

Book Review on Rasa Ratnakara (*Riddhi Khanda*)

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Abstract

Rasashastra is one of the treasures of science in India and encompass Indian alchemy, pharmaceuticals and therapeutics. The main aim of this science is to help salvation of mankind through attaining perfection over mercury (siddha Parada). During such evolution of this alchemical science siddha Parada was made suitable to get rid of diseases and promote longevity. Such transformation ability of Parada was ascertained with a test on metals; conversion of base metals into noble metals; which later gave rise to Lohavada. In due course of time, this was documented systematically in the form of treatises available since seventh century to name a few viz, Rasendra chudamani, Rasaratna samuchchaya, Rasaprakasha Sudhakara, Rasa Ratnakara, Rasa Chintamani, Rasendra Chintamani, Rasapaddhati, Rasendra Sara, Rasamangala, Rasamanjari. Among these Rasa ratnakara is an important book that describes Lohavada in detail. It has 5 khandas among them Riddhi khanda is reviewed here.

Keywords

Rasa shastra, Indian alchemy, Rasa Ratnakara, Lohavedha, Lohavada



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INTRODUCTION

Rasashastra is considered as a branch of Ayurveda which deals with metals and minerals which gives prime importance to mercury and mercurial preparations. The main aim of this branch is to attain moksha through Rasa siddhi. Siddha Parada was made suitable to get rid of diseases and promote longevity, which later gave rise to Lohavada. In due course of time, this was documented systematically in the form of treatises available since seventh century. The book "Rasa Ratnakara" is one among them which mainly deals with loha vada.

Rasaratnakara contains 5 khandas, i.e., 1. Rasa khanda deals about Vaidhya, 2. Rasendra khanda deals about Vyadhi, 3. Vadhi or Riddhi khanda deals about dhathu vada or loha vada, 4. Rasayana khanda deals about vrudha, 5. Mantra khanda deals about mantri and rasa siddhas.

Sri Jeevananda vidyasagara in 1978 (Calcutta) translated sampurna grantha for the first time, Sri Yadavji in 1913 (nirnaya sagara press Mumbai) translated Rasayana khanda, Jeevaram kalidasa vaidhya translated Vadhi khanda in 1940 (Gondala). (These above 3 translations are not available), Swaminath mishra hindi

commentator of Riddhi khanda is available now.

Author of the book - Nithyanath siddha – Son of Srimathi Parvathi

Commentator: Hindi commentary by Swaminath mishra

Time period:

Probable time period- may be end of 13th century- as siddha names like Nagarjuna, Yashodhara etc are mentioned. Yashodhara wrote Rasaprakasha Sudhakara whose time period was 13th century, so by this we can predict that time period may be end of 13th century. Some authors consider time period as 15th century.

Chapter

The chapters of the book are named as upadesha, and total 20 chapters are explained. The commentator added four Parishishta (appendix). Contents of each chapter are as follows:

Prathamopadesha (1st chapter)

This chapter starts with prayer to lord Shiva, Akasha, Vayu, Teja, Jala, Bhumi, Shakthi, Bhairava and its Kala, Eeshorudraha, Murari, Dhatru, Chandra, Arka, Tara, Sreekanta Panchanana - Mangalam, description of Parada and its synonyms, shastrasya hetu, Acharya, shishya, Anuchara, kupatra shishya, Rasa

shala, Rasa mandapa, Rasa linga phala, dhyana – pujana, rasa deeksha, rasa siddha upakaranani, uparasas (Gandhaka, Kasisa, Haratala, Manashila, Kankushta, Bhukhaga, Rajavartha, Gairika- Purva to Eshanya kept in Rasa shala), maharasa (Rasaka, Vimala, Tapyas, Chapala, Tutta, Anjana, Hingula, Sasyaka), Purva- Swarna, Rajata; Dakshina- Tamra, Sisa, Pashchima – Vanga, Kanta, Uttara- Tikshna munduka, Prachina Rasa siddhas like Vyala acharya, Nagarjuna, Yashodara etc 27 siddhas has been explained.

