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RÁKSHASA'S RING

BY VISHÁKHA·DATTA



Edited & translated by

MICHAEL COULSON

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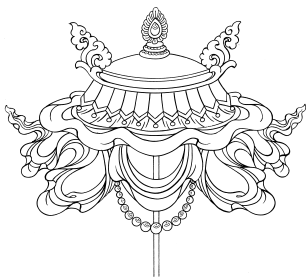
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ACT IV
DISSENSION

tataḥ praviśaty adhvaga/veśaḥ PURUṢAḤ.

PURUṢAḤ: ॠhī māṇahe,॑

ॠjoṇa|saam samahiam
ko nāma ga'āgaam karejja jaṇo
a|ṡṡhāṇa|gamaṇa|garuī
pahuṇo āṇā jaī ṇa hojja,॑

ॠtā jāva amacca|Rakkhasassa jjeva geham pavisāmi,॑ (*parisrā-
ntavat parikramya*) ॠedaṃ bhaṡṡiṇo amacca|Rakkhasassa
geham. ko ettha dovāriāṇam? ṇivededha dāva bhaṡṡiṇo
amacca|Rakkhasassa: eso kkhu Karahao karahao via tu-
varanto Pāḍaliuttādo āado tti,॑

4.5 *praviśya* DAUVĀRIKAḤ: ॠbhadda bhadda, mā uccaṃ mantehi.
eso kkhu bhaṡṡā amacca|Rakkhaso kajja|cintā|jaṇideṇa
jāareṇa samuppaṇṇa|sīsa|veaṇo ajja vi ṇa dāva saaṇa|da-
laṃ muñcadi. tā ciṡṡha muhuttaam jāva se laddh'āvasaro
bhavia bhavado āgamaṇam ṇivedemi,॑

PURUṢAḤ: ॠbhadda|muha, jadhā de roadi,॑

tataḥ praviśati śayana/gata āsana/gatena ŚAKAṢADĀSENA *saha
sa/cinto* RĀKṢASAḤ.

RĀKṢASAḤ: (*ātma/gatam*)

mama vimṡṡataḥ kāry'ārambhe
Vidher a|vidheyatāṃ
sahaja|kuṡṡilāṃ Kauṡṡilyasya
pracintayato matim
api ca vihite tat|krtyānām
nikāmam upagrahe
«katham idam ih' êty» unnidrasya
prayānty aniśam niśāḥ.

Enter someone dressed as a TRAVELER.

TRAVELER: Oh, heavens above!

A thousand miles or more there and back!
Who would ever make such journeys?—
Except when his master's orders
Mean more than the discomfort of travel.

So now I have to call on Minister Rákshasa. (*walking about wearily*) Here is my master the Minister Rákshasa's house. Ho there, doormen! Tell your master that Kárabhaka has come like a camel* from Pátali-putra!

Enter a DOORKEEPER: Hey, good sir, not so loud! Our master 4.5
Minister Rákshasa has a headache brought on by over-
work and insomnia, and he hasn't yet left his bed. Wait
a minute while I pick the right moment to let him know
you've come.

TRAVELER: Right you are, then.

Enter, in his bed with SHÁKATA-DASA seated beside him, RÁKSHASA, careworn.

RÁKSHASA: (*to himself*)

When I think how little Fate has been my ally in
the struggle
And how devious has been the plotting of
Kautílya,
For all my successful winning of his subordinates,
My nights pass in sleepless bewilderment.

4.10 api ca: kāry'ôpakṣepam ādau tanum api racayaṃṣ
 tasya vīstāram icchan
 bījānāṃ garbhitānāṃ phalam atigahanam
 gūḍham udbhedayamś ca
 kurvan buddhyā vimarśaṃ prasṛtam api punaḥ
 saṃharan kārya|jātaṃ
 kartā vā nāṭakānām imam anubhavati
 kleśam asmad|vidho vā.

tad api nāma durātmā Cāṇakya|vaṭuḥ—

(*upasṛtya* DAUVĀRIKAḤ:) ॠ jaadu jaadu—

RĀKṢASAḤ: —abhisamdhātum śakyaḥ syāt.

