

LESSER KNOWN AYURVEDIC PHYSICIANS OF INDIA FROM AN URDU BOOK - "RUMOOZUL ATIBBA"

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ABSTRACT

In early 20th century some Urdu scholars tried to enrich Urdu literature with medical history. They started compiling and publishing the biographies of the contemporary physicians along with their achievements. One of such works "Rumoozul Atibba" a rare book compiled by Hakim Fairozuddin in Urdu, published by 'Darul Kutub Rafiqul Atibba' and printed in 'Rifah-e-Aam Press' at Lahore in the year 1913 A.D. has been taken here. It contains about 150 short biographies of Ayurvedic and Unani physicians, out of which all the twenty biographies of Ayurvedic physicians given in it, have been presented in this article.

Introduction :

Biographies of the physicians are one of the main sources for the history of development of medical science pertaining to different periods. In early 20th century some scholars tried to collect and preserve the biographies of their contemporary physicians along with their achievements in the field of medicine. In this article we are going to submit the short biographies of twenty such Ayurvedic physicians in alphabetical order as given in an Urdu book entitled "Rumoozul Attibba" which was compiled by HK. Fairozuddin and published by Darul Kutub Rafiqul Atibba, printed in "Rifah-Aam Press in 1913 at Lahore and which contains about 150

short biographies of Ayurvedic and Unani physicians.

1. Avtar Singh : His father's name was Vaidya Chatra Singh. He was from a famous medical family. After his preliminary education he studied Unani Medical books namely Tibb-e-Akbar and Shifa-ul-Amraz etc. Later he studied Ayurvedic books namely Bhava Prakasa, Madhava Nidana etc. He wrote a book compiling Ayurvedic formulae (P.819).

2. Baba Shubhram Udasee: He was born in 1932 (Vikrami) (1876 A.D.) at Jampur in Dehraghazi Khan. After his preliminary education he studied Unani medicine under his father and HK. Tajuddin also.

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fter the demise of his father he was on tour for some period and visited different places. During that time he acquired Ayurvedic Knowledge at various places. He had established his clinic at Rajanpur, a neighbouring village of his native district. (p.803)

3. Baldev Prasad Pandit: He lived in Muradabad and started his clinic in 1891. He was running a Pharmacy namely "C.S. and Company" at Muradabad (p.367).

4. Brijlal Pandit: His father's name was Pandit Kishan Chand. He was hailing from a famous family of Ayurvedic physicians and Astrologers. After completion of his preliminary education he took admission in Ayurvedic course for one year in the same college. He was the student of Professor Janardhan. After the completion of the Ayurvedic studies he worked under Vaidya Ganga Bish, a famous Pharmacist and Physician for about three years. Then he started his own clinic. (p.751)

5. Chunnilal Pandit: He was born at Kangra in 1832 A.D. He was belonging to a famous Brahmin family. He took his preliminary education at his native place till he was 11 years. Then he came to his paternal uncle at Jammu where he learnt Ayurveda under Vaidya Pandit Harnamadasji who was a court physician of Maharaja Jammu. Later he started his clinic and practised for about one year and then he had shifted his clinic to Lahore (p.748).

6. Divan Chand: He was born in 1880 A.D. at Sialkot. He completed his preliminary education at his native place and later he took admission in Lahore college. He

learnt Ayurveda under Vaidya Pandit Janardhan Das about two years. Having no interest in government service he started his own clinic (p.824)

7. Ganga Bish: His father's name was Butamill. He was born in 1842 A.D. at Godlanwala in Gújranwala district. He started studying Sanskrit from his grand father, Pandit Kishanchand. After the death of his father he came to Gujranwala and took admission in Pandit Vidyadharji's School. Later on he went to Jammu for further studies in Sanskrit. He learnt how to write Janampatry from Pandit Kishanchandji and Ramdattaji. He passed Prayaga examination from Punjab University and latter on he went to Lahore to join higher studies at Oriental college. He completed Visharadha in one year and then passed Shstri examination in first division in the next year. Then he joined the Ayurvedic course in same college and successfully completed three courses i.e., Vaidya, Vaidyaveer and Vaidyaraj under Pandit Janardhan. He took training in Pandit Janardhan's clinic and Pharmacy. He became perfect in preparing Rasaushadis. Within no time he got the appointment in the Oriental college as an assistant to his teacher. He rendered his services in the school of Sanathan Dharma Sabha Lahore, D.A.V. College, Lahore and lastly Banvarial Ayurvedic school. In this way he propogated Ayurveda upto 70 years of his age. His photograph is there in "Rumoozul Atibba" (p.148). Fig. 1