Dwitiyopadesha (2nd chapter)

Detailed explanation of Nanavargas –

Kshara varga, Shwetavrga, Amla varga, Lavana panchaka, Mutra varga, Mitra panchaka, Kshara traya, Pitta varga, Vasa panchaka, Rakta varga, Peeta varga, Divyoushadhi gana (133 drugs), Visha varga
Explanation of Vajra musha (3 types), Rasa shodhana vidhi (3 methods), tapta khalva, Hingulotha parada (2 methods)

Tritiyopadesha (3rd chapter)

Vajra jataya(types) - sweta, rakta, peeta, krishna

Sweta – brahmana, rakta – kshatriya, peeta – vaishya, krishna – ksudra.

Pulinga, stree linga, napumsaka linga.

Vajra shodhana- 3 methods, Vajra marana- 12 methods, Vajra mrudukarana vidhi - 6 methods, Vaikrantha shodhana,

Uparasa types and shodhana- Tankana, Shanka, Varatika, Anjana, Gairika, kasisa kept immersed in Jambira drava under sun for one day (samanya shodana) and uparasa vishesha shodana. Dhanyabhraka, Abhraka bhasma vidhi – 2 methods,

Dhatu - sarva dhatu shudhi, naga, loha, vanga, tamra, roupya, suvarna, kamsya and pittala bhasma nirmana vidhi.

Chaturthopadesha (4th chapter)

Gandha pishti, Swarna pishti, Shadguna Gandha jarana, Shata guna Gandhaka jarana, sidha yogena vedaha, Gandhaka pishti sthambhana, sthambita Gandhaka pishti jarana, jarita Gandhaka pishti marana, Siddha churna nirmana: Kajjali is added with Tankana to that 1 karsha Tapyas (Makshika) and 2 karsha Shudha Gandhaka is added and mardana is done for 1 yama (3 hours), Tara ranjana

Panchamopadesha (5th chapter)

Maharasa and uparasa are used for the ranjana and varna vivardhana of Sitahema.

Sita swarnasya swarna kriya vidhi- 9 methods (7th method is called as Tara vedha), Pakva beeja, ashta varna Swarnasya dashta varna karana – 5 methods, Hema

raktika karana, Tamra kaalika vinashanam,
Varna vivardhanam

Shashtopadesha (6th chapter)

Naga ranjana – 5 methods (4th method-
Bhunaga taila)

Saptamopadesha (7th chapter)

Pishti golam – 2 methods, nigada – 2
methods, Rasa khota- 2 methods, Rasa khota
jarana, sarvadhathu vedha, pishti khota
jarana (vina dravana), Rasa dravana, Tara
tamra veda druta suta gola, naga vedha,
Khota baddha rasa

Ashtamopadesha (8th chapter)

Vanga shodhana (vanga churna + masha +
bhallataka phala- mardana done in khalva
yantra by Bhallataka taila, pista kept in
Mahisha shringa- mahaputa given (7 times)
– this shuddha vanga used for Parada
samskara)

Vanga vedha-15 methods, Dhatu
mrudukaranam - 3 methods, dalasya nirmali
karana

Navamopadesha (9th chapter)

Vajra dwandwa melapanam- 4 methods,
Vajra suta melapana, Swarna vajra melapana
dwandwa khota – 3 methods, druta suta
bhasma karana, Parada abhra jarana, Abhra
pishti

Dashamopadesha (10th chapter)

Pakwa beeja karana – 2 methods, Naga beeja
karana, Pakwa beeja ranjana, Naga bhasma
upayoga, Pakwa beeja ranjana taila, Tara
beeja karana – 4 methods, Tara beeja
ranjana, sarana, sarana taila, kramana satva -
7 methods, kramana vina rasa sidha
nishphalata, maha vida - 1- Rasa ratnadhi
jarana, 2 – Rasa bhuhukshita karana, 3 –
sarva jarana, 4 – vida, 5 – Abhra satva
jarana, 6 – sarva loha jarana, 7 – vahni
mukha vida (sarva jarana), 8 – vida, 9- jwala
mukha vida, 10 – vida, 11- vadavanala vida,
12- satva jarana, 13- teevra anala vida
(Suvarna jarana), 14, 15, 16 – Hema jarana,
17 – sarva jarana, 18- Abhraka grasa, 19-
siddha vida hema jarana.