DAUVĀRIKAḤ: ॠ —amacco.

4.15 RĀKṢASAḤ: (*vām'âkṣi/spandaṃ sūcayitvā ātma|gatam*) Cā-
 ṇakya|vaṭur jayati. abhisamdhātum śakyaḥ syād amātya
 iti. (*prakāśam*) bhadra, kim asi vaktu|kāmaḥ?

DAUVĀRIKAḤ: ॠ amacca, eso kkhu Karahao Pāḍaliuttādo āa-
 do icchadi amaccaṃ pekkhidum.

RĀKṢASAḤ: bhadra, a|vilambitaṃ praveśaya.

DAUVĀRIKAḤ: ॠ jaṃ amacco āṇavedi. (*iti niṣkramya puru-
 śam upasṛtya*) ॠ bhadda, eso amacco ciṭṭhadi. uvasappehi
 ṇaṃ.

iti niṣkrānto DAUVĀRIKAḤ.

4.20 KARABHAKAḤ: (RĀKṢASAM *upasṛtya*) ॠ jaadu jaadu amacco.

RĀKṢASAḤ: (*nātyen' āvalokya*) bhadra Karabhaka, svāgatam.
 upaviśyatām.

Contriving the first faint outlines of a plot, and 4.10
 then elaborating,
 Causing the hidden seeds to germinate
 unsuspected,
 Cleverly managing the crisis, drawing together all
 the sprawling threads—
 In these painful anxieties of creation I am working
 like a playwright.

I pray, then, that Kautílya may know—

DOORKEEPER: (*approaching*) Victory—

RÁKSHASA: —the bitterness of defeat!

DOORKEEPER: —be yours, Minister!

RÁKSHASA: (*indicating an inauspicious throbbing of his left 4.15*
eye, to himself) Must Kautílya, then, know victory, and
 the bitterness of defeat be mine? (*aloud*) What do you
 want to tell me?

DOORKEEPER: Minister, Kárabhaka has arrived from Pátali-
 putra and is asking to see you.

RÁKSHASA: Show him in at once.

DOORKEEPER: Yes, sir. (*withdrawing and approaching the*
traveler) There is the Minister, friend. You may approach
 him.

He goes out.

KÁRABHAKA: (*going up to RÁKSHASA*) Victory, sir, victory! 4.20

RÁKSHASA: (*seeing him*) Good Kárabhaka, welcome! Sit
 down.

KARABHAKAḤ: 「jaṃ amacco āṇavedi.」 (*iti bhūmāv upaviṣṭaḥ*)

RĀKṢASAḤ: (*sva/gatam*) atha «kasmin prayojane mam' âyaṃ praṇidhiḥ prahita iti» prabhūtātīvāt prayojanānām na khalv avadhārayāmi. (*cintāṃ nāṭayati*)

tataḥ praviṣati vetra/pāṇir aparāḥ PURUṢAḤ

4.25 PURUṢAḤ: 「ośaladha ayyā ośaladha. avedha, māṇahe, avedha. kiṃ ṇa peskadha—」

「dūle paccāṣattī daṃśaṇam avi dullahaṃ a|dhaññehim kallāṇa|maṇahalāṇam devāṇa va bhūmi|devāṇam.」

(*ākāse*) 「ayyā, kiṃ bhaṇādha? kiṃ ṇimittam eśā ośālaṇā ka-līadi tti? ayyā, eśe kkhu kumāle Malaakedū śamuppaṇṇa|śīśa|veaṇam amacca|Laḥkaśam śuṇia peskiduṃ ido yyeva āāscadi. tā ediṇā kālaṇeṇa ośālaṇā kalīadi.」 (*iti niṣkrāntaḥ* PURUṢAḤ)

tataḥ praviṣati BHĀGURĀYAṆENA saha KAṆCUKIN' ānugam-jamāno MALAYAKETUḤ.

