



Journal of Ayurveda and Integrated Medical Sciences

www.jaims.in

Indexed

An International Journal for Researches in Ayurveda and Allied Sciences





REVIEW ARTICLE April 2023

Critical review of Rasa Ratna Samuchchaya w.s.r. to its Rasaprabha Teeka

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ABSTRACT

Rasa Ratna Samuchchaya (RRS) was written by Rasa Vagbhatta. This text sheds light on the extraction, purification, and transformation of metals and minerals into the rapeutically useful forms, as well as the various instruments created for alchemical uses and the use of herbo-mineral preparations to treat a wide range of illnesses. Rasaprabha Teeka of RRS written by Dr. Indradev Tripathi. This Teeka is Hindi commentary of RRS. This Teeka consists total 30 chapters, 3871 verses and detailed description of 960 formulations. The main components of RRS are classification of metals and minerals, descriptions of instruments and formulations and avoiding the use of metals and minerals during pregnancy. RRS covers all eight branches of Ayurveda, although it mainly deals with therapeutic aspects of Rasashastra. Thus, the Rasaprabha Teeka of RRS is a necessary and required book for individuals who wish to learn the fundamentals and in-depth details of Rasashastra and is regarded as one of the most important reference books.

Key words: Rasa Ratna Samuchchaya, Rasa Vagbhatta, Rasaprabha Teeka, Dr.Indradev Tripathi

INTRODUCTION

In Rasashastra we study about Mercury along with number of metals, minerals, gems and animal product and many plants. The primary goal behind the development of Rasashatra is Dehavada (living a long and healthy life through the use of formulations created from mercury and other metals and minerals). Later this knowledge was applied for Lohavada (the transformation of lower metals into valuable metals

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Submission Date: 08/02/2023 Accepted Date: 15/03/2023 Access this article onlin

Quick Response Code		
	Website: www.jaims.in	
	DOI: 10.21760/jaims.8.4.14	

like gold and silver). It is clear from the history that 8th Century was the golden era of Rasashastra due to contribution of Nagarjuna. Rasa Ratna Samucchaya was written by Rasavagbhatta in 13th century. He was son of Singhgupt. The period of Rasavaghbhata is exactly not clear. However, given that it includes quotations from the Kings of Karwal, Nityanath Siddha, and Singhan as well as accepts the ideas presented in Rasendra Chudamani and Rasaprakash Sudhakar, one might assume that *Rasavaabhatta* complete this work in the 13th century. The book RRS denotes a compilation (Samucchaya) of Ratna (gems) i.e., priceless wisdom of Rasashastra. It is commonly used by scholars as the primary textbook of Rasashastra classics. The themes of Rasa Ratna Samucchaya were mostly inspired by Rasendra Chudamani. Rasaprabha teeka written by Dr.Indradev Tripathi. It is Hindi commentary of RRS. This Teeka consists total 30 chapters. In this manuscript author has focused on the compile to all 30 chapters. The 30 chapters can be divided into 2 parts. The first 11 chapters give information about Rasashastra and the

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pharmaceutical processes of metals and minerals. Remaining chapters provide information about formulations for treatment of various diseases. These 19 chapters briefly discuss about histology, symptoms, and various disease categories while providing detailed descriptions of many herbal, metallic, and mineral formulations. The beauty of this *Teeka*, there are many herbo mineral formulations for disease. The content of each chapter summarized in Tables 1 respectively.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The book has been reviewed chapter wise. Summary of each chapter is mentioned as below.