Ekadashopadesha (11th chapter)

Ashta dasha samskara – has mentioned 18
samskaras- viz Swedana, Mardana,
Murchana, Uthapana, Trividha Patana,
Virodhana, Niyama, Deepana, Anuvasana,
Jarana, Charana, Garbhadruti, Bahya Druti,
Ranjana, Saranam, Saaranaa (Anusarana),
Pratisarana, Kramana, Deha Loheshu. Of
these **9 samskaras** are explained in detail.
By subjecting to these 9 samskaras Parada
will be devoid of saptha kanchuka doshas,
Dhanyabhra karana.

Dwadashopadesha (12th chapter)

Gandhaka jarana – 2 methods, Pakwa beeja jarana – 2 methods, Pakwa beeja sarana, Rasa mukha bandhana – 2 methods, Rasena swarna karana roupya vedha, Rasa mukha karana – 3 methods, jarana-sarana phala, charana yogya Abhraka karana – 3 methods, siddha mulika, mukhasutha Abhra charana, laksha koti vedhi rasa – 2 methods, koti vedhi roupya kara rasa, koti vedhi rasa, nirmukha Rasa charana – 2 methods, Abhraka jarana kramena vedha.

Trayodashopadesha (13th chapter)

Abhraka satva patana purvam samshodhana, Abhrakadi satva patana, Sutha jaranartha satva mrudukarana, Abhra satva patana, Makshika satvam - 6 methods (1. Gunjanibha, 2. Indragopa nibha, 3. Mani nibha, 4. Shuka tunda nibha, 5. shulva nibha, 6. Kimshuka nibha), Vimala satva patana, Makshika dhathu satva, Makshika satva laksha nibha, Manashila satva – 2 methods (Hema nibha, balaarka kiranopamam), Haratala satva – 4 methods (1. Spatikopamam) Tutha satva - 3 methods (1. Kimshuka prabha, 3. Shuka thundasama), vara naga satva, rasaka satva – 2 methods, Vaikranta satva – 4 methods (1. Raupya sadrusha, 2. second method 3. Shanka kundendu sannibham, 4. Indragopasamam), Gairika satva, saurashtri satva, Sasyaka

satva, Kasisa satva, Raajavarta satva, Srotoanjana satva, dvandvamelapana(vyomasatvamelapana), sarvasatvamelapana- 3 methods, sarvaloha-sarvasatva-maharasamelapana-3 methods, satvadvandvamelapana, Vangabhra satva melapana- 3 methods, abhisheka- 2 methods, chaaranasya sanketa.

Chathurdashopadesha (14th chapter)

Charana, jarana, grasa grahi rasa, beeja jarana, jarana, siddha beeja karana thena sarana, Gandhaka jarana shodasha guna, vasanamukhita rasa jarana, Gandhaka jarana, sahasra vedhi rasa, Swarna beeja – 4 methods,

Panchadashopadesha (15th chapter)

Garbha dravana yogya beeja sadhana – 6 methods, garbha dravita beeja sutha grasa, Rasa ranjaka (ranjaka beeja) – 4 methods, Gandha naga druti, Gandha naga druti jarana, purva Rasa shodhana, Sutha vyoma satva charana jarana, garbha dravana, garbha dravita jarana, jarita punaranjana, beeja dravana ranjana sarana (koti vedhi), Gandhaka jarana, Gandha jeerna Rasa jarana yogena koti vedhi karana, Rasa beeja karana, Rasa beeja jarana, dhuma vedhi rasa.

