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# An Introduction To Ayurvedokta God Mahadeva and Evaluation of His Contribution To Ayurveda

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## Abstract

Lord Vamadeva is very well known in Indian culture as lord Shiva and is one among the divine trinity. Lord Shiva is worshipped throughout the India. In Indian mythology, lord Vamadeva is considered as the destroyer of the universe during doom's day (*Pralaya*). He drank the strongest poison called '*Halahala*' during the process of churning of sea. He was the ardent fighter with great weaponry in the stock. His famous weapons include *Chandrasah Khadag* (sword), *Trishoola* (Trident), *Pashupatastra*, the *Pinaka* bow. Lord Vamadeva impartially blessed both gods and demons. Lord Vamadeva was present in the conclave of *rishis* held beneath the mountain Himalaya, some 5000 years ago to discuss the impact of diseases on human health. Lord Vamadeva is considered as the pioneer of Indian chemistry (*Rasashastra*). In Indian *Rasashastra*, the mercury (*Parada*) is called as the semen of lord Vamadeva and the Sulphur (*Gandhaka*) is considered as the menstrual bleed of the goddess 'Parvati' the wife of lord Vamadeva. There are many *Rasakalpas* (chemical medicinal preparations) which are credited to the Vamadeva. The review of books like 'Bhaishajya Ratnavali' written by Govindadas Sena, 'Vaidya Chintamani' written by Vallabhacharya, and 'Vangasen Samhita' written by Vangasena, and 'Abhinav Chintamani' written by Bhagwani Chakrapni Das, shows more than fifty medicinal preparations to the credit of Vamadeva.

**Keywords** – *Rasakalpas*

Lord Vamadeva was present in the conclave of *rishis* held beneath the mountain Himalaya, some 5000 years ago to discuss the impact of diseases on human health.<sup>[1]</sup> Lord Vamadeva's residence was at mountain 'Kailasha' which is part of Himalayan ranges. Since the large conglomerate of *rishis* took place beneath the mountain Himalaya, the participation of lord Vamadeva is quite natural and anticipated one. Lord Vamadeva is considered as the pioneer of Indian chemistry (*Rasashastra*). In Indian *Rasashastra*, the mercury (*Parada*) is called as the semen of lord Vamadeva and the Sulphur (*Gandhaka*) is considered as the menstrual bleed of the goddess 'Parvati' the wife of lord Vamadeva. There are many *Rasakalpas* (chemical medicinal preparations) which are credited to the Vamadeva. In a book 'Bhaishajya Ratnavali' of Govindadas Sena, we find 24 medicinal preparations to the credit of Vamadeva. In a book called 'Vaidya Chintamani' of Vallabhacharya, we find 23 medicinal preparations credited to Vamadeva. In a book called 'Vangasen Samhita' of Vangasena, we find 07 medicinal preparations to the credit of Vamadeva. In a book called 'Abhinav Chintamani' of Bhagwani Chakrapni Das, we find 08 medicinal preparations to the credit of Vamadeva. Hence, it becomes essential to explore the life of lord Vamadeva to know about his contribution to the Ayurveda.

### **Material And Method :**

Literary method of research is followed in this article. All the available Ayurvedic and Indological literature is explored to find the maximum information about the lord Vamadeva from classical Indian literature so as to reach the logical

### **Review Of Literature :**

#### **Vamadeva as Reincarnation of Shiva**

In chapter Shata Rudra Samhita of Shiva Purana, acharya Bodhayana had mentioned the five incarnations of lord Shiva. They are – 1. Sadyojata, 2. **Vamadeva**, 3. Tatpuruasha, 4. Aghora, 5. Eshana. As per Bodhayana, Vamadeva incarnation took place in 30<sup>th</sup> 'Rakta' Kalpa. That time the body hue of lord Shiva was red<sup>[2]</sup>.

#### **Reason For Name As Vamadeva**

As per Linga Purana, lord Brahma was meditating with the desire to have the progeny. After some time, a bright lustrous person wearing red ornaments, red garland and red cloths appeared before him. Lord Brahma came to know that person is no other than the lord Shiva himself. Lord Shiva told to lord Brahma that as Brahma prayed for him by enchanting the mantra; '*Vamadevay NamaHa*', he will come to know as 'Vamadeva'. Lord Shiva blessed lord Brahma that he will continue to recognize his true form in every *Kalpa*.<sup>[3]</sup>

#### **Reference of Calling Shiva as Vamadeva**

While describing the war between Gods (*Devas*) and demons (*Danavas*) on account of abduction of wife of Brihaspati by the king Soma (moon), lord Shiva who joined the side of Brihaspati, is referred as 'Vamadeva'. He also referred as *Girish* and *Pinaki* in the same verse given in Matsya Purana.<sup>[4]</sup>

Sati the wife of lord Shiva while requesting him to go to attend the *Yagya* conducted by her father Daksha, calls lord Shiva as 'Vamadeva'<sup>[5]</sup>.

