

# Visha Vaidya Vijnana - A book review

Dr. Ahana A. Jain<sup>1</sup>, Dr.Suresh Y<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>PG Scholar, PG Department of Agada Tantra,

Alvas Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital, Moodubidire, Karnataka

<sup>2</sup>Professor, PG Department of Agada Tantra,

Alvas Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital, Moodubidire, Karnataka

**Abstract**—Among the eight branches of Ayurveda, Agada tantra is one among them. Many manuscripts exclusively related to Agada tantra written in Malyalam language are available in Kerala. Among them few were translated into other regional languages. ‘Visha Vaidya Vijnana’ is one such book translated to tulu language, which explains mainly about the types, lakshana, and treatment principles of visha in humans and animals. The information about dosage of drugs (Aushadha), dhoota lakshana (Features of messenger/caretaker), diet (Pathya), visha pareeksha (Examination of poison), techniques of catching snakes etc., are also available in this book.

**Index Terms**— Aushadha,dhootha lakshana,visha,visha pareeksha

## I. INTRODUCTION

Agada tantra, one among eight branches of Ayurveda, explains about the different types of visha, lakshana and its treatment modalities. The Brihatrayi provides a comprehensive and insightful explanation on the concept of visha (poison) and its therapeutic management.

Kerala's unique geography, with its dense evergreen forests having both humans and a wide range of venomous creatures like insects, snakes shaped the evolution of Visha Chikitsa (poison treatment) into a distinct practice<sup>1</sup>. This helped in making the fusion of classical samhita knowledge with traditional Dravidian approaches, resulting in a practical, principle-based system using locally available indigenous medicines.

In the modern era, it is essential to critically examine and scientifically validate traditional knowledge for global relevance. But many texts written in regional languages have been neglected. Out of those one such is, ‘Visha Vaidya Vijnana’ which is available in tulu

language. This review aims to bring it into focus for literary research.

## II. ABOUT THE BOOK

‘Visha Vaidya Vijnana’ is the Tulu translated version of the Malyalam manuscript ‘Visha Vaidya’, collected by Aakaavil Kunjiraman in 1800. Book contains 23 chapters<sup>2</sup>. They are:

Table no.1: Chapters in the book

1.Visha Vaidya Vijnana
2.Shastriya Kaalamanada Alathe krama
3.Dhootha Lakshana Vijnana
4.Visha Ucchuleda Koolida Vidhakulu
5.Nagara (Darvikara) Ucchuda Sanchara
6.Manushyana jeevodippuna Amrithakale and Vishakale
7.Vishak Mardh Korpina krama
8.Sarpa Vamsha Bokka Aya Vibhago
9.Visha Erdh Mathi Tatthunda Ayag Jeeva Unda Ijja Pandh Theriyuna Vidhana
10. Nagana Vishak Mardh
11.Kandhodidha Vishak Mardh
12.Kadambaledha Vishak Mardh
13.Elitha Vishak Mardh
14.Kombatheldha Vishak Mardh
15.Chalya Vishak Mardh
16.Shardhulatha Vishak Mardh
17.Jigane Vishak Mardh
18.Thoddedha Vishak Mardh
19.Ucchu Gidapuna Mardh
20.Samanya Visha Mardh
21.Seekdaklena Thinasu
22.Visha Pareekshe
23.Ucchu Patthere

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‘Times of Kudla Tulu Patrike’, Beauty Plaza, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Balmata road, Mangalore.

### III. ABOUT THE AUTHOR

In 1800, Aakaavil Kunjiraman from Talassery, Kerala took the manuscript named 'Visha Vaidhya' from his father. This manuscript was written on the basis of topics that were related to visha and its treatment and this information was obtained from the Grantha named 'Khagendra Mani Darpana'. This grantha was written during the period of king named 1 Mugaraja in 12<sup>th</sup> century. In 1930, Aakaavil Kunjiraman's son, poet E.V.P Ramunni printed this manuscript in Malyalam version. The poet E.V.P Ramunni was working in the office of D.C Jogappa in South Canara. Hence by the help of the people from Karnataka, E.V.P Ramunni translated the Malyalam version of Visha Vaidya into Kannada in 1942. But unfortunately, this kannada version is found nowhere now. With the intention of providing information about the contents of that manuscript to the people, Aditya Prasad, grandson of E.V.P Ramunni and son of Pranav Prasad has translated the Malyalam manuscript 'Visha Vaidya' into Tulu language by the help of 'Times of Kudla' in 2019.