CHAPTER 1

Acharya Rasavagbhata starts the first chapter with Mangalacharana where worshipped Lord Shiva. This chapter give a description of the 27 Rasa Siddhas, information about the *Himalaya*,^[1] five different types of Rasapooja (worship). The speciality of parad described siddherasekarishyami as Nirdaridyagadamjagat.^[2] The superiority of Rasayana made from Rasa, and the origins of the five different Parada varieties from the five Kupa (wells) are all provided. Loha is not described in the order of merging "Kashthosdhayonagenagevangam".^[3] Due to effectiveness of *parad* a common man become Devtulyabalayushh (powerful and long life like as Lord),^[4] and origin of *Hingula* is detailed.^[5]

CHAPTER 2

Abhraka (Mica), Vaikranta (Turmuly), Makshika (Copper pyrite), Vimala (Iron pyrite), Shilajatu (Compound of mineral oil), Sasyaka, Chapala (Bismuth), Kharpara (Smithsonite and calamite) eight Maharasa^[6] (eight metals that are thought to be superior in processing mercury) are covered in this chapter, along with information on their types, acceptable variety, therapeutic properties, and procedure of purification and calcination processes. Abhraka described as Gauriteja (semen of parvati).^[7] Worship of God Vinayaka and Bhairava at the collection site of Vaikranta.^[8]

CHAPTER 3

This chapter deals with the description of Gandhashma (Sulphar), Gairika, Kasisa, Kankshi (Sphatika), Tala (Haratala), Shila (Manahshila), Anjana, Kankushtha 8 Uparasas.^[9] Their origin, types, Grahyalakshana, Guna, Karma, Shodhana, Marana, Satvapatana, dose, Anupana, Rogaghnata and Doshaghnata has been explained in this chapter. Three types of *Gandhak* are Shukchanchunibha, mentioned Peetvarn and Shuklavarn.^[10] In Kasisa Shodhan Pitta and Striraja are mentioned for Bhavana.^[11] Shyamangi, Kanveerka and Khandakhya these 3 types of Manahshila are described.^[12] Kankushtha origin described as Sadyojata Dantinh Varch.^[13] The description of 8 Sadharana rasa are Kampillaka, Gauripashana, Navasadara, Kaparda, Vahnijara, Girisindoora, Hingula and *Mriddarashringa*.^[14] *Patana Yantra* described for Hingula Satvapatan.^[15] Common Satvashodhana method mentioned with Suddhivarg Darvya.[16]

CHAPTER 4

Eight different *Ratna* (gems) and five best *Ratnas*, their relation to specific planets described and their types, *Guna*, *Shodhana*, *Marana*, *Satva* also described. Five types of *Ratnadosha* are mentioned.^[17] Specific *Dravya* mentioned for specific *Ratna Shodhan*.^[18]

CHAPTER 5

In RRS first time detailed and systematic classification of Lauhas (metals) found. The methods of conversion of lower metals into precious metals are not given but their types, attributes, purification, calcination and indications of each Lauha are mentioned. Five types of Swarna are mentioned with their origin description.^[19] Marakdrvyas are described for Lauhas.^[20] Garbha for the Yantra mentioned preparation of Somnathitamrabhasma.^[21] Detail description of Maritani Lohani Rasibhavanti.[22] Detail description of *Bhunagsatvapatna* method mentioned and 1/12th part Shuddha Tamra Bhasma used in it.^[23]

CHAPTER 6

This chapter details about quality of *Guru, Shishya, Anuchara, Ayogya Shishya Lakshana* and duties of *Shishya* has been mentioned. Name of *Uparasa* and

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Maharasa, location and establishment of Rasashala, preparation of Rasalinga, method of worship of Rasalinga are mentioned in detail.

CHAPTER 7

In this chapter detail description about site for *Rasashala Nirmana, Chalanibheda* (type of sieve), synonyms of *Upala*, materials required for preparation of *Kupi, Chashaka, Pricharaka Lakshana, Amrita Hasta* and *Dagda Hasta Vaidyalakshana*. Persons suitable for *Dhatuvada* are mentioned.^[24]

CHAPTER 8

Kajjali means a black coloured powder, but when this word is used in *Rasashastra*, it means black sulphide of mercury prepared from definite proportions of Mercury and Sulphur. So terminology is an essential part of *Rasashastra* because meaning of a word or collection of words may be quite simple in day to day affairs but could be totally different technically. This chapter contains 78 terms which were originally defined by *Somadeva* in his famous treatise *Rasendrachudamani*.

CHAPTER 9

This chapter provides information on 33 different *Yantra* (instruments) required in *Rasashala*.

