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AN ANCIENT SCIENTIST “*Daksha Prajapati*”: HISTORICAL REVIEW

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ABSTRACT:

Ayurveda is supposed to be the oldest life science on earth, which was invented by *Bramha* a creator of universe. As mentioned in *Brihat-trayis*, *Bramha* recalled Ayurveda and transferred his knowledge to *Daksha-Prajapati* who further passed this knowledge to *Ashwinikumara*. *Daksha* also named as *Prajapati* means creator of living beings. According to *Rigveda* he is one of *Aditya* among 8 *Adityas*. Many creator, inventors or author of various researches done in the field of Ayurveda is still unknown, In Sanskrit literature related to Ayurveda no information about author or inventor is found, this is the only reason behind the unavailability of details of researcher, authors and inventor. There are very few references found in scattered and brief status about various inventors. Present article deals with such brief and scattered information and references about *Daksha Prajapati* and organized systematically so as to get maximum information about *Daksha Prajapati*.

KEYWORDS: *Daksha ,Prajapati* , formulae's, Books, references, ancient scientists.

AIMS

1. To know the details about creator, inventors, contributors of Ayurveda w.s.r to *Daksha Prajapati*.

OBJECTIVES

Compile, gather, and organize scattered data about the contributors of Ayurveda w.s.r to *Daksha Prajapati*.

MATERIALS

References about *Daksha Prajapati* from,

Archeological catalogue of *Daksha Prajapati*.

Internet or web based references,

Literature published,

Manuscripts,

Records of Museum,

Sangraha grantha of Ayurveda,

Tantra grantha,

Treatises, and other available literature.

METHODS

Brihat trayis, Laghutrayis, Sangraha granthas, and all other Sanskrit literature available in the library of *Vidarbha Ayurved Mahviyalaya Amravati*. is taken in to consideration for present study. Archeological reports, catalogues of different museums were referred to obtain details about *Daksha Prajapati*.

various formulation described in different literature have been screened and documented for references about *Daksha Prajapati*, various catalogues of manuscripts, museums, archeological catalogues, article on tourists places have been screened for details about *Daksha Prajapati* and documented in comprehensive manner, original references are quoted for the benefit of readers.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1) References in the form of literature

According to *Rigveda* which is supposed to be the oldest man made literature on earth calculated as 4000 yrs B.C. by lokmanya tilaka.(*Ayurveda Itihasa* By vadodkar. Page.7) *Daksha Prajapati* is one of the *Adityas* (ii.27.1) who were 8 in numbers.

Daksha is son of *Aditi*, and called as *Prajapati*, i.e, creator of living being was married to *Prasuti* and *panchajani*. And daughter *Sati* who was married to *Shiva*.(*Vishnu purana, padmapurana*)

According to *Narsinha Puranam* (3.1), *Daksha* identified and named all the stars like *Dhruva*, and some of the group of

stars like *Shravasti (Dhanishtha), Ashvini (Mesha Nakshatra), Vrishabha* it is believed that *Daksha* has identified 28 *nakshatras*, the last one was named after him I.e. *Daksha*. etc.

He also developed special techniques to identify group of stars I.e. *nakshatras* with the help of bamboo sticks and clay models. He is the first astrophysicist who used position of moon of earth and time to identify different stars from other galaxies. These methods are still used and followed by modern scientists to identify different stars and galaxies also.

Daksha developed nomenclature methods of different stars. First ever group of stars was named by him is *Mesha*. For giving credentials of his work in ancient Indian literature all the group of stars(*Nakshatras*) are called as daughters of *Daksha*, and in Indian sculptural sciences his idols and sculptures were made showing human body with *Mesha* head for differentiation of his sculptures from others.

According to *Mahabharata Adiparva (121)* *Bramha* taught him *Ayurveda* I.e science of Life, also he is a teacher of the two *Ashvins*, the twin sons of the *Surya*.

Prajapati also means son of *Bramha*, appointed by *Bramha* to create *pra-jah* I.e. pro creator or lord of the peoples appointed by *Bramha* himself with some other *rishis*, was a great king.

He is also called as father of 27 Stars I.e. *Nakshtra* as a honour towards his identification of different stars .(Wikipedia)

All of us in Ayurveda world believe the science of life that is Ayurveda is divine in origin. According to *Bramha* the first member of Hindu supreme powers that is *BRAMHA –VISHNU-MAHESH* was the profounder of Ayurveda or the healing science .