MALAYAKETUḤ: (*niśvasy' ātma/gatam*) adya daśamo māsas tātasy' ôparatasya na c' asmābhir vṛthā|puruṣ'|âbhimānam udvahadbhis tam uddīśya toy'|āñjalir apy āvarjitaḥ. pratijñātam etat purastāt:

ACT IV: DISSENSION

KÁRABHAKA: Yes, sir. (*He seats himself on the floor.*)

RÁKSHASA: (*to himself*) I have so many affairs on hand I can't remember what it was I sent this agent to do. (*He acts anxious thought.*)

Enter a MAN bearing an official staff.

MAN: Make way, sirs, make way! Be off, you people, be off! 4.25
Do you not realize—

Like the fair lords of the heavens,
The fair lords of this world
Are hard for those less fortunate
Even to see, let alone come near to.

(*addressing the air*) What's that you say, sirs? Why are we clearing the road? Sirs, His Highness Prince Málaya-ketu is coming this way, to see Minister Rákshasa, having heard that he has a headache. That's why we're clearing the road. (*He goes out.*)

Enter, with BHAGURÁYANA and attended by his CHAMBERLAIN, MÁLAYA·KETU.

MÁLAYA·KETU: (*with a sigh, to himself*) It's ten months now since father died, and in a vain act of manly pride I have not offered even a handful of water in his memory. I have sworn an oath that first:

4.30 vakṣas|tāḍana|bhinna|ratna|valayaṃ
 bhraṣṭ' |ôttarīy' |âṃśukam
 «hā h" êty» uccarit' |ārta|nāda|karuṇam
 bhū|reṇu|rūkṣ' |âlakam
 yādrī mātṛ|janasya śoka|janitam
 saṃpraty avasth" |ântaram
 śatru|strīṣu mayā vidhāya gurave
 deyo jalasy' âñjaliḥ.

tat kiṃ bahunā?

udyacchatā dhuram a|kā|puruṣ' |ânurūpāṃ
 gantavyam āji|vihitena pituḥ pathā vā
 āchidya vā sval|jananī|jana|locanebhyo
 neyo mayā ripu|vadhū|nayanāni bāṣpaḥ.

(*prakāśam*) ārya Jājale, ucyantām asmad|vacanād anuyāyino
 rājānaḥ: «eka ev' âham amātya|Rākṣasasy' âtarkit' |āga-
 manena prītim utpādayitum icchāmi. ataḥ kṛtam anu-
 gamana|kleśen' êti.»

KANĀCUKĪ: yad ājñāpayati kumāraḥ. (*parikramy' âkāśe*) bho
 bho rājānaḥ, kumāraḥ samājñāpayati: «na khalv ahaṃ
 kena cid anugantavya iti.» (*vilokya sa/harṣam*) kumāra,
 ete kumārasy' ājñ" |ânantaram eva pratinivṛttāḥ sarva eva
 rājānaḥ. paśyatu hi kumāraḥ—

My enemies' wives shall beat their breasts till their
 bangles break and their garments fall apart, 4.30
 Piteous in their cries of woe, dust roughening their
 hair,
 And they shall know all the grief my mother knows
 Before I make the offering of water to my sire.

In short,

I must bear the hero's yoke,
 And either tread my father's fatal path in battle
 Or snatch the tears from my mother's eyes
 And put them in the eyes of the enemy's
 womenfolk.

(aloud) Noble Jájali, tell the princes in my name that I want
 to go on alone and give Minister Rákshasa the pleasure
 of a surprise visit. So they need not trouble to attend me.

CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Your Highness. *(walking about and ad-
 dressing the air)* Princes! His Highness states that he does
 not wish you to attend him! *(looking, with pleasure)* See,
 Your Highness: they have all turned back as soon as they
 learned of Your Highness's command—

4.35 s' |ôtsedhaiḥ skandha|deśaiḥ khara|kavika|kaś'' |ā-
 karṣaṇ' |âtyartha|bhugnaiḥ
 aśvāḥ kaiś cin niruddhāḥ kham iva khura|puṭaiḥ
 khaṇḍayantaḥ purastāt
 ke cin mātāṅga|mukhyair vihata|javatayā
 mūka|ghaṇṭair nivṛttāḥ
 maryādāṃ bhūmi|pālā jala|dhaya iva te
 deva n' ôllaṅghayanti.

