tide of night has ebbed,
The moon is merging in the sky,
The water-lily closed,—and even so, my lady fair,
Your lily-face is shut.

A lily-face, two lotus-eyes,
And lips of honey,
All your body flower-wrought,—
Why is your heart of stone ?

Your hands are wasted, and you wear no bracelets,
Even a garland is a weary burden :
And yet you will not cast away your mountain load of pride—
What wicked ways are yours !

*Now leave these wrongs, give Hari bliss, my fair,
Now with the dawn, give over wrath :
Rājā Shivasimha Rūpanārāyana,
Says Vidhyāpati !*

LXXIII.

Sakhī: Beauty, of lineage and courtesy, without your eyes—
 The best of lovers—what may you do?
 How may you make jap-tap, or alms bestow or vows accomplish,
 Who have no pity on the pitiful?

‘I would advise you very seriously, my dear:
 One such a virtue many a sin may cancel,
 A single sin destroys the fruit of many virtues.

‘Though brother to the poison, thief of a guru’s wife,
 And vomited from Rāhu’s jaws,
 Scorching divided lovers, slayer of water-lilies,—
 Yet for his merits the moon shines bright!

‘Loving another’s children, careless of his own,
 The crow drinks dregs of love:
 Yet an only word of His, wipes all those faults away,—
 He speaks such honey-words.’

Rādhā: ‘What can I say, my dear, of Kāna’s love—
 The roothless root of every virtue?
 Touching His flute He makes a hundred vows
 But even then I cannot trust Him.

‘Renewed embraces: kissing me upon His lap,
 He makes protest of loyalty!
 But He has spent the night beside some other girl,
 And emptied me of hope.

‘In something more than fire my body burns
 I see the seal of Rati on every limb.’

*Life may expire, says Vidhyāpati,
 And yet you will not mix with Hari!*

LXXIV.

Radhā : Hearken, prithee, heartless Hari,
Fie on your such love !
Why did you speak of keeping tryst,
And with another maiden spent the night ?

You make pretence of love for Rāi,
And dally with another girl :
Who says brave Kānu is best of lovers ?
No such another fool is in the world.

Refusing ruby, you seek for glass,
Leaving an lake of nectar, you long for brine,
Forsaking a sea of curds, to wanton in a well,—
Fie on your amorous blandishment !

Vidhyāpati the lord of poets avows :
Radhā will never look upon your face again.

Rādhā: Thirsting for fragrance I flew to the flower
 But never I came the near,
 I saw not a drop of the ocean of honey,
 And now the people mock me.

And lo, my dear, the bee bewitched by someone else!
 And no one passes any judgment thereupon:
 By little steps I came to understand him better,
 How is his heart as fickle as the lightning.

Forsaking the lily, he followed the screw-pine,
 Inhaling its fragrance:
 But the thorns have pierced his body
 His face is smeared with dust.

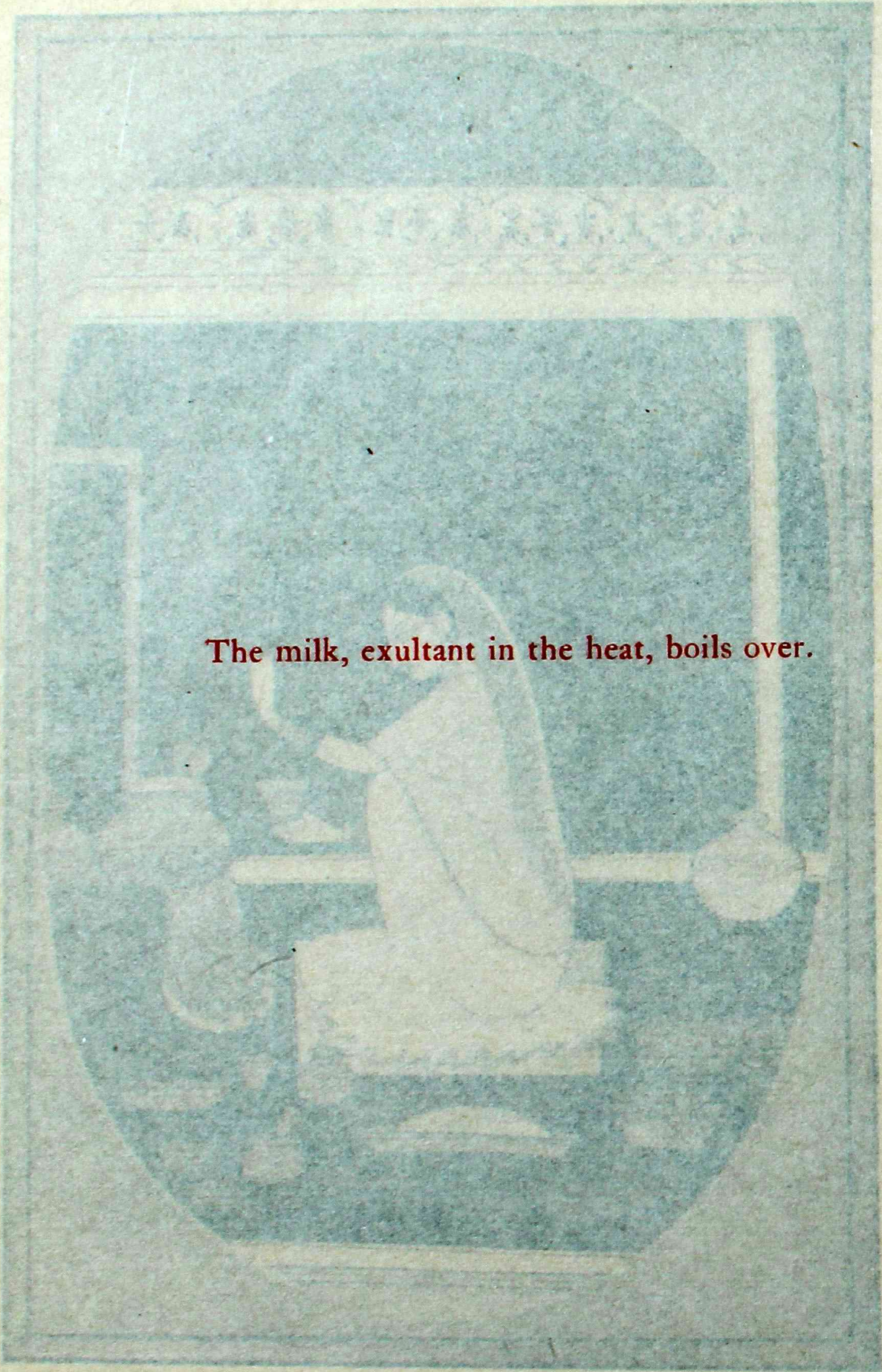
Somewhat hurt, I think, he comes again to me,
 As though he had been disappointed:
 There is one flavour men have never understood—
 Distinction of the good and bad.

Hearken, my good girl, says Vidhyāpati;
Love is only understood by lovers,—
Rājā Shīvasimha is the storehouse of all virtues,
And Rānī Lakshmī Devī his wife!

MĀNĀNTE MILNA



The milk, exultant in the heat, boils over.



LXXVI.

Sakhī: The wrath of the wrathful fled afar
Kānu sank in a sea of nectar :
But when he asked for her embrace,
Albeit heavy with love, her lovely body might not bend.

Honeyed was the swain's speech,
Tremulous the beauty's sighs ;
Her Lord enfolded her upon his lap,
But yet the flow of nectar was but little.

Gently he kissed her face—her eyes were full of tears,
And though her heart was full of love, yet love was lacking ;
Bravely he touched her bosom with his hands,
But even then desire would not awake.

And when at last he loosed her girdle,
Then even, in Hari's bliss, desire was cold,
And even then she felt no gladness :
Is it pleasure or pain, says Vidhyāpati?

LXXVII.

Sakhī: Peerless Rādhā beside Murāri,—
Her wrath broke down, whose wrath was stubborn !
Mādhava kisses Rādhā's face,
Looks on her moon-face with brimming eyes.

All of her maidens were filled with joy,
Madan entered the hearts of both,
Twain were enraptured, each in the other's lap :
A sight that fills Vidhyāpati with bliss.

LXXVIII.

Sakhī: 'Tell me, O Beauty, what were the night's delights,
How did your Lord fulfil your hopes?
(How curiously, methinks, has Providence
Created man and maid !)
You are the fairest woman of the world
And have attained Murāri, worthiest of men.'

Radhā: 'I am not able to recite my lover's love,
The fates have not bestowed on me a myriad mouths !
Doffing his necklace of ivory pearls,
With care he set it on my neck :
Taking my hands, he set me on his lap,
And cooled my limbs with fragrant sandal.

'He loosed my locks (so neatly bound),
And wreathed them with a campak garland ;
With honey-honey-glances Kāna gazed on me,
His eyes brimmed over with tears of joy.'

Billows of love, says Vidhyāpati:
Hearken, my dear, I sing their Union.

LXXIX.

Sakhī: Measureless virtue ! whereso yearning bodies meet—
Now there has been indissoluble union of the twain :
How many a one essayed this way and that,
Yet none availed to put the twain asunder !

Never any household in the wicked world
Has seen such love as this, a very fount of milk !
If one should fetch it to the fire
And stir the milk to separate the water,
The milk, exulting in the heat, boils over—
Goaded by separation pangs, it leaps into the fire !

If any one should pour more water in it,
Then the separation-pangs withdraw afar.

Avows Vidhyāpati: Love is such,

And such the love of Rādha-Mādhava.

LXXX.

Radha : Very cunning is my Kāna,
Without any spell he broke my wrath !
He appeared to-day in a yogī's weed—
Who can explain such singular gestes ?

At the will of my mother-in-law I went to give him alms,
When he saw my face, he began to murmur words of love,
And he said : 'The gift I ask is the jewel of your pride,'—
(Then I could tell what guile was his !)

'Tis shame to recite all that he said,
Nobody knows the Lord of lovers !

Vidhyāpati says : O lovely Rāi,
How can you plumb the depth of his cunning ?

LXXXI.

Rādhā:

What can I tell of to-day's affair my dear?
A jewel fell to the hands of a fool
Who knows not the price of gold or glass,
And reckons alike the jewels and *gañja* seeds,

Who is lacking in lore of crafts of love,
And reckons milk and water the same:
How can I feel affection for him?
Shall a necklace of pearls adorn the neck of a monkey?

Wise in this savour, Vidhyāpati asks:

Has pān ever graced the mouth of a monkey?

LXXXII.

Rādhā: What shall I tell you, dear gay friend?
I cannot speak of to-day's disports:
I was lying alone on my flowery bed,
Love was my fellow, armed with his flowery darts.

Kāna came with his tinkling anklets,
In jest I lay with eyes closed:
Kāna came nigh and sat beside me,
I turned my face to hide my laughter.

Hari lifted from my locks their flowery chaplet,
And gave me his crest of peacock feathers:
With elaborate care he took the pearl from my nose
And lifted the necklet from my neck!

