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Curing of diseases in Sri Pancharatragama

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Abstract

Agamas give not only the rules and regulations for temple constructions, temple rituals associated with various deities but they form the treasure house for varied other subjects like Jyotisham, Vaidyasastra, Vastusastra, Yogasastra, Metallurgy, Science of creation, Geology, Sculpture, Carpentry, Architecture, Painting and what not...?! This paper deals with some of the concepts of Vaidyasastra as found in different Samhitas of Sri Pancharatra Agama, to a certain extent. In particular, it is attempted to bring out the remedies prescribed by Sri Pancharatra Agama for well-known diseases like different types of Jwaras (विविधज्वराः), Tuberculosis (राजयक्ष्म), Abdominal pains (उदररोगः), leprosy (कुष्ठरोगः), Diabetes (प्रमेहरोगः), epilepsy (अपस्माररोगः), mental derangement (उन्मादः), disorders of the spleen (गुल्मरोगः), Diarrhoea (अतिसारः), Arthritis (वातरोगः), Hyperchlorhydria (पित्ताधिक्यम्), Toxicology (दंष्ट्ररोगः), Respiratory disorder (श्वासरोगः), Cordial disorder (हृद्रोगः), Ophthalmology (अक्षिरोगः) etc.

Keyword: Pancharatra, agama, roga, disease, scripture, Mantra, Vedic chants

Introduction

Agamas are the treasure house of not only spiritual wisdom but the knowledge of vivid and varied subjects from the science of creation to Medicine. In this paper it is attempted to bring out the significance of several remedies prescribed in Sri Pancharatra Agama for various types of diseases through Vedic Mantras, Homas, Japas and Vedic Rituals to be performed with the help of erudite Vedic Scholars. To quote a few:

- Jwara Santi (ज्वरशान्तिः), Diabetes control (प्रमेहरोगशान्तिः), Cure for Abdominal diseases (उदररोगशान्तिः), etc., elaborated in Ahirbudhnyasamhita (अहिर्बुध्यसंहिता)।
- Cure for Arthritis (वातरोगशान्तिः), Cure for mucormycosis (क्षेष्मरोगशान्तिः), etc., explained in Vihagendra samhita (विहगेन्द्रसंहिता)।
- Treatments for Tuberculosis (यक्ष्मरोगः), leprosy (कुष्ठरोगः), Diarrhoea (अतिसारः), Arthritis (वातरोगः), Hyperchlorhydria (पित्ताधिक्यम्) etc. elucidated in Sriman Narayana Samhita (श्रीमन्नारायणसंहिता)।
- Cure for Respiratory disorder (श्वासरोगशान्तिः) narrated in Sripadmodbhava samhita (श्रीपद्मोद्भवसंहिता) and so on.

Jwara santi (ज्वरशान्तिः)

Separate procedures for various types of fever and cold are prescribed for individuals, Kings, Ministers and community as well in the 38th chapter of Ahirbudhnyasamhita (अहिर्बुध्यसंहिता) - as explained below:

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Sloka

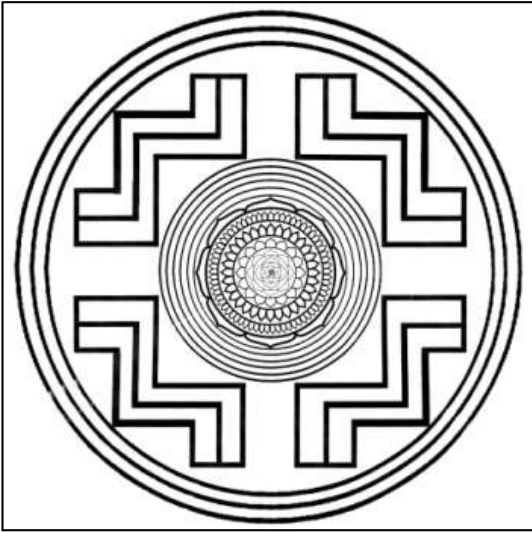
ज्वराभिभूते नृपतौ सचिवेऽन्यजनेऽथवा॥३८.२०॥
 महासुदर्शनं यन्त्रं कथितं मन्त्रकोविदैः।
 गुडूचीराज्यसंसिक्ताश्चतुरङ्गुलसंमिताः॥३८.२१॥
 मन्त्रेणानेन जुहुयात्सहस्रं ज्वलितेऽनले।
 चक्राम्बुजं च विन्यस्य स्थण्डिले शालितण्डुलैः॥३८.२२॥

