

A REVIEW ON VISHA VIJNANA

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ABSTRACT

Agada Tantra is one among *Ashtanga ayurveda* which is a specialized branch that deals with all aspects of *Visha* (poison) and its management. The text *Visha Vijana* hereby explores some hidden information which is in Kannada language where there is a need to make it understandable regarding *Agada Tantra* to knowledge seekers. It will also spread a light towards contribution of *Visha Vijnana* in the field of *Ayurveda*.

KEYWORDS: *Agada tantra, Visha, Visha Vijnana.*

INTRODUCTION

Agada Tantra is a branch of *Ashtanga Ayurveda* which deals with the poison and its management mainly through special formulations called *Agada yogas* (formulations) which are mentioned in classical texts. One among such work includes *Visha Vijnana* where it involves all the symptoms, classifications and treatments of various poisonous plants and animals and also that of artificial poison. Author tried to compare most of the objects to present day scenarios which helps to build an interest to read and adopt.

Visha Vijnana contains many agreeable opinions of the author which emphasizes the importance of the knowledge regarding *Agada Tantra* along with its applications.

REVIEW OF THE TREATISE^[1]**About author and his place**

Visha Vijnana is written by author H.Vijayendramurthy. He completed his L.A.M.S in Ayurveda College Mysore and got gold medal due to his academics. He became principal and C.M.O in SDM Ayurveda medical college, *Udupi*, in the year 1960. Not only in the teaching field but also he was well versed in practice and had treated many people with utmost care.

Book and chapters

Author was the devotee of Lord *Udupi Shri Krishna* and dedicated his work to the *Udupi Shri Puttige Mathadipathi Shri Shri Sujnanendra Tirtha*. The book is written in *Kannada* language and mentioned some of the *Sanskrit slokas* while explaining. The book is complete in it and contains two *Bhagas*(parts). Author has named the chapters of text as *Prakarana*.

Prathama Bhaga (First part)**Table.no.1**

Chapter no.	Name of the <i>Prakarana</i>	Topic preference
1	<i>Agada tantra</i>	Properties of poisoned food, ideal kitchen, ideal cook and guilty minded person.
2	<i>Sthavara visha</i>	Vegetable and mineral poison
3	<i>Jangama visha</i>	Animal poison
4	<i>Mooshika visha</i>	Rat poison
5	<i>Alarka visha</i>	Dog bite symptoms and management
6	<i>Keeta visha</i>	Insects poison
7	<i>Vrishchika visha</i>	Scorpion poison
8	<i>Loota visha</i>	Spider poison

Dwitiya bhaga (Second part)**Table.no.2**

Chapter no	Name of the chapter	Topic preference
1	Vegetable irritant poison	Its Symptoms and treatment

Edition and publication

The first edition of the book got published in the year 1964 and was printed by majestic press, *Tenkapet, Udupi*. This particular edition has been taken into consideration for writing this article.

Towards the content

A list of contents of the chapters of *Visha vijnana* is placed below for detailed information.

Prathama Prakarana -Agada tantra

In this context chapter commences with the *shanti mantra*, contains the definition of toxicology and sibling like relation between *Visha* (poison) and *Amrutha* (nectar). By mentioning the *sloka* from *Sushrutha Kalpa* he explained the protection of king thereby the importance regarding the protection of the food articles from poisoning, properties of ideal kitchen, ideal cook, guilty minded person and poisoned food articles.

Dwitiya prakarana-Sthavara visha

It includes the classification of poisons according to modern and *ayurvedic* view, sub classification of vegetable and mineral poison, its examples, symptoms, fatal dose, fatal period, properties of *Visha* and its pathophysiology, justification regarding the *Avyakta* rasa of *Visha* by taking the example of *Jala*, *Dooshivisha* and *Gara visha* and its treatment, examination techniques for *Gara visha* in present days, stages of *Sthavara visha* and stage wise treatment and antidote.

Trutiya prakarana-Jangama visha

Author mentioned 16 types of *Visha Adhishtana* and its examples, classification of snakes according to sex, caste, and modern view of classification, characteristic features of all kinds of snakes, the effects of its poison and the inauspicious symptoms of snake bite, classification according to bite marks, its stages and special treatments and its modern view.

Table.no.3

<i>Sarpa bheda</i>	number
<i>Linga bheda</i>	3
<i>Jaati bheda</i>	4
<i>Dosha bheda</i>	5
Modern	80

Chaturtha prakarana-Mooshika visha

This *Prakarana* contains information about *Mooshika* (rodents), classifications according to different authors, its poisonous symptoms and effects to the *Shareera* (body) and treatment of each type of rat poison and its modern view.

Panchama prakarana-Alarka visha

Chapter contains the symptoms of poisoned dog and its symptoms in human being when it bites, severity and critical treatment within the stipulated time period considering it as the emergency has been explained.

Shashtah prakarana-Keetakalpa

This *Prakarana* contains types of *Keeta* (insects), its local and generalized symptoms and management have been told with probable modern correlations.

Sarpakotha Janya Keeta Vargeekarana (classification of *Keeta* on the basis of putrefaction of dead serpents)

Table.no.4

<i>Darveekara sarpakotha janya</i>	18
<i>Mandala sarpakotha janya</i>	24
<i>Rajeemantha sarpakotha janya</i>	13
<i>Vaikaranja sarpakotha janya</i>	12
Total	67

Saptama prakarana-Vrischika visha

It comprises of 30 varieties of scorpions, its severity of symptoms and treatment protocols, treatment of mild variety of scorpion bite cases and its external applications.

Ashtama prakarana-Loota visha

This *Prakarana* contains the mythological origin of scorpions, its classifications, its symptoms according to *doshas*, the types and treatments of *Kashta Sadhya Loota Visha* and types of *Asadhya Lootas*.