Loosing the bodice, my dear one lost his wits!
Then Madan woke, and I bound the thief my arms:

*Says Vidhyāpati: A learned wanton he—
You may be lovesome, but your lover is a master of the art of love!
In you there is love, but he is a lover all-wise in loving!*

LXXXIII.

Rādhā: I was still very wrathful,
But my lover disguised as a girl dissolved my pride :
What can I tell of the pranks of to-day, my dear ?
For there came Kān with the maiden-messenger !

He bound his curling hair in a knot,
The Lord of lovers dressed like a girl !
He put on a necklace and made a breast in his bosom,
He put on his feet a jewelled anklet.

First he put his left foot foremost,—
Ratipati danced with his flowery bow ;
I looked with amazement,—and fondled him freely,
With downbent glances, I set him in my lap !

When I touched his body so full of love,
The pride of my wrath fled Under-earth,
I stood all astonished, with finger to nose.

Vidhyāpati says : The quarrel was ended !

LXXXIV.

Rādhā: My frolicsome friend, what shall I say?
There was another prank, unspeakable:
Naked of any weed, I sat alone at home,
When he of the lotus-eyes appeared unseen!

To hide my body on either side revealed the other,
(O open wide and let me sink into the earth!)
Seeking to cover my breasts with my hands, I could not,—
Just as the snow may not conceal the southern hills.

Out on you, fie! my life, my youth, my honour,
The Lord of Braj gazed on my limbs to-day!
O amorous Rāi, Vidhyāpati says,
Could you outwit such wit as his?

LXXXV.

Radha: O mother mine, what can I say to-day!
The stain sticks fast, for all washing with water:
After my bath, and climbing Kālindī's bank,
The filmy muslin clung to my limbs,
That all my shape was clearly seen,—
And there was Yaduvīra just before me!

My buttocks broad were plain to see,
I turned me round and over them shook my hair:
And when he fixed his gaze upon my breasts,
I turned my back on Hari and sat me down.
But cunning Mādhava scanned my body with smiling face,
The body I sought to hide would not be hidden!

*You are a witless maid, says Vidhyāpati:
Why did you not return to the water?*

Radha: My mother-in-law was asleep, and I lay in her lap,
 And love-learned Kānu was lurking behind,
 Somehow I made it clear to him by signs:
 ‘Will you give over fooling, or shall I begone?’

‘Refrain this affection, O foolish lover,—
 As at this time your prayers are not to be granted!
 (Can there be any pleasure in embraces from behind,
 Shall thirst for water be slaked with milk?)’

Bending his face to mine, how did he drink the nectar of my lips!
 How often silently he laid his hand upon my breasts,
 Nor let betray him any panting breath,—
 What laughing battles were fought with flashing teeth!

*My mother-in-law awoke, and Kāna ran away:
 My hopes were not fulfilled, says Vidhyāpati.*

LXXXVII.

Radha: I was alone, and weaving garlands,
My skirt and bodice were unloosed,
And then came Kānu with quiet smiles!
(How shall I hide my bosom and my girdlestead?)

My darling clasped me with a merry laugh,
Modesty and shame departed to the underworld—
(How may I dout the lamp, that's out of reach of hands?)
And yet my brazen life dies not of shame!

*This is the very work of love, says Vidhyāpati:
Wherefore this shame of him to whom your life is dedicate?*

LXXXVIII.

Radha: To-day my awkward shame was far away,
He realised his heart's desires :
What shall I say, my dear? (I smile to speak of it,)
So very marvellous was the dalliance of to-day.

The toppling clouds fell down on earth,
The pleasant mountain-kings rose up on high :
I likewise, gazing in the emerald mirror,
Fell there where neither up nor down are known.

Newly advised was Kān, my lord,
His sayings overpowered me :
He gave a refuge to the homeless—
Shamefast I was and hid my heart's fire.

The prince of wantons folded me upon his lap,
And with the wimple wiped the dews of weariness,
Fanning me gently, I fell asleep.

Vidhyāpati exclaims: Delight beyond compare!

Radhā: What can I say, my dear? 'Tis measureless!
 Whether this was a dream, or real, I cannot tell,
 Or very near, or far away.

Beneath the winding lightning, darkness came to birth,
 Within, a river of heavenly nectar:
 The wavering darkness swallowed the sun and moon,
 On every hand the stars were falling!

The heavens fell, the hills were overthrown,
 The earth quaked hard,
 Stormily rose the sighing winds,
 The swarms of bees buzzed:

Like an ocean of chaos the waters overflowed,—
 Yet this was not an æon's ending!
How can I trow this contrary tale?
Vidhyāpati makes enquiry.

XC.

Sakhi: Her wandering hair was mingled with the circle of her face—
A wreath of clouds across the moon :
Jewelled earrings swung from her ears,
Her tilka ran with sweat.

(Beauty, of fortune-yielding face :
If you should still wage Rati's war,
How may Hari-Hara save?)

Bracelets musical, and bangles noisy,
Anklets clinking :
Drunk with the wine of love, Love yielded,—
Victory, Victory ! by beat of drum !

For when from the loins arose a muffled sound,
The warrior was crushed :
*Vidhyāpati's Master wins such bliss,—
Yamunā and Gangā mingling.*

XCI.

Kavi: Shyāma is drunk with Madan's drowsy wine,
With smiles he takes the moon-face on his lap—
Wanton glances, gentle laughter,
Leaning of limbs, amorous murmuring.

Amorous she, and passionate Kān,
Heart upon heart, face on face,
Both are drunken, both are archers :
Such song of love shapes Vidhyāpati.

XCII.

Radha: If you would have my love, O Mādhava
Make Madan witness to this document:

‘You will abandon dalliance ’neath the kadamb,
You will have no more regard to parents.
Even in dreams you will see only me,
And never drink but to my eyes,
Night and day will sing my praise,
And take no other maiden on your lap.’

When I shall have such covenant in hand,
Then I will speak of love with you!

*Hearken, brave Kān, to Vidhyāpati’s advice,—
Preserve your dignity even at cost of life!*

XCIH.

Rādhā: Like to the tool that trims the jewels of her toes,
Gokula's darling grovelled on the ground:
Unceasing tears were flowing down his face,
How many ways my love besought me!

O evil day! for I was proud,—
And now my brazen heart declines to die!
Who would have thought black wrath could be so dangerous,
Or that a jewel could be changed to clay?

I have been luckless in my woman's lot:
My refuge is in death, I was too proud!
Hearken, lady Rāi, says Vidhyāpati:
I shall explain the reason of your weeping.

ĀKSHEPA ANUYOGA O VIRAHA



The fire of separation from herself devours her body in its flames.

XCIV.

Sakhi: The mournful beauty, gazing on Kānu's face,
Was sobbing loud with brimming eyes:
The peerless moon-face, when he said 'Farewell,'
Fell fey upon the ground, with cries of 'Hari, Hari!'

How distractedly did Hari comfort her,—
'Now I shall not go to Mathurā':
When this sweet sound reached her ears,
The lovesick nymph revived.

And taking Kānu's hands in hers,
She lifted them to touch her head:
'Say unmistakeably, good Kān, my lord,
'I will not go to Mathurā.'

And when the damsel had this comfort,
She raised herself again, and sighed no more.
*Murāri went his way, when Rāi was soothed—
Vidhyāpati refrains from words!*

XCV.

Dātika : Mādhava, O moon-face,
Never can you have known the sting of separation !
Hearing you are departed to another land, she wastes away :
O wretched Rāi, bereft of wit by force of love !

Refusing even buds of flowers, she lies exhausted on the ground,
The calling of the koil fills her with fear,
Her tears have washed the beauty-spots away,
Her wasted arms let slip their ornaments.

With hanging head Rādhā regards her throat,
Now are her fingers raw with writing on the ground :
Says Vidhyāpati : *Recollecting all his ways,*
And taking count of them, she fainted.

XCVI.

Radhā: A sorry end to all my love, my dear,
To let my life depend upon a wanton,—
Nowhere to look for help!

I could not see the hidden well,
But as I ran, I fell therein:
At first I nowise knew the heavy from the light,—
Now would I might return!

His honey-speech I understood for love,
At first I knew no better:
I yielded all my skill into another's hands,
Pride had fled afar my heart.

Till now I led another way of life,
But now I know what drowning is:
I with my own hands sharpened the stake,
Whom can I blame now?

Hearken, fair young thing says Vidhyāpati:
No other thought be in your heart!
Oft is life lost for sake of love,
Who does not know this in the world?

XCVII.

Rādha: Why would you burn my body, O thou Bodiless?
I am not Shankara, but a gentle girl,

This is my flowing hair, not matted locks,
Not Gangā, but a jasmine garland on my head.

This is a pearl tiara, not the moon,
No eye upon my forehead, but a scarlet beauty-spot :

Not poison, but a trace of musk upon my throat,
A necklace on my breast, and not the lord of serpents.

Blue silk my robe, and not a tiger's skin,
This is a lotus of delight, and not a skull !

All this is loveliness, says Vidhyāpati:
Not ashes on her limbs, but dust of Malaya.

XCVIII.

Datikā: Often, in meditation on the name of Mādhava,
She changes into Mādhava himself:
Forgetful of her own desires and of her own identity,
She is enamoured of her own charms.

O Mādhava, your love is peerless!
The fire of sundering from herself devours her body in its flames,
I doubt if she may live.

Her friends are filled with grief, so sadly she regards them,
The tears are pouring from their eyes:
The cry of 'Rādhā, Rādhā,' echoing repeatedly,
She murmurs broken words.

When she is with Rādhā, she thinks that she is Mādhava,
And when with Mādhav, Rādhā:
And even so, this bitter love may not be broken asunder,
The pang of separation hurts her more and more.

Just as a tree both sides aflame quite utterly consumes
Some wretched insect's life:

*In such a plight, O Vallabha, I saw the nectar-face,
Says Vidhyāpati.*

XCIX.

Radhā: Where wanton Murāri is wont to sit,
There write my name or twice or thrice :
Lay by his side the jewels from my body,
This is my life's last prayer !

And all the number of my friends, write ye my name,—
Kind was my darling, only fate was cruel.
I die indeed, for Kānu's sake :
Seek some occasion to ask news of him.

Once on a day let my beloved write my name,
And pour the lustring water with his rosy hands !
Hearken fair damsel, says Vidhyāpati:
Be patient of heart, you shall meet your Murāri !

C.

Radha: Hari has gone to Mathurā town,
And Gokula is void to-day,
My ribs are all shrunken with weeping,
The cows are roaming on the road to Mathurā.

Herdsmen and maidens no more wandering
Beside the Jamunā's banks,—
I shall cast my life away in the waves,
And I will be born again as Kānu!

Then shall Kānu be Rādhā,
To suffer the pangs of love.
Vidhyāpati gives this advice:
No need for weeping now!

CI.