In the Ayurvedic book 'Nidan Manjiri' lord Shiva is referred as 'Vamdeva'. While narrating the evolution of 'Jwara' (fever) on earth whereas all other Ayurvedic books referred lord Shiva as

'Rudra', the author of Nidan Manjiri called Rudra as 'Vamadeva'. As per Ayurveda fever evolved as a result of angry exhalation of lord Rudra/Vamadeva.<sup>[6]</sup>

### **Birth of Rudra/Vamadeva :**

When lord Brahma was creating the universe, he first created four sons viz. 1. Sanak, 2. Sanandan, 3. Sanatan, 4 Sanatkumar. He asked these four sons to create the creatures in universe. But they disobeyed lord Brahma. Due to this disobedience, lord Brahma got angry. This anger came out of his forehead and turn into a bluish-reddish crying kid. This kid asked lord Brahma his name and place of residence. Lord Brahma asked the kid not to cry and said as he started crying soon after the birth, he will be called as 'Rudra' and he will also be called by eleven other names such as 1. Manyu, 2. Manu, 3. Mahinas, 4. Mahan, 5. Shiva, 6. Ritadhwaja, 7. Ugrareta, 8. Bhavya, 9. Kala, 10. Vamadeva, and 11. Dhritvrat. He further asked Rudra to create the universe as he being the Prajapati. But Rudra and his *ganas* (peoples) started killing the creatures. Hence, lord Brahma asked Rudra to observe penance. Rudra obeyed lord Brahma and went to forest to observe the penance.<sup>[7]</sup>

### **Vamadeva As Creator :**

As per the story given in Linga Purana, when lord Brahma and Vishnu first met with each other, they started tussling over creator of the universe. That time one *linga* of fire erupted between them. It was creating the noise as 'Om'. Lord Brahma and Vishnu decided to search the root and top of this fire *linga*. Hence, lord Vishnu went down and lord Brahma went upwards. They searched for many years but in vain. Later they came back. That time

lord Shiva appeared in his form before them and told to both quarreling gods that he only is responsible for creation (*Utpatti*), maintenance (*Palana*) and destruction (*Samhara*) of the universe. Lord Vishnu is evolved from his left side.

Later lord Brahma evolved from the umbilicus of the lord Vishnu. Lord Vamadeva asked both lords to follow their respective duties towards universe.<sup>[8]</sup>

### **Vamadeva As Governing Authority :**

As per Matsya Purana, lord Brahma, made lord Shiva as the governing authority of *Pishachas*, *Rakshasas*, *Pashus*, *Bhutas*, *Yaksha* and *Vetals*.<sup>[9]</sup>

*Pishachas* are non-vegetarian meat-eating microbes, creatures or peoples or community like Rohingyas living in Myanmar. *Rakshasas* are blood suckering microbes or creatures or community living in the Sri Lanka. Famous demon Ravana was their king. *Bhutas* are dead persons or microbes or community living in Bhutan called as *Bhuta*. *Yakshas* are community living in the belt of river Alaknanda below mountain Kailasha. Kuber is their lord. *Vetals* are supernatural ghost lor community living in Tibet or China. In short lord Shiva was the governing authority of the peoples living in the north eastern region of India.

### **Marriage of Shiva :**

Lord Shiva first married with the daughter called 'Sati' of Daksh Prajapati. Later after the death of Sati, Vamadeva married with the daughter called 'Parvati' of kingdom of Himalaya.<sup>[10]</sup>

### **Loss of Wife Sati And Destructing The Yagya of Daksha :**

On the request of wife Sati, lord Shiva allowed her to attend the Yagya at her father's home. In that Yagya all gods, rishis, *munis* arrived. King Daksha

did not invite his son in law Shiva in the *Yagya* as he was prejudiced against lord Shiva. As Sati went there without invitation and as King Daksha insulted her with harsh words. Muni Bhrigu and Pusha also laughed at this moment. Due to this unbearable insult, sati set ablaze in the fire of *Yagya*. When lord Mahadeva came to know about this, he sent his warriors under the leadership of Veerbhadra, Manibhadra and Nandi to destroy the *Yagya* of Daksha. Accordingly, they destroyed it and beat the gods and rishis present there. Veerbhadra beheaded king Daksha. [11]

### Vamadeva As Alchemist :

Vamadeva is said to be the pioneer of Indian chemistry (Rasa Shastra). In Indian Rasa Shastra, mercury (*Parad*) is considered as the semen of lord Shiva and Sulphur (*Gandhak*) is considered as the menstrual blood of the Parvati. Most of the Rasa Shastra medicines are prepared using mercury and Sulphur as the basic constituents. In a book called '**Rasa Tarangini**', lord Vamadeva is mentioned as a *Rasa acharya* (teacher of Rasa shastra) along with Nandi, Manthan Bhairav, Swachhanda Bhairava, Kakchandishwara, Vyadi, Gorakshanatha and Nagarjuna [12].

