

I thought I did well in today's rehearsal,

but my guru didn't think so.

She told me my *abhinaya*, facial expressions and hand gestures, lacked real emotion, and that my *nritta*, rhythmic footwork, needed to speak more with the drums.





The make-up team arrives.
But I can't stop the thoughts in my head:
What if I forget the steps?
What if I fall and all my friends laugh at me?

What if my guru is disappointed in my performance?



My *nritta* footwork flows –



tha-thi-ki-ta-thom
tha-thi-ki-ta-thom
tha-thi-ki-ta-thom



– in between the beats of music.