Transliteration

jvarābhībhūte nṛpatau sacive'nyajane'thavā..38.20..
mahāsudarśanaṃ yantraṃ kathitaṃ mantrakovidaiḥ.
guḍūcīrājyasamsiktāścaturāṅgulasammitāḥ..38.21..
mantrēṇānena juhuyātsahasraṃ jvalite'nale.
cakrāmbujaṃ ca vinyasya sthaṇḍile śālitaṇḍulaiḥ..38.22..

Meaning

Mahasudarsana homa, with prescribed rituals may be performed chanting the mantra 1008 times using the ghee-immersed-bark of *Cocculus Indicus* (गुडूची) having a width of four inches as homadravyam. Then, placing a sacred pot at the centre of the six petalled decorated Mahendra mandalam (The picture shown below), the patient's name carved inside, chanting of mantras (Mantrajapa) and pooja are performed; finally after completion of the rituals the sacred water should be poured on the mirror image of the patient. This will have a remarkable effect in curing any type of fever or cold.

**Fig 1:** Mahendra Mandalam

Another remedy is being described in the 23rd chapter of Sri Vihagendra samhita for curing fever as below:

Sloka:

होमेन कर्मभिः कुर्यात्समिदाज्यदलेन वा।
 त्रिमध्वाक्तं हुनेदष्टसहस्रज्वरशान्तये॥२३.५॥
 कण्ठमात्रजले स्थित्वा अयुते ज्वरशान्तये।
 दूर्वाभिरग्नौ जुहुयाज्वरशान्तिर्भविष्यति॥२३.६॥

Transliteration:

Homena karmabhiḥ kuryātsamidājyadalena vā.
Trimadhvāktaṃ hunedaṣṭsahasrajvaraśāntaye..23.5..
Kaṇṭhamātrajale sthitvā ayute jvaraśāntaye.
Dūrvābhiragnau juhuyājījvaraśāntirbhaviṣyati..23.6..

Meaning

After the completion of chanting Stotras and Mantras by Vedic scholars, a homa is prescribed using Scutch grass (दूर्वा), ghee and flower for 1008 Ahutis (आहुतिः). The mantra should be recited 10000 times standing immersed in a pond neck-size.

But Srīman Narayana Samhita differs in prescribing homadravyam as *Butea monosperma* (पलाशसमित्) instead of scutch grass, together with jaggery rice, ghee and milk. It is described in the ninth chapter of *Śrīmad Aṣṭākṣaravidhāna iṣṭi-vaibhava-kāṇḍam* (श्रीमदष्टाक्षरविधानेष्टिवैभवकाण्डम्) as below:

Sloka

दीर्घज्वरादिषु ब्रह्मन् पालाशं जुहुयात् समित्।
 गुडान्नं लाजसंयुक्तं गोक्रीरं चाज्यमेव च॥९.२१॥

Transliteration

Dīrghajvarādiṣu brahmaṇ pālāśaṃ juhuyāt samit.
Guḍānnaṃ lājasamyuktaṃ gokśīraṃ cājyameva ca..9.21..

