

AN ADDITIONAL NOTE ON “BHISHAGVARANJANAM”

by

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(An article was published on Bhishagvaranjanam, a palm leaf manuscript in Telugu language, in the Bulletin, Vol. IV, No.3 & 4. Enquiries were sent to different libraries and personal collections through out India for the availability of any copies of this manuscript. From the A. S. P. Government Museum and Research Institute, Kakinada, A. P., were received an information that one book titled “Bhishagvaranjanam” was published by Shri B. Gurulingadevara. The Institute acquired a transcription copy of this book. The following is the information comparing the manuscript available at the Institute and the printed book).

A book titled “Bhishagvaranjanam” was edited and published by Shri B. Gurulingadevara of Tuni, Andhra Pradesh in 1894. The subject, written in Telugu verse, is of 18 pages in print. Shri B. Gurulingadevara, the Editor of the book states in the preface that the book was edited by him from a copy (probably a palm leaf manuscript) which he managed to acquire. He does not give any information regarding either the author or the condition of the manuscript and other details. The subject matter of this printed book has been compared with the manuscript available at the Institute.

Arrangement of the actual text of the printed Book :—

The book is divided into 4 chapters :

- (1) Astasthana Pariksha;
- (2) Jwaraprakarana or chapter of Fever;
- (3) Kashayaprakarana or chapter of Decoctions;
- (4) Aushadaprakarana or chapter of Medicines.

It seems the copy acquired by Shri Gurulingadevara is devoid of certain details about the author, his preceptor and ancestors of the author unlike the manuscript. The printed book does not contain the legend of the subject matter of the Book, the source of the authors information and also the date of the compilation and the Sasthyantas , *i.e.*, verses in praise of the God to whom the book is dedicated. The manuscript clearly indicates that the subject matter was revealed by Dhanvantari to sage Agastya. Even though the printed matter does not contain the above stated details of the manuscript, a close study of the verses indicates that the verses of the printed book are the same as that of the manuscript.

A comparative study between the manuscript and the printed book :—

The printed book does not contain the following :—

- (1) The classification of Ajirna (indigestion)
- (2) The mythological genesis of Jwara;
- (3) The signs and symptoms, the prognosis and the period of attack of the 13 Sanni-pathas;
- (4) The methods of purification and actions of the 34 drugs, viz., Parada, Gandhaka etc.
- (5) The methods of purification, Bhasma and Sindura preparations and the actions of the 11 metals, viz., Swarna, Rajata etc.
- (6) The methods of preparation and therapeutic uses of the following medicinal compounds :—

- (1) Simhapratipala Rasa
- (2) Ramabana Rasa
- (3) Neelakantha Rasa
- (4) Bhedi Rasa
- (5) Grahanikavata
- (6) Vatavidhvansini Rasa
- (7) Balasuryodayam
- (8) Pratalankeswara Rasa
- (9) Vajrasuchikabharana Rasa
- (10) Tambulavatakamulu

Bhasyasuchika Bharanam and Sutikabharanam of the manuscript are mentioned as Sutika Bharanam and Suthikabharanam (2nd variety) in the printed text.

(7) In the list of decoctions, the following are not mentioned in the printed text:

- (1) The 13 decoctions for use in the 13 varieties of Sannipatha Jwaras;
- (2) Astamula kashaya;
- (3) Dasamula kashaya;
- (4) Chardi Hikka kashaya;
- (5) Pathadi kashaya;
- (6) Pandusophakasa kashaya

The composition of the Paityakapadhi kashaya of the printed book is entirely different from the composition of Sleshma Paitya kashaya of the manuscript.