According to most of Ayurvedic texts *Bramha* taught him science of medicine and was the teacher of two *Ashvinikumaras viz, ch. Su. 1/1, sushruta samhita su 1/1, ashtanga hridayam su 1/1* etc.

ब्रह्मणा हि यथाप्रोक्तमायुर्वेदं प्रजापतिः। च सू
१/४⁽¹⁹⁾

According to *Charaka*, lord *Bramha* is the originator of medical science.

ब्रह्मा स्मृत्वाऽऽयुषो वेदं प्रजापतिमजिग्रहत् ।

सोऽश्विनौ तौ सहस्राक्षं सोऽत्रिपुत्रादिकान्मुनीन्

॥ अ ह सू १/३⁽²⁰⁾

According to *Ashtanga Hridaya Samhita*, *Bramha* is the creator of the universe; he recalled Ayurveda and gave its knowledge to *Prajapati*.

इह खल्वायुर्वेदं

नामोपाङ्गमथर्ववेदस्यानुत्पाद्यैव प्रजाः

श्लोकशतसहस्रमध्यायसहस्रं च कृतवान्

स्वयम्भूः । सु सू १/६⁽²¹⁾

According to *Sushrut Samhita*, *Bramha* gave knowledge of Ayurveda to *Prajapati* which is the form of *Bramha Samhita* having 100000 sutras with 1000 *Adhayas*.

According to *Bhavaprakasha (I.i) prajapati* is called as *daksha* because of his expertise in different clinical and surgical procedures i.e. *Daksha*.

Daksha prajapati also described importance and medical properties of *Haritaki* and its different types with pharmaceutical and pharmacological basis of Ayurveda to *Ashvinikumaras viz,*

दक्षं प्रजापतिं स्वस्थमश्विनौ वाक्यमूचतुः ।

कुतो हरीतकी जाता तस्यास्तु कति जातयः

॥१॥

रसाः कति समाख्याताः कति चोपरसाः स्मृताः

|

नामानि कति चोक्तानि किं वा तासां च

लक्षणम् ॥२॥

के च वर्णा गुणाः के च का च कुत्र प्रयुज्यते ।

केन द्रव्येण संयुक्ता कांश्च रोगान्व्यपोहति

॥३॥

प्रश्नमेतद्यथा पृष्टं भगवन्वक्तुमर्हसि ।

अश्विनीर्वचनं श्रुत्वा दक्षो वचनमब्रवीत् ॥४॥

पपात बिन्दुर्मेदिन्यां शक्रस्य पिबतोऽमृतम् ।

ततो दिव्यात्समुत्पन्ना सप्तजातिर्हरीतकी ॥५॥

2. Formulaes Attributed to Daksha Prajapati

1. *Maharsnadi Kwatha*- According to *Bhavaprakash* formula of very famous *Vata nashaka kwatha* among Ayurvedic practitioners named *Maharsndai kwatha* was invented by *Daksha prajapati*. He also described its pharmaceutical and pharmacological properties with its clinical uses. According to him

Maharasnadi kwatha can be successfully used on All of Vata disorders like Sandhi-Majjagata Vata, Aanaha, Sarvangagata Vata, Kanpavata, Khanjatva, Vamanatva, Pakshaghata, Ardita, Janu-Jangha-Asthi Gata Pida, Gridhrasi, Hanugraha, Vatarakta, Urustambha, Vishvachi, Koshtukashirsha etc It is also found useful in some painful conditions of Arsha, Gulma, Hridroga, Visuchika, Aantravridhi, Shlipada, Yonigata And Shukraj Vikruti, Medhravikara in males, infertility in females, Garbha Pata and Garbha Srtava. He also describes its

pharmaceutics, according to him it is best ever medicine having Pachana action and thus works as *vatashamaka*. (*bhava prakasha 2 khanda/2 page 587.*)

According to *Charaka Samhita* chi 3/15 the disease *Jwara* was first occurred during *Yadnya* performed by *Daksha Prajapati*, who does not shows necessary respect towards *Rudra* which leads to *kopa* and finally *jwara* to *Rudra* . According to *Acharya Chakrapani* it shows that *kopa* or *krodha* is the one of major cause of the disease, that's why the disease is called as *Jwara* means causing *santapa* of *deha* and *manasa* also.