MALAYAKETUḤ: ārya Jājale, tvam api sa|parijano nivartasva.
 Bhāgurāyaṇa ev' âiko mām anugacchatu.

KAṆCUKĪ: yad ājñāpayati kumāraḥ. (*iti sa|parijano niṣkrāntaḥ*)

MALAYAKETUḤ: sakhe Bhāgurāyaṇa, vijñāpito 'ham ih' āgacchadbhir Bhadrabhaṭa|prabhṛtibhir yathā «na vayam amātya|Rākṣasa|dvāreṇa kumāram āśrayāmahe. kiṃ tu kumārasya senā|patiṃ Śikharasenaṃ dvārī|kṛtya duṣṭ'| amātya|parigrhītāc Candraguptād aparaktāḥ kumāram ābhigāmika|guṇa|yogād āśrayaṇīyam āśrayāmaha iti.» tan mayā su|ciram api vicārayatā teṣāṃ vāky' |ârtho n' âvadhāritaḥ.

BHĀGURĀYAṆAḤ: kumāra, n' âiv' âyaṃ durbodhaḥ. paśya. «vijigīṣur ātma|guṇa|saṃpannaḥ priya|hita|dvāreṇ' āśrayaṇīya iti» nanu nyāyyam ev' êdam.

Some, pulling hard on the reins, have checked their
steeds, 4.35

Which rear with necks arched back, breaking thin
air with their hoofs.

Others turn their stately elephants about, bells
faltering into silence.

These princes respect your command as the sea
respects the shore.

MÁLAYA·KETU: Noble Jájali, you too go back with my ser-
vants. No one but Bhaguráyana need attend me.

CHAMBERLAIN: Certainly, Your Highness. (*He goes out with
the servants.*)

MÁLAYA·KETU: Bhaguráyana, my friend, when Bhadra-bha-
ta and his companions arrived here, they said to me,
“We are not seeking asylum with Your Highness through
Minister Rákshasa: it was Your Highness’s general Shik-
hara-sena who, when we sickened of seeing Chandra-gu-
pta in the clutches of an evil minister, enabled us to take
refuge with Your Highness, as your amiable qualities had
made us long to do.” I have been turning their words
over in my mind for a long time, but I can’t decide what
they were getting at.

BHAGURÁYANA: It is simple enough, Your Highness. It is
natural, surely, to wish to turn to a master who is both
determined and talented, and to do so through a dear
and good friend of that master.

4.40 MALAYAKETUḤ: sakhe Bhāgurāyaṇa, nanv asmākam amātya|Rākṣasaḥ priyatamo hitatamaś ca.

BHĀGURĀYAṆAḤ: kumāra, evam etat. «kiṃ tu amātya|Rākṣasaś Cāṇakye baddha|vairo na Candragupte. tad yadi kadā cic Candraguptaś Cāṇakyam ati|jita|kāśīnam a|sahamānaḥ sācivyaḍ avaropayet tato Nanda|kula|bhaktyā ‹Nand' |ānvaya ev' āyam iti› saṃjāta|suhṛj|jan' |āpeksayā c' amātya|Rākṣasaś Candraguptena saha saṃdadhīta. Candragupto 'pi ‹pitṛ|paryāy' |āgata ev' āyam› ity aṅgī|kuryāt. evaṃ saty asmāsv api kumāro na viśvased» ity ayam eṣāṃ vāky' |ārthaḥ.

MALAYAKETUḤ: yujyate. amātya|Rākṣasasya gr̥ham ādeśaya.

BHĀGURĀYAṆAḤ: ita itaḥ kumāraḥ.

iti ubhau parikrāmataḥ.