Shodashopadesha (16th chapter)

Bhunaga satva – 7 methods, Bhunaga taila – 2 methods, guhya sutha, guhya sutha jarana, Chapala bheda – 4 types

Sapthadashaopadesha (17th chapter)

Abhraka druti – 14 methods, Abhraka satva druti – 6 methods, Swarna druti- 5 methods, Swarna Roupya druti, Teekshna Loha druti – 3 methods, sarva dathu druti – 2 methods, Kanta loha druti, sarva loha druti – 3 methods, Makshika satva druti, sarva Ratna sarva loha druti, Vajra druti – 2 methods, Vaikranta druti – 2 methods, sarva druti sthapana dhara.

Ashtadashaopadesha (18th chapter)

Druti rasena melapana or sarva druti melapana- 6 methods, lipta musha, druti jarana shatadhara koti paryanta vedha, druti jarana, Vajra beeja, Vajra beeja jarana sparsha vedhi shabdavedhi rasa, dhuma vedha vidhi, sparsha vedha vidhi, shabdha vedha vidhi, pashana vedha vidhi, medhini vedha vidhi, trailokya vyapaka vidhi, shabdha vedhi rasa,

Ekonavimshopadesha (19th chapter)

Ratna karana- like Padma karana, Mukta karana- 4 methods, Hingula karana, Sindhura karana – 4 methods, Saindhava karana, Sauvarchala karana, Hingu karana – 4 methods, Vanga karana – 2 methods, Amla vetasa karana, masee karana, ghrita

karana – 4 methods, Chandhana karana, Karpura karana, javadhi kasturi karana, kasthuri karana, kumkuma karana – 3 methods, divya dhupa – 2 methods, pushpa druti, dhanya vrudhi karana – 3 methods, dravyadi vrudhi karana, dhanya vrudhi karana.

Vimshathithamopadesha (20th chapter)

Parada bhandhana – 21 methods, Parada bhasma – 3 methods, kota bhada rasa mukha karana, Tamra gatasya swarna prapti, Tamra swarnam, sputhita dhathu mrudu karana, Vangasya roupam, Naga mukha karana, Kathina dhathu mrudu karana – 3 methods, Abhra grasa rasa, guhya yogaha, kamadhenu – 3 methods, Taravedhi kalka, Gagana grasa.

Parishishta - Appendix- 1

YANTRA – Total 19 yantras have been explained.

Kachapa yantra, Dhupa yantra, Tiryak patana yantra, Jarana yantra, Bhudhara yantra, Damaru yantra, Patala yantra, Dola yantra, Garbha yantra, Nadika yantra, Adhahpatana yantra, Tapta khalva yantra, Valuka yantra, Somanala yantra, Hamsa paka yantra, Palika yantra, Vidhya dhara yantra, Urdhva patana yantra, Koshtika yantra.

Parishishta – 2

PUTA - Total 10 putas have been explained.

Maha puta, Gajaputa, Varaha puta, Kukkuta puta, kapota puta, Gomaya puta, Bhandaputa, Valuka puta, Bhudhara puta, Lavakaputa

