

Book Review**“Review on Rasatarngini”****Dr. Kranti Khekale****Dr. Mahesh Inamdar****Dr. Vijay Dange**

Introduction:

Rasashastra deals with preparation of Rasaaushahi (formulation) from metal and mineral origins. In Rasaushadhies preparation involves various complex procedures like Shodhana (Purification), Bhavana (Levigation), Marana (Incineration) etc. These processes are defined to great extents in various classical texts of Rasashastra. Rasatarangini is an authoritative text on Rasashastra and contains all the details of various procedures involved in drug preparation. It is considered to be the last classical text

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pertaining to Rasashastra written in modern period. About **The author, period and chapters Author and place**

Rasatarangini was written by Pranacharya Sadananda Sharma. He belongs to an ethnic Garhwali Brahmin family of originally Ghildiyal family name.

His father name - Pandit Jeevananda

Mother name - Saraswati Devi.

Resident -At: Khola Gram located near Srinagar which is under Garhwal Mandala.(Presently in Srinagar which is a municipal board in Pauri Garhwal district,state of Uttarakhand.) This can probably explain the relation of author writing a text on Rasashastra.

Period

The author states that written work of Rasatarangini was completed by him on Chaitra Trayodhashi, Vikram Samvat 1980. In terms of Gregorian calendar, it corresponds to 3rd March 1924, on the day of Maha Shivratri.

Book and chapters

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Sadananda Sharma has dedicated Rasatarangini to his teacher, Kaviraj Narendra Nath Mitra. The text is written in poetry form throughout. Foreword of the text is written by Sadananda Sharma. Hindi preface is written by Dharmananda shastra. The book is completed in it and contains 24 chapters terms as “Taranga” encompassing 3651 verses.

Editor, Publisher and commentaries

The book is edited by- Shri Kashinath Shastri

Published by -Motilal Banarsidas Publishers

Printed by -Shri Jainendra Press, New Delhi

Edition -11th was published in 1976

Reprint Edition - 1982.

This particular edition has been taken into consideration for writing this article.

Prasadini Sanskrit commentary on Rasatarangini is written by Shri hari Dutt Shastri

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Hindi commentary -Rasa Vigyan by Pandit Dharmananda Shastri. Sadananda sharma has named the chapters of the text as taranga. total 24 taranga (chapters) encompasses rasatarangini. Complete text is written in rhythmic pattern.

1st Taranga (Rasashala Vigyaniya)

Author commences with salutation to Goddess Parvati through various synonyms. He then reveres his parents and tutor. It follows the description of Rasashala (Pharmacy), divisions of pharmacy, instruments and equipments of pharmacy, characteristic features of pharmacy workers, subordinates, Rasacharya (Chief Pharmacist) and his disciples. This chapter also contains names of 25 Rasa Siddhas which are to be revered.

2nd Taranga(Paribhasha Vigyaniya)

Its contains explanation about various definitions (paribhasha) used in Rasashastra like Shodhana, Marana, Kajjali (mercuric sulphide), Parpati etc. It also contains Mana Paribhasha (measurements), definition of Dhanwantari Bhaga and Vishwasaghataka Vaidya.

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3rd Taranga (Mushadi Vigyaniya)

Its deals with process involved with preparation and utility of Musha (crucible). Description regarding 8 types of Musha excluding Samanya Musha, 2 Kosthika and 10 types of Puta (traditional furnace) is also found in this chapter.

4th Taranga (Yantra Vigyaniya)

In details about various Yantra (equipments and instruments) required during processing of various formulations. 19 Yantras have been described in this chapter. It gives details pertaining measurements and utility of various Khalva Yantras (Mortar and Pestle).

5th Taranga(Paradasya Astasamskara Vigyaniya)

It is important as it elaborates various processes involving Parada (mercury). It starts with description of Parada pertaining to its properties, appearance, blemishes, processes of purification, extraction of Parada from Hingula, 8 types of processing of Parada, Jarana, Shadguna Bali Jarana etc.

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6th Taranga (Murchhana Vigyaniya)

Its deals with process involving preparation of formulations containing Parada and Gandhaka (Sulfur). Method of preparation and posology of Mugdha Rasa, Rasa Pushpa, Rasa Karpura, Siktha Taila, Rasapushpadya Malhara, Kajjali, Parpati, Rasa Sindura (prepared in varying ratios of Parada and Gandhaka), Makaradhwaja and Sarvanga Sundara Rasa has been elaborated.

7th Taranga (Parada Marana Vigyaniya Saptama)

Its deals with various processes related to incineration of Parada. It also details about posology of Parada Bhasma. Concept of Kshetrikarana, Pathya Pathya in Rasa Sevana and measures to combat ill effects of Parada Bhasma are also highlighted in this chapter.