Radhā: Now Mādhav has gone to Mathurā town,
(Who can have stolen the jewel of Gokula?)
Gokul resounds with the noise of weeping,
See how the waves are swollen with tears!

Empty the temple, empty the lover,
Empty each airt, empty all!
How can I go to Jamunā's banks?
How can I look on the booths and the groves?

How can I look on the place and live,
Where he smothered my friends with flowers?
Vidhyāpati says: Be well advised,
Maybe he is hiding there in jest!

CII.

Sakhī: Watching with streaming eyes the way her darling went,
Half a second seems an aeon,—
‘Fate is most bitter, sundering thus
Murāri far from me !

‘What shall I do, my dear ?
What karma’s fruit is this, my dear one gone abroad ?
Perpetually pierce me the pangs of Madan.

‘O that a woman’s sighs, may fall beside my dear !
(By whom is my beloved sitting ?)
Were I but a bird, I would fly to his side,
And describe to him all my distress !

‘Bring me my darling, and save my life,—
Will no one take pity ?’

Vidhyāpati says: *Soon ye shall meet,*
Possess your heart in patience.

CIII.

Radhā: I am a girl on fire, in the temple bird-alone,
No friend is here with me :
The rain comes on, my love is gone abroad,
And cruel Love is hostile.

This is my day of dissolution,
Fresh clouds are driving in every quarter,
My life is flying from the sight.

Again the thunder roars, my life is shaken as I listen,
My heart is pounding :
The cruel peewit, calling 'Piu, piu,'
Reminds me of his lap.

And since it rains incessantly, I know my life will end,
As though in flames of fire.

*Vidhyāpati says: Harken, fair lady,
The worthy lover shall be yours.*

CIV.

Radhā: Even the moon's cool rays are scorching-hot,
The Spring is comen in :
Even from a crow's mouth not a word of Kānta !
What makes this cruel Madan ?

I know, my dear, my evil day is come :
At what a time has Fate opposed me,
Denying me to see him more !

So many days, I kept my body carefully
And now I know my end is near :
My last faint hope is but a legend now,—
How long my wicked heart endures !

Evil is Madan's mood, says Vidhyāpati:
To whom may you confide your care ?
Fiercer than flames of a sea of fire
This bitter severance from your darling !

CV.

Rādhā: Fresh flowers are springing by every cabin, brake and copse,
The koil sings the pancam note :
The southern breeze has reached the snowy hills,
And yet my darling has not come again !

The lunar sandal burns my body hotly,
The bees are buzzing in the woods,
The Spring is here and Kānu far away,
Unfriendly Fate I see.

With steadfast gaze to scan my Master's face,
My eyes have no content :
So many hardships may a woman's shrivelled heart
Endure in such a joyful season !

My body wasting daily, like the winter lotus,
I know not what the end will be !
Fie upon life, for shame, says Vidhyāpati,
Pitiless Mādhava's heart !

CVI.

Rādhā: Unhappy I, all birdalone,
Calling for Kānu, Kān, my life slipped by :
With promise of return, my lover went away,
He has forgotten all my former charms !

The flowers are blowing in every glade,
Now Spring has come, my dear,
The host of koils spread their noise :
My darling is abroad, I may no more sustain !

To whom shall I confide my heart's distress ?
No living creature of the Triple World such pain may know !
Hearken, fair Rāi, says Vidhyāpati:
I shall expound it all to Kānu.

CVII.

Radha: There is no limit to my woe, my dear!
O heavy rains of autumn-tide,
My house is empty!

Impenetrable clouds are thundering unceasingly,
And all the world is full of rain:
Kānta is a stone, and Love is cruel,
A rain of arrows pierces me.

A hundred flashes blind my eyes,
The peacock dances in an ecstasy:
The happy frogs but croak and croak,
My heart is bursting.

*Utter darkness, night impenetrable,
Unbroken line of lightning:
Vidhyāpati says: How may you pass
The day and night alone?*

CVIII.

Radha : Who says that Mādhava will come, my friend ?
How can I ever cross the sea of longing ?
I have no faith within my heart !

Expectant every moment, I pass the livelong day,
Expectant day by day, a month goes by :
Expectant every month, I pass the year,
I have forsaken all hope in life.

Expectant every year, I pass my life
Wasting my flesh with hopes :
If the lotus die of the winter moon,
What shall avail in the spring ?

If the flower be scorched by the summer sun,
What shall avail the autumn rains ?
If I waste in longing this fresh young life,
What shall avail my Lover's love ?

Vidhyāpati says : Hearken, young thing :
Do not be hopeless now :
That Bliss of Braja, and Heart's Delight
Shall quickly be at your side !

CIX.

Dūtikā: O Kān, I saw the tender she beside herself!
Love is distraught by koil's calls,—
And day by day she wastes away.

He stays abroad, he sends no news,—
How shall the Braj girls live?
The best and fairest of the world endures
The poison and the pain of parting!

She who might have no bed except his bosom,
Now grovels on the ground,—
As if the full round moon lay fallen asunder
In a withered campak garland.

From then till now I have consoled her,
Nought else has saved her life!
Vidhyāpati says: O pitiless Mādhava,
She swooned away to hear your name!

Sakhī: Making a promise to return 'To-morrow,' her lover went away,—
 Writing the word 'To-morrow,' the wall is full!
 The day had dawned, she asked of everyone:
 Tell me, O tell me, when will to-morrow come?

'Awaiting to-morrow, abandoning hope,—
 Never again shall I lie by Kānu's side.'

Vidhyāpati says: Harken, fair damsel:

The beauties of the town are holding him back.

CXI.

Rādha: Everyone praises the gifts of love,
That love whereby the virtuous woman is made a wanton!

Had I but known how cruel was love,
Should I have passed the limits of sin?

Now it has come to be poison to me:
Let no one set their love on Hari, on Hari!

Vidhyāpati says: Hearken, fair damsel:
Would you first drink water and then consider the giver's birth?

CXII.

Radha: How many reproaches and scornful words of my elders
I counted for nought in my heart, deep-laden in love.

For whose sake I forsook without shame the path of duty,
He now has forsaken my companionship.

Now dearest maiden, tell Murāri for me and remind him,
'The worthy forsake not any without regard to their innocence.'

O dear companion, he that is wise,
Even though sentence be harsh, does justice at least.

What more can I say, that am but a helpless woman?
It is you that are skilled in speech and full of resource.

Tell Kānu this with honeyed words,
I pray you do it, appease his wrath.

For your wiles are many, and what do I know?

Vidhyāpati says: This song is of love.

CXIII.

Rādhā: I never thought that love would break,
Or that the love of any worthy one might be a stone.

Therefore it is this great misfortune has befallen me,
I cannot fathom what Fate has wrought.

And tell my friend, my dear, with folded hands,
'It is but fruitless to destroy the flower of love.'

If he should answer, 'You are senseless,'
Say that I gave my heart with a free good will.

Vidhyāpati declares: I am amazed;
He whom you love, it seems, is blind!

CXIV.

Radha: Explain this all to Kānu, dearest friend :

‘If you who sowed the seeds of love, destroy the flower,
In what way shall I live?’

‘Just as a drop of oil floats on the surface of the water,
Such is the likeness of your love :
Just as the water on the sand immediately vanishes,
Such is the way of your affection.’

I was a woman of honour, and am become a wanton
Since his words beguiled me :
I with my own hands shaved my head
Because of Kānu’s love.

Deep in my heart I am grieved, like the wife of a thief,
And hide my face within my veil :
Like the eager moth’s that flings itself on the flame
Was the fruit I sought to enjoy.

*Vidhyāpati says: This is the way of the Kali age,
Let no one wonder thereat :
Everyone reaps the fruit of his folly
Who puts himself in another’s power.*

CXV.

Rādhā: I am dying, am dying, I die indeed, my dear :
To whom shall I leave my Kānu, my storehouse of treasure ?
As many as may be, dear friends, remain by me,
And when I am dead, write Krishna's name along my limbs.

And Lalitā, friend of my life, whisper such spells in my ears
That my body may die to the sound of Krishna's name :
Nor burn nor cast in the waters Rādhā's body,
But hang me high on a tamāl bough, when I am dead.

The tamāl tree is of Krishna's hue,
There let my body ever rest :
If ever again my darling comes to Brindāban,
I shall come to life at the sight of my dear.

If I may not see his moon-fair face again,
I shall cast off my life in the fire of love !
Vidhyāpati says: *Hearken, fair damsel,*
Be patient of heart, you shall meet your Murāri.

CXVI.

Radha: After how long shall this sadness depart?
When shall the heavy load of this grief be lifted?
How long shall it be till the moon and the lotus are joined?
After how many days shall the bee disport with the lily?

When shall my lover converse with me?
When will he put his hands on my breasts?
When will he take my hand to set me on his lap,
When shall my longing be realised?

Hearken, fair woman, says Vidhyāpati:
Every sorrow shall fly when Murāri is yours.

CXVII.

Rādhā : Speak to me, speak to me, dear, and tell me, O tell me,
Where is the land where my darling dwells?
For Madan's burning arrows, my body is ablaze
To hear some news of him.

What like is she my Lord has met,
That he is so enamoured?
Some maid he must have found, my Lord is glad,
And plunges in my heart an arrow.

Shatter my bangles of shell, take off my fine array,
And break my necklace of ivory-pearls,—
If my dear will forsake me, what is the use of jewels?
Cast them all in the waves of the Jamunā.

Wipe from my hair the scarlet line and put it far away,
All is hopeless without my darling.
Vidhyāpati says : Hearken young damsel :
Your sorrow is come to an end.

CXVIII.

Rādhā : The day that Mādhava went his way
All those words poured forth :
My heart was heavy and heavier still to hear,
The tears were dropping from my eyes.

When morning dawned, then coming close,
Did Kānu swear an oath,
I held his hand upon my head :
Now all is otherwise.

Scanning the road, my heart is heavy :
The mādhavī vine is flowering,
The koil is a-calling, *Kuhu, kuhu*, resounding,
And every bee is buzzing.

Which is the city where my dear was stolen,
Pleased by what maid he won?
Vidhyāpati says : *Hearken, young damsel :*
The thief is your lover himself.

CXIX.

Dūtikā: A river of tears is flowing from her eyes,
And on its banks she falls and swoons :
O Mādhava, your pity is but too perverse,
You have no fear of murdering a wife.

Then did her breath grow faint,
And some were fanning her with lotus-leaves,
And other clever maids were listening for her breath,
And I have run to tell you.

Some say that Hari is a-coming,
And at that name her wit returns,
The dusky braid begins to dance upon her breast—
A serpent black upon a lily's lap.

Recounting in your heart your former love,
Come back once more to your own home.

Vidhyāpati the mighty bard declares :

The wily wight is well aware of all her woe !

CXX.

Datika: Ah Mādhava, I come just now from seeing Rāi :
For grief of loneliness she answers nought,
But lies with her face on the earth.