CHAPTER 10

This chapter gives information about 17 types of *Musha* (crucibles), 4 types of *Koshthi* (furnace), 10 types of *Puta* (various sized pits) for calcination of metals and minerals and their manufacturing. 24 frequently used terminology are mentioned in this chapter and six types of *Lauhs* are described.

CHAPTER 11

This chapter explains various units of measurements and 8 *Parada Samskara* (eight basic processing steps of mercury), 25 *Parada Bandhas* (stable mercury). 8 type methods of *Paradamarana* (incineration of mercury) detailed in this chapter. Intake process of *Paradabhasma* mentioned and *Pathya* and *Apathya* during the consumption of *Parada* has been detailed. In the end of this chapter *Devishastrokta* and *Shrikrishnadevokta Kakaradigana* explained.^[25]

CHAPTER 12 TO 25

Total 64 diseases (*Jwara, Kasa, Shwasa, Kshaya, Hikka, Visha Chikitsa* etc.) explained in these chapters with their pathology, types and symptoms and description of many useful formulations. All formulations present the therapeutic aspects of *Rasashastra*.

CHAPTER 26 & 27

Chapter 26th related to *Jara Roga* (geriatric diseases), *Rasayana* (rejuvenation) and chapter 27th are devoted to *Vajikarana* (aphrodisiac therapy). 63 herbal and herbo-mineral formulations are described in these chapters.

CHAPTER 28

In this chapter total 30 *Lauha (Swarn, Rajata, Tamra* etc.) *Kalpa* (formulations) are described with devoted to many diseases.

CHAPTER 29

This chapter detailed about many *Visha Kalpa* (formulations prepared from poisonous drugs) w.s.r. to many diseases and many types of *Visha* are mentioned.

CHAPTER 30

Many Parada Bhasma Kalpa (formulations of calcinated mercury) and Parada Jarana also mentioned in this chapter. Apthaya (incompatible food) during Rasa Sevan (intake of mercurial formulations) and Achararasayana are detailed.^[26]

Table 1: Brief description of main subjective matter inchapters no. 1-30 of RRS

Chapte numbe		Total number of formulations	Total number of Shloka
1.	Detailed description of <i>Parada</i>	-	88

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2.	List of <i>Maharasa</i> and various process of their <i>Sodhana</i> and <i>Marana</i>	-	162
3.	List of <i>Uparasa</i> and <i>Sadharanarasa</i> along with various process of their <i>Sodhana</i> and <i>Marana</i>	4	158
4.	Detailed description of <i>Ratna</i>	-	84
5.	Detailed description of Ashta-Lauha	5	243
6.	Qualities of good student and method of worshiping in pharmacy	-	64
7.	Blue print of pharmacy and qualities required in staff	-	37
8.	Definitions of terms frequently used in <i>Rasashastra</i>	-	101
9.	Introduction of instruments	-	87
10.	Description, method of preparation and uses of <i>Musha, koshti</i> and puta used in <i>Rasashastra</i>	-	97
11.	Measurements and Parada-ashta Samskara	-	135
12.	Jvarachikitsa	38	150
13.	Raktapittachikitsa	38	96
14.	Rajayakshmachikitsa	26	100
15.	Arshachikitsa	21	88
16.	Udavarta, Atisara, Sangrahani, Ajirnachikitsa	44	158
17.	Mutrakrichhra and Prameha chikitsa	47	142

18.	Vidradhi, Vrddhiroga, Gulma, Sula, Karşhya, Sthaulya, Amlapitta and Pittaroga chikitsa	59	221
19.	Udara, Paṇḍu and Kamala chikitsa	31	109
20.	Visarpa and Kustha Chikitsa	89	227
21.	Aşţamahagada Chikitsa	63	193
22.	Bandhyatva, Garbhiniroga, Sutikaroga and Balaroga chikitsa	84	167
23.	Unmada and Apasmara Chikitsa	52	89
24.	Karna, Nasa, Mukha, Shiroroga and Bhagna Chikitsa	104	144
25.	Kshudraroga, Lingaroga and Visha Chikitsa	102	125
26.	Jarachikitsa	29	59
27.	Vajikarana	34	144
28.	Lauha Kalpa vivechana	30	104
29.	Vishakalpa vivechana	76	161
30.	Rasakalpa, Achara Rasayana, Characteristics, need and importance of Vaidya	60	138