8. Hemraj ji Kaviraj: His father's name was Lala Purnachand who was a mercer. He used to sit with his father till the age of

20 years and in that way he developed interest in languages and learnt Urdu, Sanskrit and Hindi. There after he joined Oriental college at Lahore, where he completed Pragnya within two years and obtained scholarship to study Visharada. Then he enclined towards Ayurveda and completed the course of Ayurvedic Visharad in 1898 A.D. and Ayurvedic Shastri in 1899 A.D. Thereafter he had been to Kashmir, Chambal and Shimla in persuit of Ayurvedic knowledge. Though he belongs to Khatri community, people called him Pandit due to his vast knowledge. He was also the editor of "Bharat Bhakti Patra", for a short period, which was published upto 1911. In the same year he went to Calcutta and obtained M.A.M. (Master of Ayurvedic Medicine) from National Medical College of India and L.C.B.S. diploma from India college, Calcutta. Moreover he obtained Bhishak Ratna certificate from Vaidya Yogendra Nath ji Sen(p.434).

9. Lahorimall Sehgal: He was born at Lahore. His father was Lala Barket Ram Sehgal. He started Learning Unani and Ayurveda at the age of 18. He gained the knowledge from his father for two years. Then he joined Mission school at Lahore. He studied Unani books along with Ayurvedic principles by Swami Keval Nandagar ji. He became expert in Rasa Sastra. Later on he learnt Persian and English also. All these studies were completed during 1853 to 1865 A.D. He worked as clerk in many departments. Finally he started his clinic at Lahore and became famous by treating the patients with Rasa

Bhasmas (p.449)

10. Mahendra Nath Sharma: His father's name was Pandit Jai Ram Sharma. He was born in 1888 A.D. and was a native of Jagram in Punjab. He was belonging to famous physicians family. He acquired knowledge of herbs and Bhasmas from saints. He went to Meeruth to study regular medical course under Maharaj Singh who was a disciple of Unani physician, Ahsanullah Khan. Then acquired the knowledge of Allopathy, Homeopathy. Electro Homeopathy, Chromopathy and Physio therapy. Finally he started learning Ayurvedic medicine. During this period he suffered with Epistaxis. he performed his own treatment by adopting the method of drawing the water through the nose and pouring out from the mouth. He was cured by this treatment within no time. He opened his clinic at Meeruth with the permission of his teacher (p.475).

11. Mansingh: His father's name was Munishi Kanniah Lal. He was born in 1864 A.D. He was a native of Farrukh Nagar. He belonged to Goel Gothra of Agarwal community. His ancestors had lived in different states of India and they were very respected persons of that time. People honoured them by calling Diwanji. One of his ancestors was Baba Sitaram who had keen interest in medicine. He had a very rich collection of medical books and those books were used by the descendents. mansingh's grand father, Baba Gulal Singh was also an eminent scholar and a good physician, having very good knowledge of Persian, who taught Mansingh Persian also

Mansingh acquired Sanskrit knowledge from Pandit Makhn Lal Shastri and acquainted himself with some religious texts. Later he studied Ayurvedic system of medicine under the guidance of Pandit Govind Sahai Shastri, who was an eminent Vaidya and Astrologer. After 3 years, his Guru permitted him to start his own clinic with the condition that, he should treat the patients free of cost. In 1882 A.D. he joined the service at Gwalior. After the death of his father he came back to his native place and started his clinic.