She lay outstretched on the grassy ground,
Her body was wasted with love,
As if with a touchstone the Lord of Five Arrows
Had proved a streak of gold.

The orb of her face lay low in the dust—
(More lovely it seemed therefor) :
The moon in fear of Rāhu had fallen down on the floor—
(Such was the fashion of my delusion).

What can I say of the pangs of disunion?
Hearken, most cruel Kānu :
Vidhyāpati says: *She is of good fame,—*
You know that her life is in danger.

CXXI.

Datika : Mādhava, lo, I have seen your lovely Rāi,—
Her gaze is fixed like a painted puppet's,
Friends surround her on every side,
Exceeding faint is the breath of her nostrils.

Exceeding thin is her corse, like a streak of gold,
(None that beholds it believes it hers),
Bracelets and bangles fall from either wrist,
Her hair untressed, her head unhidden.

I cannot solve these sentiments and swoons,—
Fiercely the fever of longing scorches her relentlessly.
Vidhyāpati says : *Her loveless body*
Has abandoned now all love on earth.

CXXII.

Datika :

Mādhava, prithee, visit yonder babe :
To-day or to-morrow she is like to die,
Such burning love she bears !

Refreshing water, lotus-leaves upon her bed,
Or ointment of sandal-paste,
Each and all are flames of fire ;
The moon with tenfold heat annoys.

Devoid of might, she leans upon the earth to rise,
All night she wends and wakes,
And starting suddenly, she murmurs 'Shiva, Shiva !'
Her fire has filled the earth.

*I know not if there be a remedy,
Says Vidhyāpati the poet :
Nought but the fated tenth-day plight remains,—
Be well-advised forthwith.*

CXXIII.

Datika : She turns her face away from looking on the moon,
She stands and gazes piteously down the road ;
With eye-collyrium she makes a painted Rāhu
And speaks with him in wrath.

O Mādhava, unyielding heart, delaying abroad,
Her that you dallied with I have beheld all birdalone,
I pray you turn again to home.

How can the tender child support the southern zephyr?
For Love is doing her hurt :
Her breath has ceased, which hope sustained,—
With every finger she draws a snake.

Vidhyāpati says : O Lord Shivasimha,
This is the cure for sundering's sorrow—
Avoiding the koil, and taking sweets in hand,
Loudly to summon the crows.

CXXIV.

Rādha: There was a time my lover leaned above my face in bliss,
Not for an instant would he leave my body :
He bound my flesh in a bond of measureless love,
Who now forsakes my company.

Why should I live any more, O fair sweet friend ?
He without whom I could not rest for a moment,
Is filled with the love of another.

My friend would fare to a far-away land, and I shall die of grief,
I will cast away my heart in the sea, and none shall know :
Or taking the necklace lay on my lover's neck,
I will wander wide in the world as a yoginī.

Vidhyāpati Kavi sings of this sundering—

Record I take of Rāja Shivasimha and Lakshmi Devī.

Dūtikā: Mādhava and the babe new-led in love,—
 You have forgotten her, forsaken to her fate,
 She is become a garland offering.

She who so loves, I see her frame is fretted,
 She stares upon your path
 With fixed regard, she hears no word,
 Her tears are falling fast.

Her country is forsaken of your flute,
 Her body is wasted all away
 Most like the narrow streak of gold
 The goldsmith draws upon the touchstone.

Her hair is disarrayed, she no more tresses it—
 So little might the fair thing has :
 Wasted and worn and woeful I have seen her
 Midst her gay companions.

Like chaff she flies and falls,
 She needs her friend's embraces :
 Cure of her sickness lies in other hands,
 How may she live?

*On solemn oath Vidhyāpati reveals
 A yet more ferly thing :
 Pondering ever on your ways
 Is the root of her undoing.*

CXXVI.

Krishna : Can I forget, my dear and gentle lady,
How when I took her hands, and went my way to Mathurā,
She fell and fainted?

Nor with what trembling speech and gentle murmuring
The fair and gentle creature spake?
My body stiffened, I came away indeed,
But there was left my heart with her.

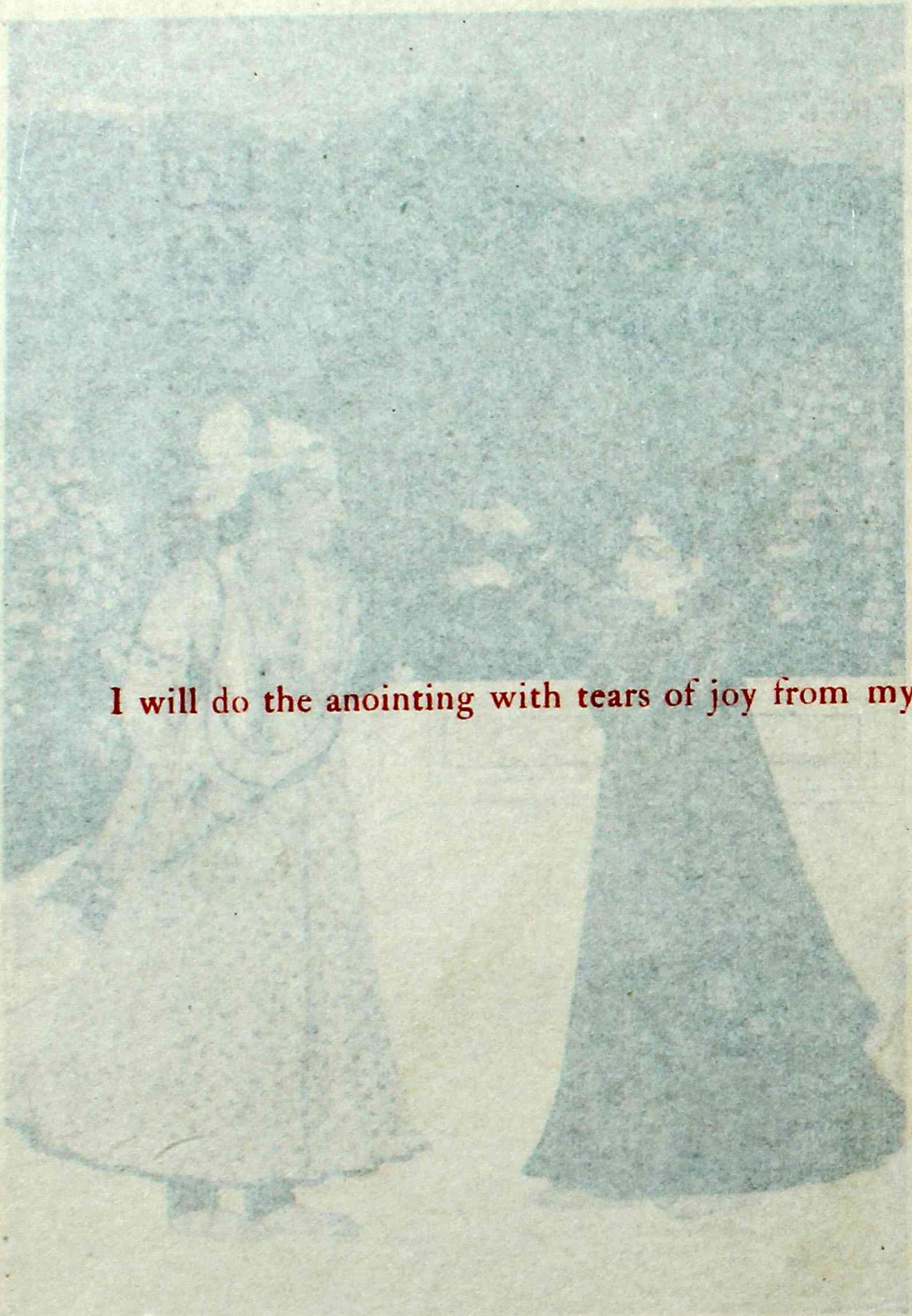
Now lacking her, the day and night are dimmed,
She is established in my heart :
Beside another love in regal state,
I live like any anchorite !

Surely I come in a day or twain,
Make her assured of this.

*Vidhyāpati says : There lies his heart,—
They shall be joined in love.*

PUNARMILNA O RASODGĀRA





I will do the anointing with tears of joy from my eyes.

CXXVII.

Radha: When Hari comes to Gokula town,
In every house shall the trumpets flourish 'Victory'!
I shall give my necklace of pearls for festal knots,
And my heavy breasts as festal urns.

I shall offer my nipples as sprouts of the scented mango,
In Mādhava's service I shall achieve my heart's desires:
I will set before my beloved incense and light and gifts,
And do the anointing with tears of joy from my eyes!

My outstretched hands shall embrace my dear.

Vidhyāpati says: This is love's ecstasy.

CXXVIII.

Radha: When my dear and blissful lover comes to my garth,
I shall turn my back with a little smile :
Wildly my darling will grasp my wimple,—
And I shall draw back, for all he may do !

And when my beloved asks me to play,
Then shall my smiling mouth refuse :
When he shall roughly clasp my breasts,
My hands shall restrain his hands, half-glances belying.

For my lover, the proper man is a bee,
Holding my cheeks will drink the honey of my lips,—
Then shall he ravish my every sense !

Vidhyāpati says: Your life is blest !

CXXIX.

Rādhā : When Kāna shall come to my house,
I shall gaze on his moon-face with swimming eyes :
When as a woman I say 'Nay, nay,'
Then shall Murāri woo me more wildly !

He will take my hands and set me down on his lap,
He will soothe my heart for endless time :
I shall clasp him close, casting out coldness,
He will fill me with balm, I shall close my eyes !

Vidhyāpati says : *Lo, lovely lady,*
Fie on this brazen love of yours !

CXXX.

Rādhā : I spent last night in bliss,
I saw my darling's moon-face :
Meseemed my life and youth bore fruit,
The ten directions were filled with joy.

I thought to-day that my home was made a home,
To-day my body became a body indeed :
Fate has been friendly to me to-day,
And all my doubts are dissolved.

Now let the koil call a hundred thousand times,
A hundred thousand moons may rise !
Now let the arrows-five become a hundred thousand,
And southern breezes sigh their softest !

Now for so long as he leaves me not
So long I deem my body is verily mine.

Vidhyāpati says : *Your bliss is not little,
Blessing upon your love renewed !*

Rādhā : How shall I tell of my boundless joy, my dear,—
 Mādhav abiding day after day in my house?
 Just so much as the wicked moon annoyed me before,
 Even so much was the joy when I saw my darling's face.

Even if I might fold in my wimple the best of treasures,
 I would not let go my beloved into a far-away land :
 A shawl in the winter is my beloved, a gentle breeze in the summer,
 My dear is a shelter from the storm, and a boat on the river.

Vidhyāpati says : *Lo, lovely lady,*
The grief of the goodly endures not for ever.

CXXXII.

Rādhā : The hurt that the Lord of the Seasons erstwhile did me,
All has departed at sight of Hari's face !
All hopes and desires that were in my heart,
All are achieved in my Lover's kindness.