4.45 BHĀGURĀYAṆAḤ: kumāra, idam amātya|Rākṣasasya gr̥ham. praviśatu kumāraḥ.

MALAYAKETUḤ: eṣa praviśāmi.

praveśanaṃ nāṭayataḥ.

RĀKṢASAḤ: āṃ smṛtam. (*prakāśam*) bhadra, api dṛṣṭas tvayā Kusumapure vaitālikaḥ Stanakalaśaḥ?

KARABHAKAḤ: 「 amacca, adha iṃ.」

4.50 MALAYAKETUḤ: sakhe Bhāgurāyaṇa, Kusumapura|vṛtt' |āntaḥ prastutaḥ. tatas tāvan n' ḍpasarpāvaḥ. śṛṇuvas tāvat. kiṃ kāraṇam iti.

ACT IV: DISSENSION

MÁLAYA·KETU: But Bhaguráyana, Minister Rákshasa himself is the dearest and best of friends. 4.40

BHAGURÁYANA: No doubt, Your Highness. But their reasoning is as follows. Minister Rákshasa is fighting Kautílya, not Chandra-gupta. Suppose by some chance Chandra-gupta were to find Kautílya's arrogance impossible to bear, and were to dismiss him from his post. Out of his loyalty to the House of Nanda, since Chandra-gupta is after all of Nanda stock, or else for the sake of his friends in prison, Minister Rákshasa might come to terms with Chandra-gupta—who for his part might accept him, as being his minister by family tradition. Now, in such circumstances Your Highness might suspect their own loyalty as well.

MÁLAYA·KETU: Yes, I see what you mean. Lead the way to Minister Rákshasa's house.

BHAGURÁYANA: This way, Your Highness.

They both walk about.

BHAGURÁYANA: Here is the house. Enter, Your Highness. 4.45

MÁLAYA·KETU: I do so.

They act entering.

RÁKSHASA: Ah, I remember! (*aloud*) Did you see Stana-ká-lasha the bard in Pátali-putra, my dear man?

KÁRABHAKA: Certainly, sir.

MÁLAYA·KETU: Bhaguráyana, my friend, they are discussing 4.50
events in Pátali-putra. Let's not interrupt, but simply
listen.

sattva|bhaṅga|bhayād rājñāṃ
 kathayanty anyathā purah
 anyathā vivṛtt'ārtheṣu
 svair'ālāpeṣu mantriṇaḥ.

BHĀGURĀYAṆAḤ: yad ājñāpayati kumāraḥ.

RĀKṢASAḤ: bhadra, api tat kāryaṃ siddham?

KARABHAKAḤ: 「amaccassa pasāeṇa siddham,」

4.55 MALAYAKETUḤ: Bhāgurāyaṇa, kiṃ tat kāryam?

BHĀGURĀYAṆAḤ: kumāra, gahanaḥ khalu saciva|vṛtt'āntaḥ.
 n' āitāvātā paricchettuṃ śakyate. avahitas tāvac chrotum
 arhati kumāraḥ.

RĀKṢASAḤ: bhadra, vistareṇa śrotum icchāmi.

KARABHAKAḤ: 「suṇādu amacco. atthi dāva ahaṃ amaccen'
 āṇatto jadhā: «Karahaa, Kusumaūiraṃ gacchia mama
 vaṇeṇa bhaṇidavvo tae vedālio Thaṇaalaso jadhā Cāṇa-
 kka|hadaeṇa tesuṃ tesuṃ āṇā|bhaṅgesuṃ aṇuciṭṭhīamā-
 ṇesuṃ Candaūitto tae samutteaṇa|samatthehiṃ siloehiṃ
 uvasiloāidavvo tti.»」

RĀKṢASAḤ: bhadra, tatas tataḥ.

4.60 KARABHAKAḤ: 「tado mae Pāḍaliuttaṃ gacchia suṇāvīdo
 amacca|saṃdesaṃ thaṇa|alaso,」

RĀKṢASAḤ: bhadra, tatas tataḥ.

