

Chapter VIII

INDECLINABLE PAST PARTICIPLE OR GERUND

The Gerunds are formed by the addition of the suffix -tvā, or -ya when a preposition precedes a root. It denotes the prior of two actions, done by the same agent. e.g.

tadarham āsanam tasmai sam pradāya yathāvidhiḥ
arcayāmāsa .. (M.2.5.5) "having given him a seat, he wor-
shipped him"; te gatvāthēbruvan .. (M.5.11.1) "Having gone
(there) and said.."; sa Rāmaḥ pitaram kṛtvā Kaikeyiṁ ca
pradakṣiṇam! niṣkramyāntaḥ purāt tasmāt svam dadarśa suhrj-
janam! (R.2.19.29) "Going round his father as well as Kaikeyi
and coming out of the said harem, Rāma saw his friends";
Kumbha karṇam hataṁ dr̥ṣṭvā Rāghaveṇa mahātmanā! (R.6.68.1) ^{hāksasas ... nyarida}
"Seeing Kumbhakarṇa fall under the blows of the exceedingly
courageous Rāghava, ^{hāksasas ... informed}

It is almost employed as a participle. As stated above, it denotes the prior action performed by the same subject. Its subject is that of the chief action; so it usually refers to a Nominative, if the chief verb is active or to an Instrumental, if it is passive. Sometimes we can meet with instances referring to other noun-cases also.

e.g.

to Instrumental

mayā Nāgapuram gatvā (M.5.145.6) "Having gone to Nāga-
pura"; tvayā samvatsaram yuddhvā (R.6.7.10) "After fighting
for a whole year".

Dat or Gen.

nirjitās te mahābāho nāgā gatvā rasātalam! (R.6.7.9)

"Descending into the nether regions thou didst defeat the serpents".

The gerund is used with 'alam' expressing the meaning 'enough of' or prohibition and with 'kim' expressing the sense "what is the use of". Thus :-

alam (enough of)

alam te vanam gatvā (R.2.28.25) "Have done with the idea of proceeding to the forest"; tad alam śokam ālambya (R.6.2.19) "Enough of this faint hearted attitude"; alam kālātyayam kṛtvā! (R.6.19.40) "Do not waste time".

kim (what is the use of)

kiṃ uktvā bahudhā! (R.6.2.24) "But of what use of are all these words?"

Sometimes the gerund is used in the place of a finite verb. e.g.

alabdhvā yadi vā labdhvā nānuśocanti paṇḍitāḥ! (M.5.131.15) "Whether they gain their object or not they that are possessed of sense, never indulge in grief"; aṅgāram upaguhya sma pitā me nāvabuddhavān! (R.2.73.4) "My father was unaware that thou wert a live coal".

The other gerund in - am is seldom employed. In its origin it is the accusative of a verbal noun. It touches the sphere of etymological accusative. e.g.

ānardam nardataḥ! (M.5.139.47) "loudly roaring";

jīvanāśāṃ praṇaṣṭānāṃ (M.S.88.71) "those who have lost
their life".