### IV. CONTENTS OF THE BOOK

#### Chapter 1. Visha Vaidya Vijnana

This is the introduction chapter of the book. It explains about the 2 types of Visha; Sthavara visha and Jangama Visha. The examples of these visha are given. In recent days, practicing Visha Chikitsa is very rear. Hence the probable reason for this is told that, in olden days, people had a belief that, 'A visha vaidya should not expect the fruitful result in his treatment, if he expects, it won't give any result'. The Vaidya who doesn't know to treat the poisonous condition is called as Janadrohi, Dumb, one who is having less life span, poorva vairi(enemy), and one who is having neecha swabhava.

#### Chapter 2. Shastriya Kaalamanada Alathe krama (Ancient Dosage form of the drugs):

This chapter explains about the dosage of the different drug formulations.

#### Chapter 3. Dhootha Lakshana Vijnana (Features of messenger/caretaker)

This chapter explain about the dhoota lakshana, Visha Vaidya Jyothishya Nakshatra Vijnana, Visha vaidya shakuna. Kashta sadhyatha in treating the visha if it is

increased in certain part of our body like scalp,throat, chest,heel,eye,forehead, nose and shoulder

#### Chapter 4. Visha Ucchuleda Koolida Vidhakulu (Types of fangs of poisonous snakes)

This chapter explains about the type of fangs that is Karaali,Makari, Kaalaratri,Yamadhothi and its location, symptoms by its bite.It also includes the explanation of Dhatugata Visha Lakshana and Marana Lakshana.

#### Chapter 5. Nagara (Darvikara) Ucchuda Sanchara (Travel of Darvikara sarpa)

This chapter explains about the sanchara of Darvikara sarpa, age of the snake.

#### Chapter 6. Manushyana jeevodippuna Amrithakale and Vishakale (Amrithakala and Vishakala in Human's life)

This chapter explains about Amritha kala and Visha kala, Cause of snake bite, decrease in the potency of visha based on conditions of snake. Amrithakala and Vishakala is the place or phase where the visha will decrease or increase.

#### Chapter 7. Vishak Mardh Korpina krama (Treatment module of Visha):

This chapter explains about Immediate measures to be done when the visha is in bite place, Dhatugata visha chikitsa, Places of removal of blood, Indications of jalaukacharana, Apathya for a rogi.

#### Chapter 8. Sarpa Vamsha Bokka Ayta Vibhago (Lineage and Types of snakes):

This chapter explains about the family or vamsha of sarpa, types of dharvikara or Naaga, Rajimantha, and Mandali,Oviparity of snake and about snake bite wound. In Vasantha and Hemantha Ritu, because of the blossom of flowers and its fragrance, the snake gets intoxicated and will have more tendency to bite any living beings. In Greeshma Ritu the potency of venom will be more.In Pravrt Ritu because of rain and thunder, snakes won't travel more far than its moola sthana. In Varsha Ritu, the potency of venom will be medium.

#### Chapter 9. Visha Erdh Mathi Tathunda Ayag Jeeva Unda Ijja Pandh Theriyuna Vidhana (Method to know

whether the unconscious person affected by poison is alive or not)

This chapter explains about the procedures used to test if the person is conscious when the visha has increased in the body.

1. Anjana made of Rakta Bola, Lime stone and Black Tulasi swarsa should be applied to eyes. Absence of tears indicate the person is dead.

2. When the unconscious person is put into the water body, if his body sinks and there is bubble in the water, that indicates the person is alive and immediate treatment should be given.