Additionally author explained regarding I.P.C Sec 284 which is against the crime regarding *Gara Visha*, and the induction of poison and many ways of cruel world which intended to harm one another, drug act, different modes of poison administration, local and its generalized symptoms, its diagnosis, treatments, postmortem appearance of corrosive poisons like Sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, organic acids, carbolic acid, corrosive alkalis like phosphorus, iodine, borax, bromine, chlorine, metallic irritant poisons and additional matters regarding antimony, mercury, lead, zinc and copper.

Dwitiya Bhaga (Second part)**Vegetable irritant poisons**

In this context author explained regarding brief explanations of poisonous symptoms and treatment of croton tiglium, castor oil plant, bitter apple, marking nut, Madar, Abrus precatorious, plumbago rosea, eucalyptus oil, nugmet oil, turpentine, camphor, salicylic acid, santonin, ergot, mechanic irritant poisons and fungi and its classifications, animal irritant

poisons like cantharides, neurotoxic poisons, inebriant poisons, anesthetics, cerebral deliriant poison, spinal poisons, cardiac poisons, asphyxiants and classifications according to modern.

Agada yogas mentioned in the text

Table.no.5

sl.no	Name of the agada	Indication
1	<i>Kshara agada</i>	<i>Application in Vaadyas</i>
2	<i>Chandrodaya agada</i>	<i>Sarva Visha Chikitsa.</i>
3	<i>Vrushabha agada</i>	<i>Sarva Visha Chikitsa.</i>
4	<i>Tarkshya agada</i>	<i>Sarva Visha Chikitsa.</i>
5	<i>Sanjeevini agada</i>	<i>Sarva Visha Chikitsa.</i>
6	<i>Vamshatwagadi agada</i>	<i>Sarva Visha Chikitsa.</i>
7	<i>Maha agada</i>	<i>Mooshika Visha.</i>
8	<i>Maha sugandi agada</i>	<i>Loota visha and Sarpa visha</i>
9	<i>Dooshivishari agada</i>	<i>Dooshivisha</i>
10	<i>Ajita agada</i>	<i>Sarpa visha</i>
11	<i>Padmaka agada</i>	<i>Loota visha</i>
12	<i>Champaka agada</i>	<i>Loota visha</i>
13	<i>Mandaara agada</i>	<i>Loota visha</i>
14	<i>Gandamadana agada</i>	<i>Loota visha</i>

Number of formulations mentioned in each prakarana

Table.no.6

Sl.no	Name of the chapter	Formulations mentioned
1	<i>Agada tantra</i>	1
2	<i>Sthavara visha</i>	19
3	<i>Jangama visha</i>	30
4	<i>Mooshika visha</i>	28
5	<i>Alarka visha</i>	08
6	<i>Keeta visha</i>	09
7	<i>Vrischika visha</i>	19
8	<i>Loota visha</i>	22

Hidden matters of Visha Vijnana

- Concept of sibling relation between *Visha* and *Amrutha*.
- Importance of spiritual acts like *Homa*, *Havana*, *Kamadahana*, *Petluppu Dahana* etc. in olden days.
- Author mentioned about the consumption of died animal due to poisoned arrow within 40 minutes other than site of injury.
- Justification regarding *Avyakta Rasa* of *Visha*.
- Concept of examination of *Gara Visha* which is followed in some rural areas.

- Author told about the snakes, about laying eggs, its morphological changes after birth including the importance of fangs and different names given to the fangs and teeth.
- Mythological story of mongoose and snake.
- He mentioned the concept *Padupatri Sayibaba* who used to cure snake bite cases through *Garuda mantra*.

DISCUSSION

On over viewing the text it is clear that most of the contents are mentioned considering the present scenario in mind. Author tried to include not only the views of different *acharyas* but also correlation to the modern science. He tried to include most of the vegetable, mineral and animal poisons, their effects, symptoms, diagnosis and managements as much as possible. Author quoted many similes in a beautiful way to make understand of the concept and thereby tried to enhance the curiosity and interest of the readers. The matter of text resembles the waves of a river which possesses the capacity and knowledge to guide the ailing through various dangerous effects of poisons. The text is sound as far as its grammatical and literary aspects are concerned, which reveals the author's great interest in literary display.

In 1st chapter he has told about the protection of king by the efficient *Visha Vaidhyas* by mentioning the properties of food through which poisons can be induced along with ideal kitchen and ideal cook. As most of the poison is induced through food he has kept about *Sthavara Visha* in 2nd chapter followed by *Jangama Visha* in 3rd chapter in which he explained mainly snake poison and their managements, thereafter author gave awareness regarding *Mooshika visha*, *Alarka visha*, *Keeta visha*, *Vrishchika visha* and *Lootha visha* in further 4th to 8th chapter with their respective management as those are the means of poisoning to the human body through bites and other modes which come under *Sthavara visha* itself. As author is very keen about present day matters, he further added about punishment regarding *Gara visha*; a concept which is followed even in present days as an evil act with all other kind of corrosive acids and alkalis in the end of 8th chapter. Author took some commonly used poisons which are accidental or intentional usage which harm the body like vegetable irritant and animal irritant poisons with their managements. The book even though consists of smaller number of pages but it includes most of the important contents in it.

CONCLUSION

Visha Vijnana is the bundle of knowledge with respect to the treatment of various poisons in general and specific including reference of many *Samhitas*. It is a mere attempt to make accessible for those who do not understand Kannada. This book is indeed a treasure of wide knowledge in practical aspect both in *ayurvedic* and modern way which is a deliberate attempt to show the importance of treatment. It includes the way of treatment from earlier era till present day which in turn put a light on the importance of *Agada Tantra* in *Ayurveda*.

REFERENCES

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