Parishishta – 3

Table 1 Conversion of lower metals into Swarna

S. No.	BASE	CONVERSION TO SWARNA	CHAPTER no
1.	Gandhakajarita	One method, chaturshashtivedhi	16 th chapter
2.	Gandhapishti	16 methods	4 th chapter
3.	Guhyasuta vedha	One method, kotivedha	16 th chapter
4.	Chandrarkavedha	3 methods	7 th , 9 th chapters
5.	Chapala	One method, shatavedha	16 th chapter
6.	Jarita rasa	One method, sahasra, kotivedha	15 th chapter
7.	Tamra vedha (siddha churna)	2 methods	4 th chapter
8.	Tamravedha	17 methods, dashavedhi, shodashavedhi, shatavedhi-5methods, sahasravedhi-5methods, lakshavedhi,	6 th , 7 th , 9 th , 20 th chapters
9.	Tararishta	4 methods, sahasravedhi	4 th , 9 th chapters
10.	Taratamra vedha	2methods, sahasra, kotivedha	7 th , 15 th chapters
11.	Tarabeeja	Shatavedha-3methods dashasahasravedha	14 th vedha
12.	Drutijarana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2methods, Shatavedha, sahasra-2methods, laksha, dashalaksha, koti vedha • From Rajata- swarna conversion – one method 	18 th chapter
13.	Nagavedha	10 methods, sahasravedhi- 2 methods, kotivedhi	4 th , 6 th , 7 th , 15 th , 20 th chapters
14.	Pakvabeeja	One method	5 th chapter
15.	Parada vedha	2 methods	6 th chapter
16.	Rasabeeja	Shatavedha- 2methods, sahasravedhi	15 th , 18 th chapters
17.	Raupya karana	Kotivedha	15 th chapter
18.	Vaikrantha	One method, sahasra- 2 methods, laksha, kotivedha(Swarna)	16 th chapter
19.	Swarnabeeja	4 methods, dashasahasra, laksha, kotivedha	14 th chapter

Prachina mana – Magadha mana, Kalinga mana, Adhunikamana

Parishishta – 4

Aushadhi sarana –

Sanskrit, English, Botanical name of the drugs which are used in this treatise have been mentioned.

20.	Sitaswarna	One method, lakshavedhi	9 th , 20 th chapters
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Table 2 Conversion of lower metals into Rajata

Sl.no.	Base	Conversion to Rajata	Chapter No.
1	Tamra vedha	10 methods (Rajata)	8 th chapter
2	Tarajotaka	6 methods (Rajata)	8 th chapter
3	Drutijarana	One method, sahasra, laksha, koti vedha (Rajata)	18 th chapter
4	Vaikrantha	Shatavedha, lakshavedha (Rajata)	16 th chapter
5	Vangavedha	17 methods (Rajata)	8 th , 20 th chapters

CONCLUSION

1. This book was written by Nithyanath siddha – Son of Srimathi Parvathi.
2. The text consists of 20 chapters, which deals mainly with Ashatdasha samskaras of Parada.
3. The uparasas and maharasas mentioned in this book are different from Rasaratna samuchchaya.
4. In uparasa, Kankshi and Anjana are replaced by Rajavarta and Bhoo khaga.
5. In the same way in maharasa- Abhraka and Vaikranta are replaced by Hingula and Anjana. Along with these, Tutha as well as Sasyaka has been explained.
6. Specific method of parada shodhana, Samanya shodhana of uparasas and shata guna jarana of gandhaka are mentioned. Bhunaga taila has been explained in the context of Naga ranjana. While explaining astadasha samskaras of parada, “Anuvasana” has been mentioned.

7. Artificial method of preparing Ratna, Lavana has been mentioned along with description regarding dhanya vrudhi karana.
8. Twenty one methods of Parada bandhana and specific 3 methods of Parada bhasma are also elaborated in this book.
9. Extensive explanation of lohavada i.e conversion of lower metal to higher metal can be observed in this book. In most of the instances, tamra and naga are converted into higher metal.
10. Shodhana and bhasmikarana of dhatus, preparation of Siddha churna which was used for Tamravedha, explanation of equipments like Lipta musha, Chakra yantra etc has got a mention in this treatise.
11. The above explained procedures are tedious to perform. So, they are not practically applicable in this era. Some of the drugs like divyoushadhies are not available. Some of the other rasaoshadhies have been explained in other khandas.

12. Thus this book is handy for those who want to convert lower metal into higher metal i.e lohavada. This book doesn't give much importance to therapeutic utility of rasa dravyas.

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