There was a Vedic school at that time where a famous Pandit Ganga Bish Shastri from Lahore was the teacher. He was entitled "Vedaraj Vaigyanic". Mansingh came to know about this school through Pandit Ganga Bish and he developed interest to study in it. Thus in 1898 A.D. Mansingh passed the Vedic course in first division from that school. In the same year he organised a conference on plague and he invited all the eminent persons to participate in it. A resolution was passed in that Conference, advocating the study of Granthas (Books) and publishing of the papers on plague with an aim to help the common people. In 1906 A.D. he rendered his services in a school of nursing for women and in "Shifa Khana Hindustani".

Tibb conference was started in 1907

A.D. of which he was the Vice President. He was a socialist and rendered his services in many associations. His photograph has been given in the book "Rumoozul Atibba" (p.76) Fig.2

12. Mehta Sita Ram Datt: He was Kaviraj and Kavirajan. He belonged to a famous Brahmin family of Zelum district. It is said that the whole of this family members were well versed in English, Persian and Sanskrit. According to his family tradition he learnt Urdu also. Later he entered the faculty of Unani medicine against his parents will. Then he learnt Ayurveda, Allopathy and Water Cure. Having completed all these studies he started a clinic at Rawal Pindi. He thought that his medical knowledge was insufficient and hence he left his clinic to join regular Ayurvedic course at Banaras. Later he gained skill under Vaidya Kaviraj Yugandhernath Sen and obtained Kaviraj certificate. Again he started clinic at Rawal Pindi. He wrote a booklet on shodhanvidhi according to Ayurveda, Unani and Modern medicine. He wrote two more books but details are not known (p.216).

13. Nandala Pandit: His father's name was Pandit Ralia Ram. He was a native of Hoshiyar pur, Haryana. After preliminary education he studied Persian Unani medical books and then he assisted Hakim Lala Kundamall about 7 years in his clinic. Later he studied Allopathy under the guidance

of Dr. Ameer Bhaksh and Kansiram. Then he studied Ayurveda under Swami Dewanand. He also learnt how to prepare Bhasmas clax. He started his own practice at different places like Chamba, Amritsar, Haridwar and finally Ambala (p.549).

14. Radha Kishan: His father was Pandit Ganesh Das. He was a native of Rawal-Pindi. His father was a scholar of Sanskrit and a famous Ayurvedic physician. He studied Persian privately and then got admission in Sanskrit school at his native place. He gained Herbal knowledge in forest of Gujuranwala and learnt how to prepare Bhasmas calx with the help of Sadhus. After returning from Gujuranwala forest he acquired Ayurvedic knowledge by reading the Ayurvedic classics like Shusruta and charaka. Later he learnt Ayurveda from Vaidya Santh Bhaskarnathji and Unani medicine from Hakim Faqueer Mohammad. Finally he started his clinic at his native place (p.652).

15. Raj Narayan: His father's name was Pandit Chander Bhanu. He was a native of Jammu. He belonged to a famous Pandit family of Kashmir who were welversed in Persian and Arabic. He learnt Persian under a learned scholar of Iran. He joined service in the year 1859 A.D. after mutini. He worked at different places like Bareli, Ajmer etc. During his stay at Ajmer he got acquainted with Sadhus and Hakims and acquired Ayurvedic and Unani

knowledge. He studied Ayurvedic & Unani books. He retired from his service in 1887, then he went to his native place and started a clinic there (p.734).

16. Ram Narayan Ji Kaviraj Pandit : His father was Pandit Raghuvirji. He was born in 1876 A.D. at Avadh. At the age of seven he came to Lahore. After preliminary education he took the Shastri course from Oriental College of Lahore. After few years he took admission in Ayurvedic course of the same college. He studied under Pandit Janardhan Vaidya of Lahore and Baba Amritlal Singh Kaviraj of Indoor. Later he took admission in Vedic college of Delhi. Then he completed Kaviraja course at Calcutta and came back to Lahore. There he started clinic in 1901 A.D. He had introduced a special Zimad (Embrocation) for easy delivery. He studied further in same faculty and finally in 1905 A.D. he prepared a compound medicine, which was covered by deer skin and applied on left thigh at the time of delivery for easy labour. He introduced this experiment in an exhibition held in 1909 A.D. at Lahore. Apart from this he was awarded a great deal of money by Maharaja Darbhanga. He was also a writer and four non medical books are to his credit. His photograph is found in the book "Rumoozul Atibba" with his biography. (p.167). (Fig.3)