When I lay in His arms every hair of my body was glad,
In the dew of His lips my grieving melted away :
Fate has fulfilled the hope of all the days of my life,—
From bending my eyes upon Him I know no rest.

Vidhyāpati says : *There is grief at an end,*
No sickness remains when the cure has been found.

CXXXIII.

Sakhī: Fate is now friendly for ever more!

Each on the other's countenance gazing, twain are rapt—

Each in the other's arms the other enfolds—

Twain are the mouths contented each with the nectar of other's lips.

Twain are the bodies a-tremble at Madan's behest,

The jingle of jewels is heard again in the house!

What more should I say, Vidhyāpati asks:

So as their love is, so is their loving.

Sakhī:

Rare was that meeting of one with the other,
 The grief of disunion vanished afar :
 He has taken her hand and put her down on the painted seat,
 The jewel-Shyāma disports with the jewel-damsel !

In many wise playing with diverse delights,
 The bee, as it were, with the lotus delaying :
 Eyes upon eyes and face upon face,
 A chorus of twain entranced by each other's perfections !

*Vidhyāpati says : The Lover is rapt,
 The Love-thief has conquered the Triple Worlds !*

CXXXV.

Radha: A mirror in hand, a flower in my hair,
Sūrm of my eyes, tāmbūl of my mouth,
Musk on my breast, a necklace about my throat,
All the gear on my body, the life of my house.

Wings to the bird, and water to fish,
Life of my life—I know Thou art these—
But tell me, O Mādhav, what art Thou in sooth?
Avers Vidhyāpati: Each is both.

CXXXVI.

Radhā : What would you ask of my feelings, my dear,—
Can I expound such love and affection
As are moment by moment transformed?

From the day of my birth I have seen His beauty,
And yet are my eyes unsatisfied :
My ears have continually heard His honeyed speech,
But I have not attained the path of audition.

Many a night have I passed in play,
And never have learnt what is dalliance :
Myriad aeons I held Him close to my heart,
And yet no rest has reached that heart.

How many a one tormented and passion-tost
I have seen—without seeing!

*Vidhyāpati says : For your heart's ease
You have met with One who is nonpareil.*

CXXXVII.

Kavi: Hearken, O Mādhava, what more can I say?
Nought can I find to compare with love :

Though the sun of the East should rise in the West,
Yet would not love be far from the worthy,

Or if I should write the stars of heaven on earth,
Or if I could pour from my hands the water of all the sea.

Vidhyāpati says : O Shivasimha Rāī,
To abandon the loving is ever unmeet.

CXXXIII.

Kavi: Frenzied tresses encircling her radiant face—
It is Rāhu desiring the orb of the moon :
Flowers of her hair with her necklace entwined,
As the Jamunā joins with the waters of Gangā.

The twain beyond speech are out of all reason,
The loveling disports with most ardent passion :
Eagerly fair-face kisses love-face,
The bending moon drinks up the lotus.

Her face is adorned with a bead of sweat—
Madan has offered a pearl to the moon :
Long is the necklace that hangs on her breasts—
It is pouring its milk into golden jars.

The chains on her hips are loudly jingling—
Madan is sounding pæans of conquest.

*Vidhyāpati says: O amorous lady,
Your skill in love's lore surpasses my speech!*

END.

NOTES

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

ELUCIDATIONS

BIRDS, BEASTS AND FLOWERS

ILLUSTRATIONS

TEXTS

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

The poems voice the thoughts or represent the spoken words of Rādhā and Krishna, of sakhīs (Rādhā's friends) and dūtikās (messengers of Rādhā or Krishna), and of the poet himself. The greater part of the whole is properly dialogue, but inasmuch as the 'audience' is generally silent, we have only thought it necessary to make use of quotation marks where the words of more than one speaker are reported in one and the same song.

The following synonyms of Krishna are used by Vidyāpati :

Hari, Mādhava, Kāna, Kānu, Kānta, Kanāī, Murāri, Murali, Banamāli, Shyāma, Vallabha, Giridhara, Gokula-nātha, Nanda-kumāra,—and the following of Rādhā : Rādhikā, Rāi.

As regards the use of capitals : 'Love' is so printed when the poet refers to love as a Power (Kāmadeva, Anaṅga, Pañca-bān, Madan, Manmatha), and 'Desire' is similarly printed with a capital when the reference is to desire as a Power (Rati, the wife of Kāmadeva).

In the use of pronouns referring to Krishna, we have only occasionally printed a capital 'He,'—for though He was God, he appeared to Rādhā as man. We have generally used the colloquial second person plural, in place of the thee and thou of the original, since to reproduce the original would not convey the needed intimacy of the French '*tutoyer*' : but in few cases it seemed better to adhere to the singular.

ELUCIDATIONS

KRISHNA PŪRBBARĀGA The First Passion of Krishna

I

Rādhā first seen :

*'She was a phantom of delight
When first she gleamed upon my sight.'*

Wordsworth.

2. 'Unstained,' literally 'without antelope.' Indian fancy sees in the moon's markings, not a 'man in the moon,' but an antelope (or a hare). Rādhā is flawless, and so lovelier than the moon itself.
4. 'Sūrm,' viz. *añjana*, otherwise rendered as kohl or collyrium, with which the lower eyelid is blackened.
- 10, 11. A woman's throat is commonly compared to a conch. The Shambhu (Shiva-lingam) is the nipple (cf. Nos. XVI, LXVI). The poet suggests that Rādhā's pearl necklace seems to be an ambrosial offering to Shiva, made by Kāmadeva, using the sacrificial vessel of Rādhā's conch-like throat (cf. No. LI, 12).

12, 13.

*'Hevene y tolde al his
That o nyght were hire gest.'*

II

Rādhā excels the sources of her charms in every quality, so that each is put to shame. Cf. *Prema Sāgara*, Ch. LXIII, and

*'Straighter than cedar, brighter than glass;
More fine in trip than foot of running roe . . .
Fresher than poplar, smaller than my span.*

Shep. Tony (in 'England's Helicon').

4. 'Olifant,'—the elephant is commonly regarded by those least familiar with him, as a clumsy animal, probably on account of his size and weight. For the eastern poet he symbolises strength, grace and symmetry. The old form 'olifant' is therefore used here as if to restore him to his true position by a slight suggestion of mystery.

"The soft and graceful gait of an Indian woman is likened to that of an elephant; and in the East, where a woman's garments permit freedom of movement and sympathetic co-operation of the muscular system this is an apt

comparison. In the West the natural swing of the hips, only possible in conjunction with the free, lithe play of the muscles of the foot and torso, is restricted and becomes jerky... The elephant has an exquisite sense of balance and most supple joints, and can even make obeisance with profound dignity." F. H. Andrews, *Journal of Indian Art*, X, 52. See also Max Müller, *S.B.E.*, Vol. XI, p. 46, note 2.

11. To save the Worlds, Shiva drank up the poison that appeared at the churning of the Ocean, whence his throat is stained blue. The poet suggests that despair at the sight of Rādhā's beauty was the real cause that Shiva drank.

III

6. "The *Khanjana* (wagtail) eyes are characterised by their playful gaiety." (A. N. Tagore, *Some notes on Indian Artistic Anatomy*, Calcutta, 1914). The 'snakes' are the lines of collyrium drawn on each lower-lid.
8. *Lomā-latā-bali*, lit. 'down-vine-wreath,' here compared to a half suffocated snake, to suggest the depth of Rādhā's navel. Garuḍa is the enemy of all snakes. The *lomā-latā-bali* is often indicated in Orissan sculpture (e.g. *Viśvakarmā* LV) by a slight furrow extending upwards from the navel. See also LI, 17.
12. The Indian Eros is armed with five arrows, from which he sometimes takes the name Five Arrows (cf. No. CXX). Here it is suggested that Love with Three Arrows slew the Three Worlds, and gave the two others to Rādhā's eyes, that the slain might be slain again. The Three Worlds, constantly alluded to are *Svarga*, *Mata* and *Patal*,—Heaven, Earth and Underworld.
17. The well of love: by 'maidens about the village well,' we can hardly doubt that the poet intends to signify the souls of men, attracted to the source of Eternal Life.
- 18, 19. The names of the poet's patron and his queen are constantly introduced in the refrains.

IV

'Oh woe is me, that ever I did see
The beauty that did me bewitch.'—

John Forbes, 1661.

VI

1. 'Cowdust-time,' viz. evening, when the cows are driven home: a favourite subject of Pahārī painters.

5. *'T'is not the linen shows so fair
Her skin shines through and makes it bright.'—*
Anon. (1671).
8. 'Lord of the Five Gaurs'—the Panjab, Kānoja, Bengal, Darbhanga, Orissā. The sway of the Princes of Gaur was of course far less extended than this in Vidyāpati's day. The term is complimentary: see Dinesh Chandra Sen, *Bengali Language and Literature*, p. 290.

VII

1. 'Milk-white,' a free rendering of '*nanuṅga-badani*': *nanuṅga*, modern *nanī*, is a preparation of milk, not exactly curd.
'Whiter far than Moorish milk.'
Richard Braithwait.

IX

7. '*Cakravākas*,' birds (*Anas casarca*), of which the pairs are said to separate at night, for example, to sleep on opposite sides of a river.

X

This is one of Vidyāpati's most renowned poems, and a favourite subject of Rājput painters.

XI

1. The bank of the Jamunā, or the steps of a bathing ghāt. Jamunā bank in Vaishnava literature stands for this world regarded as the constant meeting place of Rādhā and Krishna where amidst the affairs of daily life the soul is arrested and beguiled to her (worldly) undoing.
12. It is a popular tradition that the partridge (*cakora*) is in love with the moon and lives on the moon's rays. (Cf. XXV, 5).

XII

7. A favourite motif of Indian poets. When the day lotus closes at dusk, the thoughtless bee intent on honey is made a prisoner.

XIV

2. Rādhā's feet do not touch the ground, but are upborne by lotus flowers that spring up beneath them. Thus Rādhā is very tenderly represented as divine. Every footfall finds a lotus-footstool,—which is a constant convention of Buddhist and Hindū art. The lightness of her step is also suggested.
8. Called 'water-lily' eyes "for the calm repose of their drooping lids."
(Tagore, loc. cit.).

RĀDHĀ BAYAHSANDI

The Growing-up of Rādhā

XVI

3. Her eyes are elongated just when she grows up : or possibly the poet means that she then first artificially extends their length with a line of collyrium.
14. 'Mahesha,' i.e. a Shiva-lingam, Cf. I, 11, and LXVI, 10.

XVII

- 1, 2. Sometimes she flashes sidelong glances, sometimes she veils her face.

XIX

8. *'And vital feelings of delight
Shall rear her form to stately height,
Her virgin bosom swell.'*

Wordsworth.

- 9, 10. The attraction of music for deer is a favourite motif of Rājput paintings, particularly in the representation of certain rāgiṇīs (Toṛī, etc),—see Coomaraswamy, *'Arts and Crafts of India and Ceylon,'* fig. 78.