8th Taranga (Gandhaka Vigyaniya)

Its contains description regarding types, appearance, Shodhana, properties and dose of Gandhaka. Preparation of Gandhaka Malhara, Gandhaka Taila and Gandhaka Drava (Sulphuric acid) has been given in this chapter.

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9th Taranga (Hingula Vigyaniya)

Its deals with appearance and types of Hingula (HgS). It also describes the method for artificial Hingula preparation. Shodhana process for Hingula, method for preparation of Hinguladya Malhara, Daradamrita, Hinguliya Manikya Rasa etc has been described in this chapter.

10th Taranga (Abhraka Vigyaniya)

Its deals with synonyms, types, acceptable nature and processes of Shodhana, Marana, Amritikarna, Sattvapataana, dose and indications of Abhraka (Mica).

11th Taranga (Talakadi Vigyaniya)

Its deals with synonyms, types, acceptable nature and processes of Shodhana, Marana, dose and indications of Haratala (Arsenic trisulfide). It also elaborates the process of artificial Haratala preparation. Similar description of Manahshila (Arsenic disulfide), Gauripashana (arsenic trioxide), Sphatika (Alum), Khatika (calcium carbonate), Churna (lime), Dugdha Pashana and Godanti (calcium sulfate) is also found in this

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chapter. Preparation of Talakodaya Malhara, Rasamanikya, Haratala Sattvapata, Churnodaka (Lime water) etc. are also included in this chapter.

12th Taranga (Shankhadi Vigyaniya)

deals with synonyms, types, acceptable nature, and process of Shodhana, Marana, dose and indications of Shankha (conch shell), Shukti, Shambuka, Varatika, Mrigashringa and Samudraphena (No Marana). Preparation of Shankha Drava, Trirekha Varti, Shankha Varti etc. are also given in this chapter.

13TH Taranga (Ksharatrik Vigyaniya)

Its contains details about method of preparation, dosage and indications of Yavakshara, Sarjjikshara and Tankana. Nimbukamliya Yavaja (Sodium citrate), Nimbukamliya Sarjika (Potassium citrate), Tankanamla (Boric acid) are also described in this chapter.

14th Taranga (Ksharavisheshadi Vigyaniya)

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Its deals with description pertaining to Shodhana, properties and posology of different types of Kshara (alkalies) viz. Navasadara, Suryakshara, method of preparation, dose and indication of other alkali like Apamarga Kshara, Arka Kshara, Tila Kshara, Snuhi Kshara, Palasha Kshara and Chinchha Kshara. Properties of Saindhava, Samudra, Bid, Saurvachala, Romaka Lavana and Lavana Kalpana including Narikela Lavana and Arka Lavana are mentioned in this chapter. Preparatory method, dose and indication of Soraka Drava (Nitric acid) and Lavana Drava (Hydrochloric acid) are also listed in this chapter.

15thTaranga(Suvarna Vigyaniya)

Its begins with definition of Dhatu, cataloging 7 Dhatus followed by their Samanya Shodhana and Marana procedures. In later part of this chapter, synonyms, acceptable appearance, Shodhana, Marana, properties, dosage and indications of Swarna (gold) has been given. It also includes preparation of Swarna Lavana (gold salt).

16th Taranga (Rajata Vigyaniya)

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Its contains synonyms, acceptable appearance, Shodhana, Marana, properties, dosage and indications of Rajata (silver). It also includes preparation, properties and usage of Sorakamliya Rajata (Silver Nitrate) and Navasadara Bhaspa Drava (Liquor Ammonia).

17thTaranga (Tamra Vigyaniya)

Its contains synonyms, acceptable appearance, types, Shodhana, Marana, Amritikarana, properties, dosage and indications of Tamra (copper) followed by description of few formulations containing Tamra. Bhunaga Satva Patana and Mayura Piccha Sattva Patana are also described

18thTaranga (Vanga Vigyaniya)

Its contains synonyms, types, acceptable appearance, Shodhana, Marana, properties, dosage and indications of Vanga (tin). It also includes preparation, properties and usage of Swarna Vanga.

19th Tarang (Sisakadi Vigyaniya)

Its deals with synonyms, acceptable appearance, Shodhana, Marana, properties, dosage and indications of Naga (lead). It also includes

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preparation, properties and usage of Arnaliya Sisaka (Lead acetate) and Kanjikamla (Acetic acid). This chapter also contains synonyms, acceptable appearance, Shodhana, Marana, properties, dosage and indications of Yashada. Preparation of Yashadmrita Malhara, and usage of Gandhakamliya Yashada (Zinc Sulphate) is also given.