KARABHAKAḤ: 「etth' | antare Nanda | kula | viṇāsa | dūsidas-
 sa pora|jaṇassa paridosāṃ uppādaanteṇa Candaūitteṇa
 āghosido Kusumaūire komudī|mah'ūsavo. so a cira|āla|
 ppavattaṇa|jaṇida|paridoso ahimada|bandhu|aṇa|samā-
 gamo via sa|sinehaṃ bahu|māṇido ṇāra|aṇeṇa,」

ACT IV: DISSENSION

For fear of destroying his resolve
Ministers say one thing to a prince's face,
And quite another when they are speaking freely
And saying what they mean.

BHAGURÁYANA: By all means, Your Highness.

RÁKSHASA: Was your mission successful, my dear man?

KÁRABHAKA: Quite successful, if it pleases Your Honor.

MÁLAYA·KETU: What mission, Bhaguráyana?

4.55

BHAGURÁYANA: A minister's affairs are complicated, Your Highness. This is hardly enough to go on. Just listen attentively.

RÁKSHASA: Tell me in detail what happened.

KÁRABHAKA: You had instructed me, sir, to go to Pátali-putra and tell Stana·kálasha the bard in your name that when the accursed Kautílya infringed some command or other of the Emperor he should address inflammatory stanzas to the Emperor.

RÁKSHASA: Yes?

KÁRABHAKA: So I went to Pátali·putra and gave Stana·kálasha your message, sir.

4.60

RÁKSHASA: Go on.

KÁRABHAKA: At this point, to dispel the gloom that the destruction of the House of Nanda has cast over the city, Chandra·gupta proclaimed that Pátali·putra should celebrate the Full Moon Festival. The return of this festival after so long an absence delighted the people and they greeted it as affectionately as a long-lost relative.

RĀKṢASAḤ: (*sa/bāṣṣam*) hā deva Nanda!

Kaumudī kumud'ānande
 jagad|ānanda|hetunā
 kīdṛṣī sati candre 'pi
 nṛpa|candra tvayā vinā?

4.65 bhadra, tatas tataḥ.

KARABHAKAḤ: ॠ amacca, tado so loaṇ'|āṇanda|bhūdo aṇic-
 chantassa jjeva ṇāra|aṇassa ṇivārido Cāṇakka|hadaeṇa
 komudī|mah'|ūsavo. etth'|antare Thaṇaalaseṇa paṭṭā
 Candaṭṭa|samutteṇa|samatthā silo|parivāḍī.

RĀKṢASAḤ: (*sa/harṣam*) sādhu, sakhe Stanakalaśa, sādhu!
 kāle bheda|bījam uptam avaśyaṃ phalam upadarśayati.
 kutaḥ:

sadyaḥ krīḍā|rasa|ccchedaṃ
 prākṛto 'pi na marṣayet
 kim u lok'|ādhiḥkaṃ dhāma
 bibhrāṇāḥ pṛthivī|bhujah?

MALAYAKETUḤ: evam etat.

4.70 RĀKṢASAḤ: bhadra, tatas tataḥ.

KARABHAKAḤ: ॠ tado Candaṭṭeṇa āṇā|bhaṅga|kalusida|hiae-
 ṇa su|iraṃ amacca|guṇaṃ paśaṃsia ṇibbhacchido ahiārā-
 do Cāṇakka|hadao.

MALAYAKETUḤ: sakhe Bhāgurāyaṇa, guṇa|praśaṃsayā dar-
 śitaś Candraguptena Rākṣase bhakti|pakṣa|pātaḥ.

ACT IV: DISSENSION

RÁKSHASA: (*weeping*) Alas, Nanda, my emperor!

What Full Moon Festival can there be today
Though the moon shine never so full?
For it was you, great king,
Who were the full moon of this world.

Go on, my dear fellow, go on.

