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A Critical Appraisal on *Rasagrantha - Rasendrabhaskara*

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ABSTRACT

Rasashastra is the important and popular branch of *Ayurveda* which gained its existence from 7th century A.D. Plenty of the literature is available on *Rasashastra* till date but still the thirst of gaining the knowledge regarding the literature of *Rasashastra* remains unquenched. This may be due to lack of comparative knowledge of concepts from various texts. *Rasendra Bhaskara* is one of the rare text from the stream of *Rasashastra* which many of the readers may haven't come across. This paper gives a framework regarding the author, period, chapters, contributions, salient features and pitfalls of the text *Rasendrabhaskara* which may help the reader to have a brief idea of text.

Key words: *Rasashastra, Rasagrantha, Rasendrabhaskara.*

INTRODUCTION

- The *Rasendrabhaskara* is one of the text related to the *Rasashatra* stream which is a recent one.
- It contains 12 chapters, which are termed as *Mayukha* by the author.
- It is a compiled book on *Rasashastra*
- It is available in single volume.

Author

- The author of present text is *Acharya Laxminarayana Sharma* from Dhoola village, near Jaipur in Rajasthan.
- Author claims that he was born in the hierarchy of sage Vasishth, the family priest of Lord Shree Ramachandra.

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- He claims his grandfather as Acharya Bhavani Prasad and father as Vaidya Rajakumar.

Period

- The present text was compiled in *Vikram Samvat* 1952 means in Georgian calendar it matches to 20th century.

Publication

- It was first published by Khemraj, Venkateshwar Steam Press, Bombay in the year 1911.
- It was republished by Chaukhamba Orientalia, Varanasi in the year 2009 with hindi translation by Dr. Siddhinandan Mishra and Dr. K.K. Zala.
- Recently this book was reprinted in the year 2015.

Content of the book

Rasendrabhaskara contains 12 chapters which are termed as *Mayukha* which literally means a ray of light.

Chapter 1: It is termed as *Upodhaatamayukha*. This chapter begins with *Mangalacharana*, Names of all chapters, *Vamsha Parichaya*, *Sishya Lakshanas* and *Parada Prashamsa* have been discussed here.

Chapter 2: It is termed as *Rasamayukha*: Its origin, importance, method of collection, synonyms, classification based on colour and *Jaati*, *Samskaaranirukti*, *Graahya-Agrahya Lakshanas*, *Doshas*, *Shodhana*, *Samskaara*, *Maarana*, *Maatra*,

Pathya-apathya, Apakwa Parada Sevana and its treatment has been dealt. *Rasakarpoora* and *Rasasindhura* has been dealt here.

Chapter 3: It is termed as *Uparasamayukha*. 20 drugs are described as *Uparasa*. *Gandhaka, Hingula, Abhraka, Talaka, Shila, Srotonjana, Tankana, Rajavartaka, Chumbaka, Sphatika, Shankha, Khatika, Gairika, Kaseesa, Rasaka, Kaparda, Sikata, Bola, Kankushta, Saurashtri*, are dealt in detail. Also the treatment for the ill effects caused due to intake of impure form of these drugs is told individually.

Chapter 4: It is termed as *Dhatumayukha*. Seven *dhatu*s have been mentioned here. *Hema, Rajata, Loha, Taamra, Naaga, Vanga, Yashada* are described in detail.

Chapter 5: It is termed as *Upadhatu-Mayukha*. Seven *Upadhatu* are described here. *Swarnamakshika, Rajatamakshika, Tuttha, Kamsya, Pittala, Sindhura, Shilajatu*. Author states that one can use *Upadhatus* in the absence of *Dhatu*s.

Chapter 6: It is termed as *Ratna Mayukha: Manikya, Mukta, Pravala, Tarkshya, Pushparaga, Vajra, Nilam, Gomeda, Vaidurya, Lakshanas, Samanya Shodhana and Marana* is told. *Vajra, Pravala* and *Mukta* are described in detail.

Chapter 7: It is termed as *Uparatnamayukha*. *Vaikranta, Suryakanta, Chandrakanta, Raajaavarta* are described in this chapter.

Chapter 8: It is termed as *Visha Mayukha*: Chapter deals with origin, Synonyms of *Vishadravyas*. Total 9 *Vishas* are enlisted such as *Vatsanabha, Haridra, Saktuka, Pradeepana, Sourashtrika, Shrunji, Kaalakoota, Haalahala, Brhamaputra*. *Vatsanabha* is described in detail i.e. the *Shodhana, Marana, Dosha* and *Chikitsa*.

Chapter 9: It is termed as *Upavisha Mayukha: Arka, Snuhi, Dhatura, Langali, Karaviraka, Gunja, Ahiphena, Kupeelu, Jayapaala* are dealt individually.

Chapter 10: It is termed as *Yantra, Moosha, Puta Mayukha*: 15 *Yantras*, 11 *Putas* and *Vajramoosha* is described in this chapter.

Chapter 11: It is termed as *Rasaushadhinirmaana Mayukha*: Nine important *Rasayogas* have been dealt in the chapter.

Chapter 12: It is termed as *Parishishtamayukha*. Here, *Somalautpatti* and *Shodhana, Guggulu Shodhana, Bhanga* and *Bhallataka* are described.

Salient feature of the text

- Text contains 830 verses.
- He has compiled the text in poetry form.
- *Acharya* has mentioned the *Utpatti* of *Dhatu, Upadhatu*, which can be seen in various *Rasa Grantha* in scattered form.
- Quotes *Parada* as *Nityamahotsava*.
- Mentions the *Parada Bhasma Laxana* in unique form.
- Author has mentioned 20 *Uparasa*.
- Author has mentioned the treatment of *Apakwa Bhasma Sevana Janya Vikara*.

Pitfalls of the text

- *Paribhasha Prakarana* is not dealt.
- Only very few *Yogas* are described.
- Concept of *Bandha, Paradeeya Kalpanas* such as *Pottali* and *Parpati* is not dealt.
- Text lacks the practical difficulties which arise during practical.
- Concept of *Jangama Dravya* has not been highlighted.

DISCUSSION

- It is a compiled text on *Rasashastra* which was compiled in 20th century.
- Book is compiled by *Acharya Laxminarayana Sharma*, son of *Shri Rajakumar* of *Dhoula* village near *Jaipur*.
- It contains 12 chapters named as *Mayukha* with 830 verses.
- This book provides a good quantum of knowledge for a *Rasasadhaka*.

- The concept of *Anupana* in the context of *Rasasindhura* and *Vatsanabha* boosts the efficacy of drugs in treatment of diseases.

Critical approach

- Acharya has compiled this book as many verses are taken from the ancient texts like *Rasarnava*, *Rasahridaya Tantra*, *Rasaratnakara*, *Rasaratna Samucchaya*, *Rasendra Chintamani*, *Rasendra Chudamani* and *Rasaparaksha Sudhakara*.
- Process of *Parada Utpatti* and *Parada Grahana* has been taken from *Rasaratna Samucchaya*.
- Concept of *Anupana* has been taken from *Bhaishajya Ratnavali*.

- This small book provides a good stuff of knowledge regarding *Rasashastra* in a short period of time.

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