In another poem Vidyāpati has :

For when she hears love's language spoken,
She turns away her eyes,—and lends her ears.

RĀDHĀ PŪRBBARĀGA

The First Passion of Rādhā

XXI

4. Lit. 'That he wears a yellow garment is the lightning's streak.'
6. The peacock plume, Krishna's constant headdress, beside his moon-face.

XXIII

- 3, 7. 'Strings of moons,' i.e. toe-nails and finger-nails.
5. The yellow dhotī round his legs, the 'tamāl-shafts.'
8-12. Krishna's lips, nose, eyes and hair.

XXIV

The flute of Krishna is the call of the Infinite, 'the sound of the camel-bell,' the 'sword' of 'I come to bring not peace, but a sword.'

3. Lit. 'Suddenly (or forcibly) it takes its seat in my ears,' cf.
'Every moment the voice of Love is coming from right and left.'
Shamsi Tabrīz (Nicholson, IX).
11. 'When the strings of thy robe are loosed by the intoxication of love.'
Shamsi Tabrīz (Nicholson, I).

SAKHĪ-SHIKSHĀ-BACANĀDI

The Counsel of Girl-friends (Sakhīs)

XXX

1. 'Artless,'—*mugadhini*. *Svakīyā* heroines are classified according to their experience, as *mugdhā*, inexperienced, *madhyā*, more experienced, and *pragalbhā*, fully mistress of love's art (e.g. Rudraṭa, *Kāvya-lāṅkāra*, XII, 17: *Sāhityadarpaṇa*, 97, 98, *Daśarūpa* II, 25). *Mugadhini* has also the signification of 'fond,' 'lovesick,' as in XXII, 2 (*mugadha nārī*).

PRATHAMA MILNA

First Meetings

XXXIII

5. 'A honey-comb and a honey-flower
And the bee shall have his hour.'

Rossetti.

XXXV

4. The day-lotus closes and fades at night and in the moon's rays; Rādhā is the lotus, Krishna the moon, as also in XLII, 8.

XXXVI

- 7-10. 'Sweet reward for sharpest pain.'

Sir Philip Sydney.

12. 'Artless' or 'innocent,'—*mugadhini*, as in XXX, 1 and again in XXXVII, 10.

XXXVIII

12. *Lit.* Happy is she that can look on him unmoved.

XXXIX

2. Rādhā knows and fears that she will yield to Krishna's wooing.
14. Rāhu, demon that swallows the moon at each eclipse. Cf. CXX, 10 and CXXIII, 3.

XL

Mark the contrast between Krishna's memories of the night, and Rādhā's.

XLII

12. The Indian woman's purse is a knot tied in her *sārī*. The suggestion is that of the uselessness of tying up the treasure which the thief has already seen.

XLV

3. Cānūra, a wrestler in the service of Kaṁs, slain by Krishna (Cf. *Prema Sāgara*, Chs. XLIV, XLV).

XLVI

5. Cf. The following *dohā*, the text of a Pahārī drawing :

<i>Ṣyon jyon parasai Lāla tana</i>	<i>tyon tyon rākhata gō,ē</i>
<i>Navala bāla ḍara Lāla-kai</i>	<i>indabadhu-sī hō,ē</i>

'The more that Lāla touches her body, the more she curls up her body,
The tender girl, afraid of Lāla, becomes, as it were, a woodlouse !'

XLVII

4. The Pairs of Opposites, as also in No. LXII.

XLVIII

2. 'A wife,'—the original signifies 'woman' or 'wife.' In any case, the reader will observe (Nos. LXXX, LXXXVI and CXVII) that Vidyāpati writes of Rādhā as a *svakīyā* heroine, whereas a majority of Vaishnava writers further emphasize the conflict between Love and Duty by making her *parakīyā*, the wife of another. But as Rādhā's was at best a Gāndharva marriage (according to Vidyāpati's indications), ratified at first only by mutual consent (as in the case of Shakuntalā), and willingly accepted by the family, we should

perhaps call her *anūdhā* (unmarried) rather than *svakiyā* (*Vāgbhaṭālaṅkāra*, V, 12, 13). It is the yielding before or without marriage which Rādhā often speaks of as her shame and sin, and for which she is blamed by her family. None the less, much of what is here related is quite true to everyday Indian life, where courtship normally follows marriage, and public flirtation is always considered disgraceful.

ABHISĀRA

(Rādhā's) Going-forth (to visit Krishna)

The Abhisārikā heroine is one who goes from her home to visit her beloved, careless of danger or shame. The Abhisārikā is a favourite subject of Pahārī painters (see Coomaraswamy, *Journal of Indian Art*, October, 1914). An English example in John Davidson's 'A Ballad of a Nun.'

LIV

5-8. 'Teeth of pearl, the double guard
 To speech, whence music still is heard.'

Carew.

11, 12. See note to I, 2.

VASANTA LĪLĀ

Dalliance in Spring

LVI

Cf. the extract from Kālī Krishna Dāsa's *Kāmini Kumāra*, translated in Dinesh Chandra Sen's *Bengali Language and Literature*, p. 688.

8. *Pañcam*—the dominant. Also in CV, 2. The pitch of each of the seven notes "was originally determined by the rishis of the forest from the sounds of various Birds and Animals uttered at particular seasons and times. . . Pā is the note sounded by the Kokila, the Indian nightingale, at springtime, when after a silence of six months it hails the brightest period of the year and tastes the first sprouts of the new season with an ebullition of joy"—Chinnaswami Mudaliyar, *Oriental Music*.

10. 'Twice-born,' epithet equally of Brāhmans and birds. The sense is that in this Nature-festival the birds performed the 'the most solempne servise' of the officiating priests.

LVII

14. 'For ever and for ever'—since the Krishna Līlā is eternal.

LIX

2. *Rāsa*, the circular dance of Krishna with the *gopīs* (herd-girls), wherein his form was multiplied and became many; thus described in the *Prema Sāgara*, and often represented in Rājput drawings, and constantly acted in the *Rās-līlā*—

*'Two and two the gopīs held hands and between each pair was Hari their friend...
Gopī and Nanda-kumāra alternate, a round ring of lightnings and heavy clouds,
The fair Braj girls and the dusky Krishnas, like to a gold and sapphire necklace.'*

The *Rās Maṇḍala* thus described is the exact equivalent of the 'General Dance' to which (in a well-known mediæval carol, 'To-morrow will be my Dancing Day') Christ invites the souls of men,—for the words of the carol see G. R. S. Mead, in 'The Quest,' October, 1910.

8. *Vasanta Rāg*.

9. Cf. *Indian Drawings*, II, Pl. 2.

MĀNA

Wilfulness

This affection of a heroine is something compound of pride, disdain, offense and coldness: a hardening of heart (cf. *hṛdaya-granthih*). The soul's contraction though the voice of God is heard,—she will not open her doors.

LXII

3. The Pairs of Opposites, cf. No. XLVII, 4.

LXIII

This is most typical Vaishnava poetry, in one breath blaming Krishna's wiles and proclaiming Him One without second. The note of blame is specially characteristic. In the *Prema Sāgara*:

'He forsakes goodness; He accepts badness: deceit is pleasing to Him!'

In Tagore's *King of the Dark Chamber* :

'Well, I tell you, your King's behaviour is—mean, brutal, shameful !'

In the *Krishna* of 'A.E.'

'I saw the King pass lightly from the beauty that he had betrayed.

I saw him pass from love to love ; and yet the pure, allowed His claim

To be the purest of the pure, thrice holy, stainless, without blame.'

6. The golden jar is Krishna's body.

12, 13. All love is one, though you may reject it,—sacred or profane :

'Cowl of the monk and bowl of wine, how shall the twain by man be wed ?

Yet for the love I bear to thee, these to unite I dare for thee.'

Hafiz (translated by Walter Leaf).

Vidyāpati might have written (since Vaishnavas never used the Sufī symbol of wine), 'Lust of the flesh and love of Thee . . . these to unite I dare for Thee.'

LXV

7-9. Rādhā ignores a message from Krishna, sent through the priestess of a Sun-shrine, to meet him at the temple.

LXVI

10, 11. The nipple with its areola, compared to a Shiva-lingam with the digit of the moon that Shiva wears in his hair. Cf. XVI, 10, 11.

LXVII

6. Lakshmī, consort of Vishnu and goddess of beauty and fortune.

LXIX

8, 9. This message implies, by the lock of hair that he would leave the world as a shaven monk if Rādhā would not yield. Flowers and pān (betel) are an 'olive-branch.' A blade of grass is sometimes held in the mouth to swear by, and here means sincerity.

LXX

6. The sandal is the best of trees, the shālmāl the worst.

LXXI

10. Evidently a popular proverb—cf. 'The leopard cannot change its spots.'

LXXII

3. Here the night-lily closing at dawn.

LXXIII

3. *Jap-tap*: prayers, personal office, daily ritual,—(*japa* or offerings of water, *tapas* or 'rule').
8. The moon is brother to the poison, since both were produced at the Churning of the Ocean: a thief because he stole Tārā, the wife of Brihaspati: vomited (unclean) because he escapes from Rāhu's jaws at each eclipse; cruel because his rays are scorching fires to divided lovers; slayer of lilies, because the day-lotus wilts at night; yet in spite of these enormities, some merit makes him bright.
13. *Saba guṇa mula amula*: A thought akin to that of LXIII.

LXXIV

Rādhā is here the typical Khaṇḍitā Nāyikā who reproaches her lover when he returns in the morning and has spent the night with some other flame.

6. 'He takes another girl on his knee
And tells her what he dosen't tell me.'

LXXV

8. Fickle, like the 'rootless' of LXXIII, 13. *Lit.* 'His heart is the essence of lightning.'
- 9-12. Here the thought approaches the prevailing motif of the *Gītā Govinda*, where Rādhā is the higher self of man, and Krishna the self entangled in the world of sensation.
18. *Rasa bujha'i rasamanta*: a pregnant epigram, valid equally in love and art.

MĀNĀNTE MILNA

Reunion after Wilfulness

LXXVI

4. 'Might not bend,' *lit.* 'was like a *stambha*,' a monumental pillar.

LXXIX

The lovers are mixed like milk and water.

LXXX

2. 'Spell,'—*sāadhanā*.
8. Inasmuch as being a religious mendicant, he could not be refused.

LXXXI

4. *Gañja*-seeds (*Abrus precatorius*), used by jewellers as weights.
 8, 10. Rādhā complains that she has cast her pearls before a monkey ; but the poet retorts by the insinuation that Rādhā has given Krishna betel from her own mouth (as lovers do) and says that for betel to issue from a monkey's *mouth* is at least as strange as to see a necklace of pearls on a monkey's *neck*.

