

रे रे चातक re re cātaka (भर्तृहरि bhartṛhari)

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रे रे चातक सावधान मनसा मित्र क्षणं श्रूयताम्

अम्बोधा बहवो वसन्ति गगने सर्वेऽपि नैकादृशाः ।

केचिद् वृष्टिभिरार्द्रयन्ति धरणीं गर्जन्ति केचिन्वृथा

यं यं पश्यसि तस्य तस्य पुरतो मा ब्रूहि दीनं वचः ॥

*re re cātaka sāvadhāna manasā mitra kṣaṇam śrūyatām
ambodhā bahavo vasanti gagane sarve'pi naikādrśāḥ |
kecid vṛṣṭibhirārdhrayanti dharaṇīm garjanti kecinvṛthā
yaṁ yaṁ paśyasi tasya tasya puruto mā brūhi dīnam vacaḥ ||*

O friend chaataka, please do listen to my words with attentive mind for a moment. Many rain bearing clouds reside in the sky. But all of them (indeed) are not alike (in disposition). A few of them soak up the (parched) earth by showering (their wealth). But many others merely roar and thunder away. Hence pray, but do not beg with pitiful words in front of every cloud that passes by you.

रे रे चातक re re cātaka = o' cātaka bird, सावधान sāvadhāna = with attentive, मनसा manasā = by mind, मित्र mitra = o! friend, क्षणं kṣaṇam = (for) a moment, श्रूयताम् śrūyatām = please listen, अम्बोधा: ambodhāḥ = water bearing clouds, बहवो bahavo = many, वसन्ति vasanti = reside, गगने gagane = in the sky, सर्वे अपि sarve api = also all, न एका दृशाः na ekā drśāḥ = not even one looks alike, केचित् kecit = certain, वृष्टिभिः vṛṣṭibhiḥ = by rains, आर्द्रयन्ति ārdrayanti (pl.) = wet, soak, drench, धरणीं dharaṇīm = the earth, गर्जन्ति garjanti = roar, केचिन् kecin = certain, वृथा vṛthā = unnecessarily, waste, यं यं पश्यसि yaṁ yaṁ paśyasi = to whom ever you see, तस्य तस्य पुरतः tasya tasya purutaḥ = in front of that & that (every cloud), मा mā ब्रूहि brūhi = do not say (beg), दीनं वचः dīnam vacaḥ = with pitiful words.