

CANTO 9  
THE MEETING ON THE RIVERBANK

TATO MAD'ĀNDHA|VANITĀ|  
kapola|sthala|komalam

saroja|pattraṃ kara|jaiś chettum ārabdha Gomukhaḥ.  
Pattra|chedyaṃ tatas tasyāḥ saritas tarad|ambhasi  
sajīvam iva saṃpannaṃ calatvāt paṭu|raṃhasaḥ.  
Anukūlaṃ prasarpantaṃ praśaṃsantaś ca Gomukham  
pattra|chedyam apaśyāma mukt'āvayava|saṃkaram.

Asmābhir anuyuktaś ca, «kathay' ēti» sa|vistaram  
Gomukho vyākaroti sma pattra|chedasya lakṣaṇam.  
9.5 «Ih' ārya|putra vijñeyaṃ pattra|chedyaṃ samāsataḥ  
try|asraṃ ca catur|asraṃ ca dīrghaṃ vṛttaṃ ca bhedataḥ.  
Try|asraiś catuṣ|padaṃ śailā niṣpadyante gṛh'ādi ca  
catur|asraiḥ sa|śālāni purāṇi puruṣ'ādi ca.  
Dīrghair nada|nadi|mārga|pratāna|bhujag'ādayaḥ  
vṛttair bhūṣaṇa|saṃyoga|śakunta|mithun'ādayaḥ.»

Gomukhe kathayaty evam āgaty Marubhūtikah  
«aho nu mahad āścaryam ārya|putr' ēty!» abhāṣata.

asau Hariśikhen' ōktaḥ, «sarvam eva bhavā|dṛśām  
kūpa|kacchapa|kalpānām āścaryam sthūla|cakṣuṣām!»  
9.10 «Paśya duḥ|śraddadhān' ēti!» tam uktvā Marubhūtikah  
«īdam āścaryam!» ity uccaiḥ pulinaṃ no vyadarśayat.

Tato Hariśikhen' ōktaṃ kṛtvā hasitam ulbaṇam  
«āścaryam pulinaṃ paśya! namas tasmai sa|cakṣuṣe!  
Nimnena salilaṃ yāti pulinaṃ sikatā|sthalam  
āścaryam yadi tan mūḍha dveṣaḥ kaḥ salile tava?»

THEN, USING HIS FINGERNAILS, Go-mukha started to  
make cuts in a lotus leaf that was as soft as the cheek  
of a lovelorn lady\*. In the flowing water the leaf-figure  
seemed to come to life with the movement of the impetu-  
ous river. Singing Go-mukha's praises, we watched the leaf-  
figure floating downstream; it had become more than the  
sum of its parts.

When we asked him to tell us, Go-mukha described in  
detail the defining characteristics of a leaf-figure. “On this  
9.5 matter, my lord, one should know that leaf-figures are,  
briefly, divided into the following categories: triangular,  
square, rectangular and round. With triangular ones are  
made things like quadrupeds, mountains and houses; with  
square ones, cities, houses, people and so forth; with rect-  
angular ones, rivers, roads, creepers, snakes and such like;  
with round ones, things like ornaments and pairs of birds.”

As Go-mukha was saying this, Maru-bhūtika arrived and  
said, “My lord, a great miracle has happened!”

Hari-shikha said to him, “Everything is miraculous for  
people like you who are as blinkered as tortoises in a well!”

“Take a look, you incredulous fellow!” replied Maru-bhū-  
9.10 tika, and he showed us the riverbank, exclaiming, “This is  
the miracle!”

At this Hari-shikha laughed loudly and said, “Behold the  
miraculous riverbank! Homage to this visionary! Water is  
flowing along the riverbed: if the sandy bank is miraculous  
then what, fool, have you got against the water?”