LXXXII

6. ' *Phillis* ' closed eyes attracts you her to kiss,'
 Francis Pilkington, 1605.
 ' *She lay still and would not wake,*'
 Champion and Rosseter's Book of Airs, 1601.
 9, 10. Such exchange of gear, when it amounts to a complete disguise of lover as beloved, beloved as lover, is known as *Lilā-hāva*. A familiar English parallel is the London coster lovers' habit of exchanging hats, when out for dalliance on Hampstead Heath ; here also the original or sub-conscious motif is a sense of indentity.

Rādha Hari Hari Rādhā-ke bani-āe sanketa—

The station of Rādhā becoming Hari and Hari Rādhā :
 is a not infrequent subject of Pahārī paintings.

LXXXIII

10. Ratipati, the Lord of Rati, Madan, Love.
 15. For this gesture, see ' *Journal of Indian Art,* ' No. 128, fig. 3.

LXXXIV

6. i.e. ' I could have sunk into the earth with shame.'
 8. The poet overlooks that no snow settles on the southern hills.

LXXXV

2. The stain : see note to XLVIII, 2.
 6. Yaduvīra, Hero of the Yadus, Krishna.
 14. The poet insinuates that Rādhā could have escaped from Krishna's gaze had she wished ; just as the Kāshmirī paṇḍitānīs bathing naked, slip from the river-bank into the water while the traveller's boat is passing.

LXXXVI

1. Mother-in-law : see note to XLVIII.
Even as a wife, such dalliance before a mother-in-law would be contrary to all decorum ; thus the mother-in-law represents, as it were, the cares of this world, whereby the soul is prevented from yielding herself,—and hence Vidyāpati's disappointment.

LXXXVII

2. Skirt, *ghagari*, not now a separate garment, but that part of the *sārī* which forms a skirt. But in Vidyāpati's day the costume of Bengālī women seems to have been that of Western Hindustan (skirt, bodice and veil), familiar in Rājput paintings. In this case the *nībībandha* (see Introduction p. 11), is actually the skirt-string, and the translation as 'zone' or 'girdle' is not inappropriate, nor that of *añcala* as 'wimple' or 'veil.'

LXXXVIII

8. Like the 'neither within or without' of Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upanishad, IV, 3, 33: 'beyond the striving winds of love and hate'—Wilfrid Wilson Gibson.

LXXXIX

10. *With such a tempest, as when Jove of old
Fell down on Danæe in a storm of gold—*

Carew.

XC

4. *Tilka*, the vermilion brow-spot.
7. Hari-Hara, God as equally Vishnu and Shiva: see *Prema Sāgara*, Ch. LXXXIX, also Havell, *Indian Sculpture and Painting*, Pl. XXVI.
14. Vidyāpati's Master: Krishna.

XCII

- Rādhā presumptuously claims for herself alone the love that is given to all that seek it. This song would be more appropriately included under the heading 'Māna.'
3. *Kadamba*, (*Anthocephalus cadamba*, Mig.) the tree most associated with Krishna, beneath which he stands and plays his flute and dallies with the milk-maids.

XCIII

Rādhā is here the typical Abhisandhitā Nāyikā “who repulses her lover just when he seeks to soften her pride, and suffers double grief when he is no longer beside her” (Keśava Dāsa).

ĀKSHEPA ANUYOGA O VIRAHA

Reproaches, Lack and Longing

The departure of Krishna to Mathurā is God forsaking the soul, or seeming to do so; the complaint of Rādhā is “Why hast thou forsaken me?”

XCV

6. Moving her heart to love, though love be hopeless.
7. Beauty-spots, *kuca-kuṅkuma*, patterns drawn on her breasts with sandal-paste : cf. *Gītā Govinda* XII, 18, ‘Draw leafy patterns on my breasts.’

XCVII

This conceit is the subject of beautiful songs by many poets, including Jāyadeva and Rāmbasu.

The Bodiless (Anāṅga) is Kāmadeva, Love : on behalf of Umā he endeavoured to rouse Shiva from his rapt meditation, and Shiva in wrath destroyed his body with a glance from his third eye.

Rādhā feigns to think that Love has mistaken her for Shiva, and explains in detail that she is but a human maiden. Amongst the attributes of Shiva are the Ganges in his matted locks, and crescent moon, a third eye, the stain of poison in his throat (see No. II, 11), and a serpent coiling about it, a tiger-skin, a skull, and ashes smeared on his body; in place of these Rādhā has flowing tresses, a pearl ornament, a brow-spot, a touch of musk, a pearl necklace, a dark silk sārī, a lotus, and her body is dusted with sandal paste. The lotus of dalliance (*kelika kamala*) is a real or artificial lotus flower held in the hand as a plaything : for an illustration see *Indian Drawings* II, Pl. IX, 1.

XCVIII

This is one of the most obviously mystical of Vidyāpati’s songs :

‘I am he whom I love, and he whom I love is I.’

Mansūr Hallāj.

Cf. the exclamation *Śivoham*, 'Shiva is myself' (*sohambhāva*, He being I); and the injunction *Devo bhūtvā, devam yajet*, 'By becoming God, worship Him!' also the half-*dohā* quoted in the note to LXXXII, 9, 10.

3. *O nija bhāva svabhāva hi bichurala*, Forgetting her own *bhāva* and *svabhāva*, feelings and character, will and self-consciousness.

'At last I have found myself.'

Jalālu'd Dīn Rūmī.

'Whoso has not escaped from will, no will has he.'

Shamsi Tabrīz.

CIII

10. *Piu, piu*: that is to say, 'Belovèd, Belovèd.'

CIV

3. Even from a crow's mouth—the crow is the chief omen and messenger, of a lover's return. Cf. No. CXXIII, and also *Journal of Indian Art*, No. 128, p. 103 and figure 12.

CV-CVI

These are clearly related to reverdies of the folk, such as the Kāshmirī songs recorded in Ratan Devī's *Thirty Indian Songs*. It is probable that the more one could learn of contemporary folk-song, the more apparent would be Vidyāpati's dependence on the folk-tradition. These popular motifs are interwoven throughout with the familiar similes of the classic literature. Perhaps we ought to think of Vidyāpati as a sort of mystic Burns.

CVII

3. 'House': the house, in Vidyāpati's songs refers sometimes to the actual home of Rādhā's parents, or her own home, and sometimes as here, to the 'house of love,'—the 'palace' of Shamsi Tabrīz (Nicholson XXXVIII).

CVIII

2. 'Cross the sea': see note to CXXXI.

CX

Rādhā is here the typical Proshita-preyasī 'whose husband has gone abroad, appointing a time of return' (Keśava Dāsa).

CXI

The poet says that Rādhā should have thought *before* she drank. To take water from a man of low caste is to 'lose caste'—but it is too late to think of this after the water is already drunk.

CXII

The idea of reproach is essential to the drama of the soul, and a leading motif of the greater part of Rādhā-Krishna literature :

'Folk, family, house and husband are abandoned, the reproach of the world rejected.'
Prema Sāgara.

Compare :

'Blessed are ye when men shall revile and persecute you for My sake,'

and likewise :

'Let every reproach that honour disdains and avoids be mine.'

Nau'ī.

*'—cast shame and pride away,
 Let honour gild the world's eventless day,
 Shrink not from change and shudder not at crime,
 Leave lies to rattle in the sieve of Time!
 Then whatso'er your workday gear shall stain,
 Of me a wedding garment shall ye gain!'*

Love is Enough.

This point is to be emphasized : for to understand the necessity and significance of *reproach*, is to comprehend how it was not merely possible but inevitable that in a society where the strictest possible conception of woman's honour prevails, the self-surrender of Rādhā should be regarded as the natural symbol of the soul's self-gift to God.

CXIV

16. Kali age : the fourth or evil age in which we now live, when the prevailing motive is self-interest ; it is what Blake calls *Tax* or *Empire*.

CXV

This song is still to be heard in Bengal, to the Rāgiṇī Bhairavī.

4. It is a custom of many bhāktas to print the name or symbol of Vishnu on forehead, breast and arms. The custom of tattooing the name of the Belovèd upon the body is world-wide.

5. Lalitā : Rādhā's dearest sakhī. It is customary amongst Vaishnavas to recite the name of Krishna in the ears of the dying.
7. The two customary means of disposing of the dead.
8. *Tamāla*, a tree with dark glaucous leaves, constantly compared to Krishna for its colour.

CXVII

13. The scarlet line, drawn along the parting of the hair by married women whose husbands are still living ; if Krishna will not return, Rādhā will adopt the rule of a widow.

CXVIII

Referring to the circumstances of XCIV.

CXIX

Contains verses from two songs printed separately in the original.

CXXI

8. Marks of complete indifference to propriety and elegance.
12. And is thus in truth 'broken and contrite,' acceptable to God.

CXXII

- 4-7. All objects normally cool, are scorching hot to Rādhā, racked as she is by the fire of love. For the lotus-leaves, see the picture facing p. 115.

CXXIII

1. For the sight of the moon, so pleasant to united lovers, increases her pain.
3. A sort of black magic ; Rādhā invokes Rāhu to eclipse the moon.
11. *Lit.* 'with ten nails' : more black magic, the snakes are to swallow up the vexing southern breeze.
- 14, 15. The koil, whose calling accentuates the suffering of divided lovers : crows, their messengers, and omens of reunion. Cf. No. CIV, 3.

CXXIV

11. Using the necklace as a rosary.
Contains verses from two songs printed separately in the original.

CXXV

1. Babe—*bālā*, a girl under 16.

CXXV

3. Garland-offering—hung on the idol's neck when it is new, and cast away the next day.

CXXVI

- 10, 11. We ought perhaps to understand by this the loneliness of God in heaven, lacking the love of men.

PUNARMILNA O RASODGĀRA.

Reunion and the Flow of Nectar.

CXXVII

6. Rādhā has learnt at last that service is self-realisation and self-expression.

CXXXI

The 'boat on the river' goes back to the old Buddhist idea of a raft or boat wherein to cross the samsāra, the sea of this world, to reach the further shore ; just as in the carol 'Come over the burn, Besse,'

'The burne is this world blind.'

CXXXV

Rādhā feels that Krishna, whom she had thought her equal, is indeed beyond her ken ; but the poet answers, 'That art thou,' proclaiming their Unity.

7. 'I know the beings of the past, the present and the future, O Arjuna : but no one knoweth Me.'—*Bhagavad Gītā* VII, 26.

CXXXVI

Like the last, this throws a light upon the whole wreath of songs ; for the soul perceives that she has had ears to hear and eyes to see ever since she came to birth, yet she has neither heard nor seen ; and now she cannot have enough of hearing and seeing.

13. *Lit.* 'I have known—and seen not one.'

CXXXVIII

The poet leaves the lovers in each other's arms.

BIRDS, FLOWERS AND TREES.

The following birds, flowers and trees are mentioned in the text in the connection indicated :

BIRDS.