Dharvikara sarpa visha dhathugata lakshana and its chikitsa is also been explained.

Chapter 10. Nagana Vishak Mardh (Treatment for Cobra bite)

This chapter explains about the different formulations indicated for Darvikara sarpa damsha.

Chapter 11. Kandhodidha Vishak Mardh (Treatment for viper bite)

This chapter explains about the dathugata visha lakshana caused by Mandali sarpa and chikitsa according to it. Different formulations of Nasya and general formulations indicated for Mandali sarpa damsha is also explained.

Chapter 12. Kadambaledha Vishak Mardh (Treatment for krait bite):

This chapter explains about the dathugata visha lakshana caused by Rajimantha sarpa and chikitsa according to it. Different general formulations indicated for Rajimantha sarpa damsha is also explained.

Chapter 13. Elitha Vishak Mardh (Treatment for rat bite):

This chapter explains about the types of Mooshika , Lakshana of mooshika visha damsha and different formulations indicated for mooshika visha damsha.

Chapter 14. Kombatheldha Vishak Mardh (Treatment for scorpion bite):

This chapter explains about Lakshana of Vrischika visha damsha and different formulations indicated for Vrischika visha damsha.

Chapter 15. Chalya Vishak Mardh (Treatment for spider bite)

This chapter explains about Lakshana of Lootha visha damsha and different formulations indicated for Lootha visha damsha.

Chapter 16. Shardhulatha Vishak Mardh (Treatment for tiger bite)

This chapter explains about the types of tigers (Shardhula) and Lakshana of Shardhula visha damsha and different formulations indicated for it.

Chapter 17. Jigane Vishak Mardh (Treatment for leech bite)

This chapter explains about the jalouka visha damsha lakshana and formulation for it. The symptoms seen in case if the cow is affected by a poison or venom, and its management is also been explained.

Chapter 18. Thoddedha Vishak Mardh (Treatment for honeybee bite):

In this chapter, lakshana of makshika visha damsha and its treatment is explained. General formulations of paana and lepa for all types of visha damsha is also explained.

Chapter 19. Ucchu Gidapuna Mardh (Medicine to drive away the snake)

This chapter explains about the formulation used to avoid snakes entering into the particular place or home.

Chapter 20. Samanya Visha Mardh (Medicine for poison in general):

General formulation for all types of visha is explained in this chapter.

Chapter 21. Seekdaklena Thinasu (Diet for patient):

This chapter explains about the Pathya ahaara that any rogi should follow.

Chapter 22. Visha Pareekshe (Examination of poison):

This chapter talks about a formulation that is used to test whether the person affected with visha is alive or not.

Chapter 23. Ucchu Patthere (To catch a snake):

This chapter gives the information about the method of holding snake by avoiding its bite.

#### V. MERITS

- 1 The knowledge about the wide practice of visha chikitsa in olden period makes us understand the importance of it during those days.
- 2 Awareness is created among the Tulu speaking people about the types of poison and its danger.
- 3 Freshly prepared formulation work as home remedies by helping the local people in treating simple poisonous bite immediately.
- 4 Helps the scholars to conduct the research works on different formulations mentioned in this book.

#### VI. DEMERITS

1. The explanation given in some chapters are very minimal.
2. As the book is written in Tulu language it may not be reachable to the vast audience.

#### VII. CONCLUSION

Visha vaidya vijnana is an exclusive book which covers all the aspects of visha and its management. Visha vaidhya, who treats a poisonous condition, is a courageous physician. The dhoota lakshana will make the physician to know the prognosis before the commencement of treatment.

Detailed classification of jangama visha and their lakshana, explained in this book will be an additional knowledge. The astrological interpretation of visha makes this treatise an exceptional. Unique and easily prepared formulations will be helpful for the practitioners. As it is in Tulu language it can bring awareness among the local people, about the visha and medicinal value of the plants. As it is the compilation done by many experts and translated to many languages because of its importance, there is a need for further research at clinical levels.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] Source: Kerala Forest Department <https://share.google/oQofr9noU2cEX5nH7>
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