

## Selected passages from the first act of Brajvāsīdās's *Prabodhacandrodaya Nāṭaka*<sup>1</sup>

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सो० तैसे गुरु सुजान कीन्हों ग्रन्थ नबीन तब ।  
कला विदूषक खान अर्थ सिद्ध वेदान्त मय ॥१४॥

संगीति० नाम राख्यो ग्रंथ को परबोध चन्द उदोत ।  
सुनत मधुरे श्रवण को अति ससुझिते सुख होत (... )॥१५॥

दो० बलीराम ताकी करी भाषा यमन किताब ।  
सोऊ विद्या अति कठिन समुझि न परै सिताब ॥१८॥

दो० मित्र एक ऐसे कही जो यह भाषा होय ।  
सरल होय तों सबन को सुनि सुख पावै लोय ॥१९॥

दो० ताते यह भाषा करी अपनी मति अनुसार ।  
सत संगत परताप ते विपुल छंद विस्तार ॥२०॥

दो० कृष्णदास भट शिष्य सों कहत कथा परबोधि ।  
नटलीला के ब्याज करि परमतत्वमय शोधि ॥२४॥

### Introduction to the author and the text

Brajvāsīdās composed his *Prabodhacandrodaya Nāṭaka* in 1760 in Brajbhāṣā, an established literary medium in North India at the time. Information about Brajvāsīdās is scarce: he was born around the 1730s, a resident of the Braj area and probably a Vallabhan. The *Prabodhacandrodaya Nāṭaka* is his first work and is a retelling of the Sanskrit allegorical drama *Prabodhacandrodaya* by Kṛṣṇamiśra (11<sup>th</sup> c.). The Sanskrit work was adapted several times in Sanskrit, Prakrits, Persian, south Indian languages, and north Indian vernaculars. This allegorical genre is especially significant for the study of Vedantic and bhakti traditions, moreover, the dynamic of transmission of the *Prabodhacandrodaya* story is complex, far from linear. I propose to analyze selected verses which deal with Brajvāsīdās' sources and his attitude towards them.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Brajvāsīdās. 1875. *Prabodhacandrodaya Nāṭaka*. Lucknow, Naval Kishore Press.