20th Tarang (Lauhadi Vigyaniya)

deals with synonyms, types, acceptable appearance, Shodhana, Marana, properties, dosage and indications of Lauha (iron) and Mandura (iron oxide).

21th Tarang (Updhatvadi Vigyaniya)

Its deals with synonyms, acceptable appearance, Shodhana, Marana, Sattva Patana, properties, dosage and indications of Swarna Makshika (copper pyrite) and Rajata Makshika. Detailed description about Tutha (copper sulfate), its properties, Sattva Patana, utility, artificial preparation has been also dealt with in this chapter. Further description of Sindoor, and

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Mriddarasringa, Kharpara, Kanta Pashana (load stone) and Kasisa (ferrous sulfate) are found in this chapter.

22th Taranga (Mishralohadi Vigyaniya)

Its deals with medicinal properties and processes pertaining to alloys viz. Pittala (brass) and Kamsya (bronze) followed by description of Anjana, Shilajatu (black bitumen) and Gairika.

23rd Tarang (Ratna Vigyaniya)

It is concerned with medicinal properties and techniques involved in Shodhana and Marana of 9 Ratnas (gem stones) viz. Heeraka, Manikya, Mukta, Pushparaga, Neelam, Tarkshya, Vaidurya, Gomeda and Pravala. 6 Kshudra Ratna has also been mentioned viz. Vaikranta, Suryakanta, Chandrakanta, Rajavarta, Perojaka and Sphatika.

24th Taranga (Vishopavishadi Vigyaniya)

its deals with Shodhana, medicinal properties and posology of various poisons of herbal origin along with Snake poison. Herbal poisons mentioned are Vatsanabha (Aconite), Kuchala (Nux vomica), Ahiphen

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(Papaver somniferum), Jayapala (Croton tiglium), Dhatura (Datura metel), Bhangra (Cannabia sativa), Gunja (Abrus precatorius), Bhallataka (Semecarpus anacardium), Karavira (Nerium indicum), Langli (Gloriosa superba), Arka Ksheera (latex of Calotropis gigantea) and Snuhi Ksheera (latex of Euphorbia neriifolia). 9 Visha including Vatsnabha and 11 Upavisha have been described. Preparation of Kshara Sutra, properties of snake poison, Shodhana of Rakta Chitraka, Vriddha Daraka, Nimbu Beeja, Hingu and Guggulu is given. Various formulations containing these poisonous plants have been described for medicinal purpose. The author gives description regarding period of completion of this book in last chapter. Later translators have added a Hindi Parishista consisting of few formulations in the end of the book.

On over viewing the text, it is clear that Acharya Sadananda Sharma has mentioned only those procedures which are realistic and feasible in present scenario.

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He has learned the processes from his tutor and then only included them in this book.

He makes no astounding claims for his repertory of medicines.

Unique property of text lies in exhaustive list of therapeutic indication with proper Sahapana and Anupana (dietary adjuvant).

He has omitted the mythical part of Rasashastra, comprising of metal transformation of lower metals to gold, 18 Samskaras, Divaushadhis, Bandhas etc.

This gives more practical and realistic approach to the subject.

He has also avoided mentioning the unnecessary varieties of different Rasa Dravyas for example he mentions only on type of Gandhaka.

It is a deviation from previous texts.

He enumerates many synonyms of Rasa Dravyas.

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He has not classified the drugs as routinely under Maharasa, Uparasa etc. Rather he has stuck to more scientific background for classification of Rasa Dravyas.

He has placed all arsenicals in tarang 11 and other bearing similar resemblance like Khatika, Sphatika and Godanti are also placed in same tarang.

All the Dravyas obtained from sea are placed in 12th tarang (calcium preparations).

Mandura has been placed in Lauha tarang to indicate presence of iron in it.

Ratnas and Visha Dravyas are separately placed.

Kasisa contains iron, so it has been placed under Upadhatu Varga.

Drugs of herbal origin like Kampillaka and Kamkustha have been excluded.

Similarly Agnijara has been omitted due to its no

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Acharya Sadananda Sharma has also mentioned artificial preparation of Hingula, Manahshila, Haratala etc.

He has Sanskritized few chemicals of modern chemistry and discussed their preparation and usage in detail in Ayurvedic conversation.

Few sanskritized terms notable to mention are Gandhakamliya Yashada, Sorakamliya Rajata, Soraka Drava, Lavana Drava etc

Conclusion:

Rasatangini can benefit the science and society because it is the most authentic and practically approach written on Rasashastra. Modern chemistry include in Rasashastra.