- Cātaka* : a kind of cuckoo, perhaps *Luculus melanoleucus*,—said to drink only drops of water as they fall from the clouds.
- Cakravāka* : *Anas casarca*,—pairs are said to sleep apart at night.
- Crow : *kāka*, *bāyasa*, *Corvus splendens*,—messenger of separated lovers : also (LXXIII) an eater of leavings.
- Garuḍa* : a mythical bird, usually represented with a parrot's head and partly human body : the vehicle of Vishnu and the enemy of all serpents.
- Koil*, or *kokila* : *parabr̥taka*, Indian cuckoo, *Eudynamys honorata*,—its cry is *kuhu, kuhu*, delightful to united, and distressing to divided, lovers. Its 'pancam-note' is the 'dominant' of Nature's chorus.
- Parrot : *kīra*,—"Parrot noses are invariably associated with heroes and great men, while, among female figures they are to be seen only in images of Sakti." (A. N. Tagore, *loc. cit.*).
- Partridge : *cakora*, *Perdrix rufa*,—said to feed on the rays of the moon.
- 'Peewit' : *pāpihā*, the hawk-cuckoo, *Hieroccyx varius*,—its cry is *piu, piu*, 'Beloved, Beloved.'
- Peacock : *mayūra*, *Pavo cristatus*,—delights in rain.
- Wagtail : *khañjana*, *Montacilla alba*,—restless movement.

FLOWERS AND TREES.

- Ashoka* : *Jonesia asoka*,—herald of Spring.
- Bandhūka* : *Pentapetes phœnicia* (or *Leucas linifolia*?)
- Betel : *pān*, *tāmbūla*, *Piper betle*,—leaves used for chewing.
- Bimba* : *Momordica monadelpha* (or *coccinia*?),—bright red fruit.
- Gañja* : *Abrus precatorius*, seeds used as jeweller's weights.
- Honey-apple : *bel*, *shrīphala*, 'Bengal quince,' *Aegle marmelos*,—large round fruit.
- Jasmine : several varieties are mentioned, as *cameli*, Arabian jasmine *J. sambac*; *campak*, *Michelia champaka*; *mālatī*, clove-scented jasmine, *Aganosma caryophyllata* (or perhaps *J. grandiflorum*); *kunda*, Indian jasmine, *J. pubescens*,—all mentioned for their scent.

- Jujube: *badarī*, *Zizyphus jujuba*,—small round fruits.
- Kadamba: *Anthocephalus cadamba*,—the haunt of Krishna.
- Keshara: safflower, *Crocus sativa*,—a herald of Spring.
- Kimshuk: *Butea frondosa*,—tree with beautiful flowers, a herald of Spring.
- Labanga-vine: *labāṅga-latā*, *Limonia scandens*,—a herald of Spring.
- Lotus and water-lily: many varieties are mentioned, as *aravinda*, and *kamala* which are day-flowering, and *kubalaya* and *kumudini*, which flower at night. We have used the names 'lotus' and 'water-lily' indifferently for all varieties.
- Mādhavī: *Gaertnera racemosa*,—herald of Spring.
- Mango: *Mangifera indica*,—tender shoots and herald of Spring.
- Orange: *naraṅga*, *Citrus aurantium*,—round fruits.
- Pāṭal: trumpet-flower, *Bignonia suaveolens*,—herald of Spring.
- Pītal: a yellow flower not identified.
- Plantain: *kerā*, *Musa paradisaica*,—smooth straight stem.
- Pomegranate, granate: *dāṛima*, *Punica granatum*,—white smooth seeds.
- Shālmālī: silk-cotton tree, *Salmaria malabarica*,—the thorns are used in the tortures of hell.
- Sandal: *candana*, *Santalum album*,—which affords a fragrant powder for the body, much appreciated, and hence stands for the best of anything.
- Screw-pine: *ketakī*, *Pandanus odoratissimus*,—fragrance.
- Shirīsh: *Acacia sirissa*,—tenderness.
- Tamāl: *Garcinia zanthochymus*,—straight stem, dark leaves (the colour of Krishna).
- Tāla: palmyra, *Borassus flabelliformis*,—round fruits.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

One and the same lyrical tradition is the common inheritance of all Hindustan ; it finds expression now in poetry, now in music, and now in painting. Hence it is that the schools of painting, though they are local, illustrate all the ideas of the Vaishnava poets as directly as the songs themselves. Amongst Rājput paintings it would perhaps be possible to find an appropriate illustration to every line of Vidyāpati, or of any other Vaishnava singer ; not that Vidyāpati was known to the western painters, but their and his experience was the same. Just as the Vaishnava songs are word-painted miniatures, rather than narrative, so with the Rājasthānī and still more with the Pahārī Rājput paintings ; these are likewise musical delineations of brief moments of the soul's history. It is hoped that the reproductions given here will help to actualise the meaning of Vidyāpati's words, for those who are unfamiliar with the Vaishnava tradition.

The key to each picture is given in the quoted text, to which the following notes are supplementary :

Facing page 3 : Jaipur painting of the 18th century, very brilliant in sunset colourings, representing a girl returning from a Shaiva shrine.

The original in the collection of Mr. N. Blount, Calcutta.

Facing page 19 : A Pahārī (Kāngrā) painting of the early XIXth century, representing a girl bathing.

The original in the collection of Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy.

Facing page 27 : A Pahārī (Kāngrā?) painting, of the earlier part of the XVIIIth century, representing Krishna with his flute, beneath a *kadamba* tree, and beside him are two milk-maids with offerings of curd and betel.

The original in the collection of Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy.

Facing page 33 : This is the only one of our eleven illustrations which is not absolutely appropriate to the text. It is taken from an MS of Keśava Dāsa's *Rasikapriyā*, and represents the 'Clandestine Meeting' (*Pracchanna samyoga*). It is, however, Mughal in style, notwithstanding its Hindū subject ; and while in a general way it illustrates the quoted text, its sentiment is more secular and realistic, and a further objection appears in the fact that the text implies a night and indoor environment.

The original in the collection of Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy.

Facing page 43 : A Pahārī (Kāngrā) painting of the late XVIIIth century, representing a *dūtikā* leading Rādhā (or any heroine) across a starlit courtyard to her lover's house.

Original in the collection of Babu Gogonendronath Tagore.

Facing page 63 : A Pahārī (Jammu district) painting of the XVIIth or XVIIIth century, representing an Abhisārikā. Part of a picture, the whole of which is given in 'The Journal of Indian Art,' No. 128, figure 16.

Original in the collection of Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy.

Facing page 71 : A Pahārī (Kāngrā) painting of the late XVIIIth century representing Krishna and Rādhā seated on a bed of plaintain leaves in a flowery grove.

Original in the collection of Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy.

Facing page 77 : A Pahārī (Kāngrā) painting of the early XIXth century representing the Māninī denying Krishna's prayers.

Original in the collection of Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy.

Facing page 95 : A Pahārī (Kāngrā) painting of the early XIXth century representing a woman cooking.

Original in the collection of Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy.

Facing page 115 : Part of a Pahārī (Jammu district) painting representing Rādhā (or any heroine) suffering from the pangs of *viraha*. Lotus leaves are spread on the bed, one sakhī is fanning the patient, and another brings her water in a jade cup ; yet her body is scorched as though by fire.

Original in the collection of Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy.

Facing page 151 : Part of a Pahārī (Kāngrā) painting of late XVIIIth century, representing the Vāsakaśāyyā Nāyikā, she who welcomes her beloved on his return from abroad. For the whole picture see 'Journal of Indian Art,' No. 128, figure 13.

Original in the collection of Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy.

The dates suggested are only approximate. Most of the reproductions are a little smaller than the originals.

TEXTS.

X

Āju majhu śubha dina bhelā !
Kāminī pekhalu sinānaka belā,
Cikura galaye jala dhārā,—
Meha barikhe janu motima hārā !

Badana mochala paracura,
Māji dhayala janu kanaka mukura,—
Teᅅgi udāsala kucajora,
Pālaᅇi baiᅇhāyala kanaka kaᅇhaura,

Nībibandha karala udesa,—
Vidyāpati kaha : manoratha śesha.

XXIV

Ki kahaba re sakhi iha dukkha ora ?
Bāñśī niśāsa garale tanu bhora :
Haṭha saṅge paiṭhaye śrabanaka mājha,
Taikhane bigalita tanu mana lāja.

Bipula pulake paripūraye deha,
Nayane nā heri heraye jani keha :
Gurujana samukha-i bhāvatarāṅga,
Jatanahiñ basane jhāmpī saba aṅga.

Lahu lahu caraṇe caliye gr̥ha mājha—
Dhaire se bihi āju rākhala lāja—
Tanu mana bibaśa, hasaye nībibandha !
Ki kahaba Vidyāpati ? rahu dhanda.

XCVII

Katihun Madana tanu dahasi hāmāri?
Hāma naha Śaṅkara, ha-u baranārī :
Nahi jaṭā iha, beṇī bibhaṅga :
Mālatī māla śire, naha Gaṅga :

Motima baddha moli, naha indu :
Bhāle nayana naha, sindūra bindu :
Kaṅṭhe garala naha, mṛgamada sāra :
Naha phanirāja ure maṇi hāra :

Nīla paṭāmbara, naha bāgha chāla
Kelika kamala iha, nā ha-ī kapāla.
Vidyāpati kaha : e hena suchanda :
Aṅge bhasama naha, malayaja paṅka.

CXXXV

Hātaka darapana, māthaka phula,
Nayanaka añjana, mukhaka tāmbūla,
Hṛdayaka mṛgamada, gīmaka hāra,
Dehaka sarabasa, gehaka sāra,

Pākhika pākha, mīnaka pāni,
Jīvaka jīvana, hāma tuhu jāni,—
Tuhu kaiche Mādhava? kahabi mo-ī.
Vidyāpati kaha : duho dohā ho-ī.

CXXXVI

Sakhi ki puchasi anubhava mo-i—
So-i pīriti anurāga bakhānite
Tile tile nūtana ho-i?

Janama abadhi hāma rūpa nehāranu,
Nayana nā tirapita bhela :
So-i madhura bola śrabaṇahi śunanu,
Śruti-pathe paraśa nā gela.

Kata madhu-jāminī rabase goṅvāyanu,
Nā bujhanu kaichana keli :
Lākha lākha juga hiye hiye rākhanu,
Tabu hiya juṛana na geli.

Kata bidagadha jana rase anumagana
Anubhava—kāhu nā pekha.
Vidyāpati kaha : prāṇa juṛā-ite
Lākhe nā milala eka.

CORRIGENDA.

XV, 13, for 'man' read 'maid.'

XXI, for 'beauty?' read 'beauty, my dear?'

XXXVIII, 6, read 'So fierce he was to fall on me.'

LI, 13, for 'cymbals twain' read 'twin palmyra fruits.'

LXVIII, 2, for 'sidelong glances' read 'curving eyes.'

Throughout text for *Vidhyāpati* read *Vidyāpati*.

NOTE

Of this edition of VIDYĀPATI three hundred fifty and copies have been printed, and three on handmade paper.