Raja Yakshma santi (राजयक्ष्मशान्तिः)

Procedure for curing Tuberculosis (राजयक्ष्म) is prescribed for individuals in the 38th chapter of *Ahīrbudhnyā samhita* (अहिर्बुध्न्यसंहिता) - as explained below:

Sloka

राजयक्ष्माभिभूते तु नृपादौ मुनिसत्तमा।
 मध्वक्ताभिरपामार्गसमिद्धिः खादिरेऽनले॥३८.३८॥
 मन्त्रेणानेन जुहुयात्सहस्रं मन्त्रवित्तमः।
 ततः प्रतीच्ये दिग्भागे पूर्ववत्कल्पितेऽनले॥३८.३९॥
 आढकाज्याभिपूर्णायां पात्र्यां द्विपलतन्तुषु।
 आरोप्य दीपिकां पश्चाद्देवमावाह्य मन्त्रतः॥३८.४०॥
 ततः पाश्चात्यभागे तु भारशालिपरिष्कृते।
 स्थण्डिले मण्डिते शुद्धे कृत्वा माहेन्द्रमण्डलम्॥३८.४१॥
 पूर्ववत्षडरं चक्रं विन्यस्यरेष्वमुष्य च।
 मन्त्रवर्णानि विन्यस्य साध्यनाम च तारके॥३८.४२॥

Transliteration

Rājayakṣmābhībhūte tu nṛpādaū munisattama.
Madhvaktābhirapāmārgasamidbhiḥ khādīre'nale..38.38..
Mantrēṇānena juhuyātsahasraṃ mantravittamaḥ.
Tataḥ pratīcye digbhāge pūrvavatkalpīte'nale..38.39..
Āḍhakājyābhipūrṇāyāṃ pātryāṃ dvīpalatantuṣu.
Āropya dīpikāṃ paścāddevamāvāhya mantrataḥ..38.40....
Tataḥ pāścātyabhāge tu bhāraśālīpariṣkṛte.
Sthaṇḍile maṇḍite śuddhe kṛtvā
māhendramaṇḍalam..38.41..
Pūrvavatsaḍaraṃ cakraṃ vinyasyāreṣvamuṣya ca.
Mantravarṇāni vinyasya sādhyānāma ca tārake..38.42..

The main difference is found in the homadravyam as honey-laden-Achyranthes aspera (मध्वक्तमपामार्गम्), with slight variations in the other rituals. It is noted in modern science that the above samit (समित्) possesses valuable medicinal properties and used in treatment of cough, bronchitis and

rheumatism, malarial fever, dysentery, asthma, hypertension and diabetes in Indian folklore.

Another remedy is being described in the ninth chapter of Śrīmad Aṣṭākṣaravidhāna iṣṭi-vaibhava-kāṇḍam (श्रीमदष्टाक्षरविधानेष्टिवैभवकाण्डम्) varying the Homa-dravyam as the barks of banyan tree mixed with black sesame:

Sloka

यक्ष्मरोगे तु न्यग्रोधसमिधश्च तिलान् यजेत्।
पायसं मधुसम्मिश्रमाज्यं चैव चतुर्मुखा॥९.२२॥

Transliteration

Yakṣmaroge tu nyagrodhasamidhaśca tilān yajet.
Pāyasam madhusammīśramājyam caiva
caturmukha..9.22..

One more remedy is being described in the 23rd chapter of Sri Vihagendra samhita for curing Tuberculosis (राजयक्ष्म) prescribing the root of Ashwagandha mixed with other

detailed materials as Homadravyam for 12000 times of chanting:

Sloka

अश्वगन्धिकमूलानि वचामापैश्च चूर्णितैः।२३.१०।
मधुशर्करसंमिश्रं शुण्डूचूर्णं च सर्षपम्॥
हरिद्रामलचूर्णं च मधुशर्करयायुतम्॥२३.११॥
हुत्वा द्वादशसाहस्रं राजयक्ष्मा विनश्यति।२३.१२॥

Transliteration

Aśvagandhikamūlāni vacāmāpēśca cūrṇitaiḥ.23.10.
Madhuśarkarasammiśraṃ ṣuṇḍūcūrṇam ca sarṣapam..
Haridrāmālacūrṇam ca madhuśarkarāyāyutam..23.11..
Hutvā dvādaśasāhasraṃ rājayakṣmā vinaśyati.23.12..

