

THINNER THAN A CRESCENT

Vidyapati

Born in the village of Bisapi in Madhubani, on the eastern side of north Bihar. Vidyapati is well known for depicting the pangs of separation in the well-known tradition of Jayadeva. His love-songs re-create and reveal the world of Radha and Krishna, the major love figures of Indian mythology and literature. However, while Jayadeva's poem celebrates Krishna's love and pays comparatively little attention to Radha the woman, Vidyapati is primarily concerned with the intense passion of Radha's love. At once sensuous and sensual, descriptive and dramatic, Vidyapati's songs range beyond the mythological only to find their place in the heart of a human lover whose dreams and desires never die, whose sighs and cries never end. The present poem is in the form of a report from a friend of Radha to Lord Krishna. The Lord has had no occasion to meet Radha for sometime. The young girl took this to heart. Consequently, her health began to fail. Greatly concerned over this condition of Radha, the anonymous friend runs to Lord Krishna to report this.



A WRITE in small groups and discuss the following:

- 1. How many friends do you have? Who, among them, has helped you?**
- 2. Have you been away from your parents for a long time? How did you feel then?**

Her tears carved a river
And she broods on its bank
Hurt and confused.

You ask her one thing,
She speaks of another.
Her friends believe
That joy may come again
At times they banish hope
and cease to care.

O Madhava,
I have run to call you:
Radha each day
grows thinner
Thinner than the crescent in the sky.

B Answer the following questions briefly:

1. Why is Radhika crying ?
2. What two feelings of Radha have been referred to by her friend ?
3. To whom does the friend make a report ?
4. What do Radha's friends believe in ?
5. Why did Radha's friend run to Lord Krishna ?

GLOSSARY AND NOTES

carve (v) : to make something by cutting it with knife

brood (v) : to continually think about something painful

confused (adj) : puzzled, not able to understand properly

banish (v) : to drive away, to expel

cease (v) : to stop

crescent (n) : the curved shape of the moon in its first phase

C.1. LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Describe Radha's condition, as reported by her friend.
2. Why is Radha's friend so worried ?
3. "Radha each day/grows thinner/thinner than the crescent in the sky", comment on the use of imagery.

C.2. GROUP DISCUSSION

1. A friend in need is a friend indeed.

C. 3. COMPOSITION

1. Write a message to your mother to inform her that you are going to see Ranjan who has taken ill.
2. Your friend is living in a state of anxiety and worry. Write, in a paragraph of 80-100 words, on the pathetic condition of your friend.

D WORD STUDY

D.1. Dictionary Use

1. Correct the spelling of the following words.

karv

banis

brudes

seige

konfused

thiner

2. Write antonyms of the following words.

believe

thin

hope

friend

cease

confused

E. GRAMMAR

Ex. 1. When 'Each' is used before a singular noun, it always takes a singular verb; e.g.

Each boy in this class **has** a pencil box.

Each girl in this school **has** a bicycle.

Each labourer **gets** a meal.

Each student **has** got a new book.

Each student **goes** to the library.

Now, fill up the blanks with suitable verbs given in the brackets:

1. Each boy _____ to school. (go/goes)
2. Each teacher _____ got a room. (has/have)
3. Each person _____ a car. (own/owns)
4. Each child _____ a problem. (has/have)
5. Each labourer _____ given a uniform. (was/were)
6. Each painter _____ given a prize. (has been/have been)
7. Each lesson in the book _____ two pictures. (has/have)
8. Each room in this hotel _____ a television set. (has/have)
9. Each bench in the park _____ full. (is/are)
10. Each compartment _____ overcrowded. (was/were)

F. ACTIVITIES

1. Translate any song in your mother tongue into English.
2. Find out for yourself one more poem by Vidyapati and recite it in the class.

G. TRANSLATION

Translate into English:

1. मैं तुम्हें सूचना देने आया हूँ।
2. मैं तुम्हें यह पुस्तक देने आया हूँ।
3. मैं नाश्ता कर चुका हूँ।
4. मैं अपना काम समाप्त कर चुका हूँ।
5. मैं यह पुस्तक पढ़ चुका हूँ।
6. वह खेलने गया है।
7. वह बाजार गया है।
8. वह सिनेमा गया है।