4.65

KÁRABHAKA: Then this glorious spectacle was canceled by the accursed Kautílya against the Emperor's wishes. Upon which Stana-kálasha addressed two inflammatory stanzas to Chandra-gupta. (*He repeats the two stanzas of the SECOND BARD (Act 3.98 and 3.99).*)

RÁKSHASA: (*delightedly*) Bravo, Stana-kálasha, my friend! This seed of dissension so opportunely sown is sure to bear fruit:

When his pleasure is rudely shattered,
Even a common man will not endure it—
What then of emperors, lords of the earth,
Men of no common splendor?

MÁLAYA-KETU: He is right there.

RÁKSHASA: And what then?

4.70

KÁRABHAKA: Then Chandra-gupta, furious at being disobeyed, praised Your Honor's ability at some length and stripped Kautílya of his powers.

MÁLAYA-KETU: Friend Bhaguráyana, if he praised his ability, it shows that Chandra-gupta is sympathetic toward Rákshasa.

BHĀGURĀYAṆAḤ: kumāra, na tathā guṇa|praśaṃsayā yathā
Cāṇakya|vaṭor nirākaraṇena.

RĀKṢASAḤ: bhadra, kim ayam ev' âikaḥ Kaumudī|mah" |ôṭ-
sava|pratiṣedhaś Candraguptasya Cāṇakyaṃ prati kopa|
kāraṇam ut' ânyad apy asti?

4.75 MALAYAKETUḤ: sakhe Bhāgurāyaṇa, Candraguptasya kopa|
kāraṇ' |ânveṣaṇe kiṃ phalam eṣa paśyati?

BHĀGURĀYAṆAḤ: kumāra, etat phalaṃ paśyati. matimāṃś
Cāṇakyaś tucche prayojane kim iti Candraguptaṃ ko-
payiṣyati? na ca kṛta|vedī Candragupta etāvata gauravam
ullaṅghayiṣyati. sarvathā Cāṇakya|Candraguptayoḥ pu-
ṣkalāt kāraṇād yo viśleṣa utpadyate sa ātyantiko bhavat'
îti.

KARABHAKAḤ: 「amacca, atthi aṇṇāiṃ pi Candaüttassa ko-
va|kāraṇāiṃ Cāṇakke. uevkkhido aṇeṇa avakkamanto
kumāro Malaakedū amacca|Rakkhaso a,

RĀKṢASAḤ: (*sa/harṣam*) sakhe Śakaṭadāsa, hasta|tala|gato
me saṃprati Candragupto bhaviṣyati. idānīṃ Canda-
nadāsasya bandhanān mokṣas tava ca putra|dāreṇa saha
samāgamaḥ.

MALAYAKETUḤ: sakhe Bhāgurāyaṇa, «hasta|tala|gato me
saṃprati Candragupta iti» vyāharataḥ ko 'yam asy' âb-
hiprāyaḥ?

4.80 BHĀGURĀYAṆAḤ: kumāra, kim anyat? Cāṇakyaḍ apakṛṣṭas-
ya Candraguptasy' ôddharaṇe saukaryam avaśyaṃ paś-
yati.

RĀKṢASAḤ: bhadra, hṛt'|âdhikāraḥ kva sāmpratam asau va-
ṭuḥ?

ACT IV: DISSENSION

BHAGURÁYANA: Yes, but not so much because he praised him, Your Highness, as because he dismissed Kautílya.

RÁKSHASA: Tell me, was this cancellation of the Festival the sole reason for Chandra-gupta's displeasure at Kautílya, or was there something else as well?

MÁLAYA·KETU: Bhaguráyana, what point does he see in looking into the reasons for Chandra-gupta's displeasure? 4.75

BHAGURÁYANA: I will explain, Your Highness. Since Kautílya is a sensible man, why should he anger Chandra-gupta over such a trivial matter? And since Chandra-gupta knows what he owes him, why should he offer Kautílya disrespect just over this? At all events, if there is rich cause for their estrangement, it will then be lasting.

KÁRABHAKA: Yes, Minister, Chandra-gupta does have other grievances against Kautílya. He allowed Prince Málaya-ketu and yourself to escape.