1. References about *Daksha Prajapati* in the form of sculpture, statue etc.



Daksha prajapati at Ikkeri, located at a distance of 6 Km from Sagar, was the capital of the Nayakas from 1560 to 1640 AD. The highlight of this place is the magnificent Aghoreshvara Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva.



Daksheshwara Mahadeva temple is located in Kankhal, Haridwar in Uttarakhand state in north India. This temple is one of the most famous and visited temples of ancient temples of India. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. This temple is a great place of worship and devotion for the devotees of Lord Shiva who through this temple is large number during the month of Saavan according to Hindu calendar. The temple is named after King Daksha who was father of Sati. The temple was built was Queen Dankor in year 1810 AD and was reconstructed in year 1962.



Carvings of daksha prajapati on durga temple and paintings. SUMERU TEMPLE, RAMNAGAR (18th century) is dedicated to Goddess Durga.

Discussion:

Daksha one of *Prajapati* appointed by *Brahma* to rule the Indian subcontinent at that time was known as a pro-creator and lord of the people. He is also known as a father of 27 daughters to show gratitude towards his work in astrophysics at that

time. He is known for his research work related to identification methods and developing clay model of different visible stars form different galaxies. He also developed standard method using position of earth's moon with respect to time to identify the stars. He is also known for his research work in health sciences also.

According to *Charaka samhita* the disease *Jwara* was first occurred on earth during *Dakshas Yadnya* or simply we can say that *Daksha* is the first person who knows that *jwara* can be caused by *kopa* or mental irritability and *Rudra* is first person having this newly identified disease named *jwara*. According to almost all treatises on Ayurveda *Daksha Prajapati* got the knowledge of Ayurveda from Lord *Bramha*, The creator of universe and passed it to *Ashvinikumaras* the twin sons of *Surya*. According to *Bhavaprakasha*, *Daksha* elaborated pharmacology and pharmacodynamics of Ayurvedic drugs to *Ashvinikumaras*. He also described first ever Ayurvedic drug named *Haritaki* as per his newly developed research methodology of drugs in Ayurveda. *Rasa, anurasa, varna, prayojya anga, yojna* or therapeutic uses, possible formulations and methods of nomenclature are some of the research aspects of Ayurvedic pharmacology described by him. As per archeological survey of India a temple of *Daksha Prajapati* is situated at **Bedar in Bihar state**. This shows the mythological and cultural influence of *Daksha* in Asian subcontinent also. Though there are not enough sculptures found elsewhere in Asian subcontinent other than India but sculpture of his teacher Lord *Bramha*, and his *shishyas*, twin sun of son *Ashvinikumaras* are found all over Asian subcontinent which gives idea about wide spread of Ayurvedic sciences at that period. The first and oldest reference about *Daksha* was found in *Rigveda* which is supposed to be 6000 yrs old it indicates the time period of *Daksha* dynasty was older than that of *Rigveda*.

Conclusions

- 1) *Daksha Prajapati* is first ever known Astrophysicist and physician and, researcher, author, in the field of Ayurveda.
- 2) Sculptures found as a temple of *Daksha Prajapati* is suggestive of geographical and cultural influence of *Daksha Prajapati* in Asian subcontinent.
- 3) Formulation named as *Maharasnadi kwatha* was invented by *Daksha Prajapati* found very popular remedy in different Ayurvedic literature for management of *Vata* disorders.
- 4) *Daksha Prajapati* also devised new techniques of treating *Vata* ailments by using *Pachana* type of drugs.
- 5) *Daksha* is also known for his innovative research in Astrophysics, he developed identification and nomenclature techniques of different stars from other galaxies also. It is believed that he identified and named 28 group of stars called as *Nakshatras* last one was named after him was *Daksha* and which is no longer visible by naked eyes now. He also uses different positions of moon of earth for identification of star which may be evaporated or destroyed in natural processes can also be a project of research in that stream of science.
- 6) It is also believed that the disease *jwara* is also occurred on earth in

human beings during his time period.

Almost all treatises of Ayurveda Suggests that He is a *shishya* of lord *Bramha* And Teacher or guru of *Ashvinikumaras* ,the twin sons of sun. He learned Ayurveda from *Bramha* ,the creator of universe and passed this knowledge to *Ashvinikumaras*

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.This also indicates that Ayurvedic sciences in the period of 4000 yrs BC. was in such a developed status that it has been established as a science and was practiced among large group of populations and was being taught or learned by *guru shishya parampara* or was in a such a developed status that it has being taught and learned by influential peoples of that time.