17. Roop Chand: His father's name was Lala Kishan Chand. He was born in 1847 A.D. at Jalandhar. He belonged to a fam-

ily of physicians from five generations. He started his education at the age of seven years. He learnt Persian for about six years and Unani medicine for about three years under Hakim Syed Sanaullah Jalandhari. He gained clinical experience under his brother Vaidyanath Kishanchand at Bombay and Karachi. There after he started a clinic of his own at different places. He rendered his services to Royal families(p.576).

18. Shiva Narayana Pandit Vaidya : His pen name was masaq. He was son of Pandit Janaki Prasad. He was born in 1861 A.D. He started his education at the age of 8 years. He studied Sanskrit for six years and Persian for two years. Then he joined service in Court of Law where he served for two years. While he was in service he developed interest in English and learnt it in his liesure time. Later he joined in railways, where he developed interest in Vaidya profession and learnt Ayurveda from a Ayurvedic physician whose name was not mentioned in the book. After the completion of the study he started clinic at Delhi. During the plague epidemic in Delhi he rendered his service day and night to cure the people at free of costs. He was counted among the most famous physicians of that time. His photo is published in "Rumoozul Attiba" (p.172). Fig.4

19. Swami Kedarnath: His father's name was Swami Dewaki Nandan. He was born

in 1857 A.D. at Meeruth. He belonged to a medical family. He started his studies at the age of seven years. He studied Sanskrit about five years and then Persian about four years. He started learning Unani at the age of 18 years from Hakim Qazi Ziauddin of Punjab, Hakim Fassehuddin and Hakim Baldev singh of Meeruth and acquired clinical experience under Vaidya Chandi Prasad who was also a native of Meeruth (p.501)

20. Tarachand : His father's name was Lala Vazeer Chand, a native of Gujarat. He took school admission at the age of six years. In school he got acquainted with a teacher who was welversed in Arabic and Persian. He started studying medical books in the school itself. Then he went to Hakim Khuda Baksh and completed Unani course and gained clinical experience. Later he developed interest towards Ayurvedic books. Thus he spent 25 years of his life in studies. He started a clinic in 1905 A.D. He obtained the certificate of "Zubdatul Hukuma" from the Western University of America (p.336).

Study of the "Rumoozul Atibba" may prove to be very useful for the clinical research workers to test the various selected formulae found in it, under the biographies of the above mentioned emeinent vaidyas.

Fig. 1



Ganga Bish

Fig. 2



Munshi Man Singh

Fig. 3



Pandit Ram Narayanaji

Fig. 4



Pandit Shiva Narayana

सारांश

रूमूजुल अतिब्बा - एक उर्दू पुस्तक में उल्लिखित कुछ कम जाने पहचाने आयुर्वेदिक चिकित्सक

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बीसवीं शताब्दी के प्रारम्भ में कुछ उर्दू के विद्वानों द्वारा उर्दू साहित्य को आयुर्विज्ञानीय इतिहास से सम्पन्न करने के प्रयास किया गया। इस दिशा में उनके समकालीन चिकित्सकों की जीवनीयों एवं उपलब्धियों संबंधी सामग्री का संकलन कर प्रकाशन आरंभ किया गया। इस प्रकार की एक दुर्लभ उर्दू पुस्तक “रूमूजुल अतिब्बा” में उल्लिखित 150 आयुर्वेदिक तथा यूनानी चिकित्सकों की जीवनीयों में से प्राप्त सभी बीस आयुर्वेदिक चिकित्सकों की जीवनीयों को संक्षिप्त रूप में यहां प्रस्तुत किया गया है।