Cure for other diseases

Detailed rituals with different Vedic Mantras, yantras, are being prescribed in the major samhitas of Sri Pancharatra Agama for a number of diseases which are prevalent in modern age. Variety is found mainly in Homa-dravyam as briefly noted in the following table:

Variety is found mainly in Homa-dravyam as briefly noted in the following table

S. No.	Diseases	Homa-Dravya	Branch of Agama	Sloka No.
1	Diabetes (प्रमेहरोगः)	Urad-dal rice (माषौदनम्)	Ahirbudhnyasamhitā (अहिर्बुध्यसंहिता)	38.51
2	Abdominal pains (उदररोगः)	Ghee mixed Arka stem (आज्याक्तम् अर्कपत्रम्) with black sesame	Ahirbudhnyasamhitā (अहिर्बुध्यसंहिता)	38.55, 56
3	Abdominal pains (उदररोगः)	Bringa and Punarnava mixed with Gingelly Oil (तिलतैलमिश्रितं भृङ्ग-पुनर्नवम्)	Sri Vihagendra samhita (श्रीविहगेन्द्रसंहिता)	23.14
4	Respiratory disorder (श्व्वासरोगः)	Kundali Patra (कुण्डलीपत्रम्)	Sri Vihagendra samhita (श्रीविहगेन्द्रसंहिता)	23.14
5	Epilepsy (अपस्माररोगः)	Ghee mixed Arka stem (आज्याक्तम् अर्कपत्रम्) with black sesame	Ahirbudhnyasamhitā (अहिर्बुध्यसंहिता)	38.66, 67
6	Insect bites (दंष्ट्ररोगः)	Chanting of Garuda Panchakshari Mantra (गरुडपञ्चाक्षरीजपः)	Sri Padmodbhava Samhita (श्रीपद्मोद्भवसंहिता)	Chapter 30
7	Eye disorder (नेत्ररोगः)	Honey laden Tamarind flower (मध्वाक्तं तिन्त्रिणीपुष्पम्)	Sri Vihagendra samhita (श्रीविहगेन्द्रसंहिता)	23.17
8	Diarrhoea (अतिसारः)	Jasmine flower and Plaksha (मल्लिकाकुसुमं प्लाक्षं च)	Sriman Narayana Samhita (श्रीमन्नारायणसंहिता) Śrīmad Aṣṭākṣaravidhāna iṣṭi-vaibhava-kāṇḍam (श्रीमदष्टाक्षरविधानेष्टिवैभवकाण्डम्)	9.24
9	leprosy (कुष्ठरोगः)	Khadira samit (खादिरम्)	Sriman Narayana Samhita (श्रीमन्नारायणसंहिता) Śrīmad Aṣṭākṣaravidhāna iṣṭi-vaibhava-kāṇḍam (श्रीमदष्टाक्षरविधानेष्टिवैभवकाण्डम्)	9.23
10	Arthritis (वातरोगः)	Turmeric rice (हरिद्रान्नम्), Bilva Samit & Ghee (आज्याक्ता बिल्वसमित्)	Sriman Narayana Samhita (श्रीमन्नारायणसंहिता) Śrīmad Aṣṭākṣaravidhāna iṣṭi-vaibhava-kāṇḍam (श्रीमदष्टाक्षरविधानेष्टिवैभवकाण्डम्)	9.26
11	Arthritis (वातरोगः)	Nirgundi, Kimsukam, Mustard and Turmeric powder (निर्गुण्डी, किंशुकम्, हरिद्राचूर्णं सर्षपम्)	Sri Vihagendra samhita (श्रीविहगेन्द्रसंहिता)	23.8
12	Hyperchlorhydria (पित्ताधिक्यम्)	Champaka flower (चम्पकपुष्पम्)	Sriman Narayana Samhita (श्रीमन्नारायणसंहिता) Śrīmad Aṣṭākṣaravidhāna iṣṭi-vaibhava-kāṇḍam (श्रीमदष्टाक्षरविधानेष्टिवैभवकाण्डम्)	9.26

Conclusion

My attempt is only a ripple in the great ocean of Sri Pancharatra Agama. The Rich Agama Heritage of our Nation should be preserved for posterity.

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