DISCUSSION

All the eight branches of *Ayurveda* described by very few texts (*Asţanga Sangraha* etc.). In *Rasashastra* RRS is only text which covers all eight branches of *Ayurveda*, although it mainly deals with therapeutic aspects of *Rasashastra*. In this *Theeka* the author has done hindi translation of 30 chapters of *Rasaratna Samuchchaya*. The systematic arrangement the subject of RRS is briefly summarized in Table 1. First 11

ISSN: 2456-3110

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chapters deals with basic principle of Rasashastra and remaining 19 chapters briefly discuss about histology, symptoms, and various disease with detailed descriptions of many herbal, metallic, and herbomineral formulations. Parada is considered superior among Rasa Dravyas in Rasashastra. So, 1st chapter details about origin, types and worship of Parada. On the basis of utility of drugs in processing of Parada, they are classified in to Maharasa, Uparasa and Sadharana Rasa. Thus chapter no. 2nd and 3rd detailed as Maharasa, Uparasa and Sadharana Rasa with their origin, types, Shodhana, Marana etc. In these chapters colour of many Bhasma and Satva mentioned. Chapter no. 4th and 5th deals with *Ratnas* and *Lohas*. *Ratnas* are prior mentioning because of they require more processing and are more precious than Lohas. 6th chapter deals with detail description Shishya, Guru and Anucharapareeksha (qualities of attender to be appointed in Rasashala). Qualities of student and attendant mentioned in RRS are very closely to the description available Ashtanga Sangraha. Chapter 7th details about blueprint for present era Good Manufacturing Practice (G.M.P) guidelines. Location of Rasashala, required equipment's, raw materials used for the manufacturing of Rasaushadhi are mentioned in this chapter. For the better understanding of Paradakarma and Samskara there many technical terms described in the 8th chapter. Term Dhauta explained as Bhubhujangashakrita^[27]. Chapter 9th compiled and elaborated as Yantranirupanam with detail description of 33 types of different Yantra (instruments). Marana process done before using all Rasadravyas as therapeutically. For completion of this purpose description of different type of Musha, Koshti and *Puta* has been given in 10th chapter. In the 11th chapter, the commentator has added Manaparkarana (Measurements), various pharmaceutical details regarding Parada Samskara and Parada Bandha. By the end of this chapter, Pathya-Apathya during Parada Sevana has also been mentioned to get the desired benefit of Parada. Chapter 12 to 25 explained much disease with their pathology, types and symptoms and description of many formulations. Many classical texts like Sushruta, Ashtanga Sangraha, Ashtanga Hridaya and Chakradatta mentioned Kshudrarogas (minor skin

diseases). It's very difficult to say that these *Kshudrarogas* directly taken from which text. The last three chapters are the most beautiful in this book since they contain sufficient information to a doctor as an expert in the field of disease treatment using only *Lauha Kalpa, Visha Kalpa,* or *Parada Bhasma* respectively.

CONCLUSION

In this *Theeka, Theekakara* done hindi translation of RRS. This work contains a comprehensive summary of all relevant material concerning RRS, hence it is anticipated that it will prove to be an important contribution to the field of *Rasashastra*. Thus, the *Rasaprabha Teeka* of RRS is a necessary and required book for individuals who wish to learn the fundamentals and in-depth details of *Rasashastra* and is regarded as one of the most important reference books.

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How to cite this article: Hemant Kumar Chandolia, Neha Verma, Deepa Dhakad, Govind Sahay Shukla, Rajaram Agrawal, Manisha Goyal. Critical review of Rasa Ratna Samuchchaya w.s.r. to its Rasaprabha Teeka. J Ayurveda Integr Med Sci 2023;04:86-91. http://dx.doi.org/10.21760/jaims.8.4.14

Source of Support: Nil, Conflict of Interest: None declared.

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