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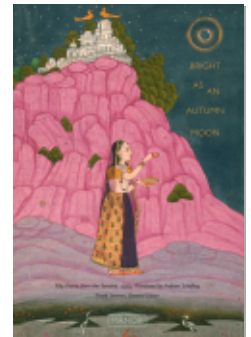
## Radha's Messenger Speaks

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आवासो विपिनायते प्रियसखीमालापि जालायते  
तापोऽपि श्वसितेन दाबदहनज्वालाकलापायते ।  
सापि त्वद्विरहेण हन्त हरिणीरूपायते हा कथं  
कन्दर्पोऽपि यमायते विरचयन्शार्दूलविक्रीडितम् ॥

[GG 4.10]

āvāso vipināyate priyasakhīmālāpi jālāyate  
tāpo'pi śvasitena dāvadahanajvālākālāpāyate  
sāpi tvadvirahaṇa hanta hariṇī rupāyate hā katham  
kandarpo'pi yamāyate viracayaṇ śārdūlavikrīḍitam

āvāso. house  
vipināyate. becomes a jungle  
priya-sakhī. dear-friends  
mālā. necklace  
api. indeed  
jālāyate. becomes a snare  
tāpo. fever, passion (also, ascetic  
practice)  
'pi. also  
śvasitena. by breath  
dāva-dahana-jvālā-kālāpāyate.  
turns into a searing, raging fire  
sā. she  
api. also

tvad-virahaṇa. due to your absence  
hanta. (voc.) O lover  
hariṇī-rupāyate. (she) takes shape  
as a doe  
hā. [cry of grief]  
katham. how (is it that)?  
kandarpo. love, sexual passion  
'pi. (emph.)  
yamāyate. becomes death (Yama)  
viracayan. taking on (as a costume or  
mask), wearing  
śārdūla-vikrīḍitam. tiger's play  
(also, name of a much-used  
metrical pattern)

*Radha's messenger speaks*

Her house has become  
a pulsating jungle.  
Her circle of girlfriends  
a tightening snare.  
Each time she breathes  
a sheet of flame  
bursts above the trees.  
Krishna, you have gone—  
in your absence she takes shape  
as a doe crying out—  
while Love turns to Death  
and closes in  
on tiger paws.



This is one of the stanzas into which Jayadeva weaves the Sanskrit name of the metrical pattern he is using: *śārdūla-vikrīḍita* (tiger's play). The last phrase of the verse literally reads: "love becomes death, taking on (wearing) the play of the tiger."

The entire verse is built on a special use of the verb form called *nāma-dhātu* (noun-verb). In this case, it is the transformation of one noun into another by making the second a verb—a nice touch in which everything transforms under the heat of Radha's anguish. The house "jungles," the circle of friends "snares," Radha "doe-shapes." Finally, love "deaths." *Kandarpa*, the word Jayadeva uses here for love—love personified, or sexual passion—is of "doubtful" etymology (Monier-Williams). An early meaning the grammarians give is "phallus."