RÁKSHASA: (*delightedly*) Dear Shákata-dasa, now I know I have Chandra-gupta in the palm of my hand! This means Chándana-dasa's release from prison, and your own reunion with your wife and children.

MÁLAYA·KETU: What does he mean, Bhaguráyana—he has Chandra-gupta in the palm of his hand?

BHAGURÁYANA: He must think it will be easier to defeat Chandra-gupta now that he is without Kautílya, Your Highness—I'm sure it can't be anything else. 4.80

RÁKSHASA: Now that the fellow's lost his post, where is he?

KARABHAKAḤ: ʿamacca, tahiṃ jeva Pāḍaliutte paḍi|vasadi,ḥ

RĀKṢASAḤ: (ś'āvegam) kiṃ tatr' âiva prativasati? na tapo|va-
naṃ gataḥ, pratijñāṃ vā na punaḥ samārūḍhavān?

KARABHAKAḤ: ʿamacca, «tavo|vaṇaṃ gamissadi» tti suṇiadi,ḥ

4.85 RĀKṢASAḤ: (ś'āvegam) sakhe Śakaṭadāsa, n' êdam upapad-
yate. paśya:

devasya yena pṛthivī|tala|vāsavasya

s'āgr'āsan'āpanaya|jā nikṛtir na soḍhā

so 'yaṃ svayaṃ|kṛta|nar'ādhipater manasvī

Mauryāt kathaṃ nu paribhūtim imāṃ saheta?

MALAYAKETUḤ: sakhe Bhāgurāyaṇa, Cāṇakyaśya tapo|vana|
gamane punaḥ|pratijñ"ārohaṇe vā k" âśya sv'ārtha|sid-
dhiḥ?

BHĀGURĀYAṆAḤ: kumāra, n' âyam atyanta|durbodho 'r-
thaḥ. yāvad yāvac Cāṇakyo nirapekṣaś Candraguptād
dūrī|bhavati tāvat tāvad aśya sv'ārtha|siddhiḥ.

ŚAKAṬADĀSAḤ: amātya, alam anyathā|saṃbhāvitena. upapa-
dyata ev' âitat. paśyatv amātyaḥ:

4.90 rājñāṃ cūḍāmaṇ'īndu|dyuti|khacita|śikhe

mūrdhni vinyasta|pādaḥ

svair' êv' ôtpādyamānaṃ kim iti viśahate

Maurya ājñā|vighātam

Kauṭilyaḥ kopito 'pi svayam abhicaraṇe

jñāta|duḥkha|pratijñāṃ

daivāt pūrṇa|pratijñāḥ punar api na karoty

āyati|jyāni|bhītaḥ.

ACT IV: DISSENSION

KÁRABHAKA: He is still living in Pátali-putra, sir.

RÁKSHASA: (*in disquiet*) Still living there? Hasn't he retired to a hermitage, or sworn a second oath?

KÁRABHAKA: It's said, sir, that he is going to retire to a hermitage.

RÁKSHASA: (*still disquieted*) Shákata-dasa, this doesn't make 4.85 sense:

How can he, who could not endure the insult of dismissal

By His Majesty the Emperor Nanda, god on earth,
Possibly in his arrogance endure this slight
From the Mauryan, the king that he himself has made?

MÁLAYA-KETU: Bhaguráyana, how will it help him if Kautílya retires to a hermitage or enters on a second vow?

BHAGURÁYANA: Simple enough, Your Highness. Anything will help him that keeps Kautílya away from Chandragupta.

SHÁKATA-DASA: Do not trouble yourself, Minister: it does make sense. Consider—

Now that the Mauryan has set his foot upon the gleaming crowns of princes, 4.90

He will never let one of his own people flout his rule,

And Kautílya, even in his anger recalling the painful discipline of a vow,

Having been lucky once, will not risk a future failure.

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The aristocrat who wrote this vigorous political play eschewed sentimentality in favor of realistic characterization and forceful action. Rákshasa, incorruptible minister of the deposed king, flees abroad and plots his vengeance, while Kautílyā, the new king's subtle minister, seeks to win him over.

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