### Contribution To Ayurveda :

In a book called '**Bhaishajya Ratnavali**' written by Govindadas Sen, we find total 24 medicinal preparations that are credited to the lord Vamadeva [13]. In a book called '**Vaidya Chintamani**' written by Sri Vallabhacharya, we find total 23 medicinal preparations that are credited to the lord Vamadeva [14]. In a book called '**Vangasen Samhita**' written by Vangasena, we find total 07 medicinal preparations that are credited to the lord Vamadeva [15]. In a

book called '**Abhinav Chintamani**' written by Bhagwan Chakrapani Dasa, we find total 08 medicinal preparations that are credited to the lord Vamadeva [16].

### Observations :

**Table – 01 - Medicinal Preparations attributed to Vamadeva (A)**

Sr	Bhaishajya Ratnavali	Vaidya Chintamani
1	Kalyansundarabhra Rasa	Maha Shatavari Taila
2	Indushekhar Rasa	Purna Chandradoya Sinduram
3	Mahakaleshwar Rasa	Chandramrit Rasa
4	Vangashtak Yoga	Pittabhanjan Rasa
5	Shankar Vati	Vatavajra Rasa
6	Rudra Taila	Swachhanda Bhairav Rasa
7	Jyotishman Rasa	Vatankush Rasa
8	Rasa Tailam	Suryaprabha Gutika
9	Mananandak Modak	Babbuladi Leha
10	Trivruttadi Modaka	Navaratna Rajmrigank Rasa
11	Shiva Gudika	Mahakalagni Rudra Rasa
12	Mustakadi Modak	Fanibhushan Rasa
13	Neelkantha Rasa	Kalagni rudra Rasa
14	Brihat Vasa Avaleha	Pashupatastra Rasa
15	Kumkumadya Ghritam	Lokeshwara Rasa
16	Mahamrigank Rasa	Maha Bhairav Rasa
17	Laxmivilas Rasa	Trayodash Bhairav Rasa
18	Vishvodipa-kabhram	Surya Pawak Rasa
19	Chandramrita Rasa	Trimurthy Rasa
20	Damaranandabhra Rasa	Ardhanarishwar Rasa
21	Markandeya Churnam	Rasendra Rasa
22	Manmathabhra Rasa	Bhuteshwara Rasa
23	Kamagnisandipan Rasa	Tripurantak Rasa
24	Mahabhallatak Gud	-----

**Table – 02 - Medicinal Preparations attributed to Vamadeva (B)**

Sr	Vangasen Samhita	Abhinav Chintamani
1	Suryaprbha Gutika	Chandrashekhar Rasa
2	Shankar Lauha	Praneshwar Rasa
3	Swayambhuv Gugulu	Maheshwar Rasa
4	Brihat shiva Gutika	Prataprudra Rasa
5	Chandraprabha Vati	Ratnagiri Rasa
6	Mahabhallatak Avaleha	Shoolakuthar Rasa
7	Dwitiya Sinhanad Gugulu	Mahakalpataru Rasa
8		Bilava Taila

### Discussion :

Lord Vamadeva is popularly known as lord Shiva and worshipped whole through the India in the form of *Linga*. As per ancient Indological books, during the famous process of churning of ocean (*Samudra Manthana*), to save the mankind from deleterious effects of strong poison *Halahala*, lord Vamadeva himself drank it and kept it suspended in the throat. Lord Vamadeva rescued the gods from the troubles of demons from time to time. He impartially gave boon to both demons, gods, rishis and human beings from time to time as per their penance. Lord Vamadeva was present in the conclave of *rishis* conducted beneath the mountains of Himalayas, some 5000 years ago. This not only shows his interest in the medical science but also put him as the caring person for the sufferings of mankind. In Indian *Rasashastra*, the mercury (*Parada*) is called as the semen of lord Vamadeva and the Sulphur (*Gandhaka*) is considered as the menstrual bleed of the goddess 'Parvati' the wife of lord Vamadeva. There are many *Rasakalpas* (chemical medicinal preparations) which are

credited to the Vamadeva. Govindadas Sena, the author of book called *Bhaishajya Ratnavali*, had mentioned the 24 different medicinal preparations invented by Vamadeva. Vallabhacharya, author of book called *Vaidya Chintamani* had quoted the 23 medicinal preparations made by Vamadeva. Vangasena, the author of book called *Vangasena Samhita*, had mentioned the 07 medicinal preparations credited to the Vamadeva. It is considered that whole of the *Rasashastra* is pioneered by lord Vamadeva. He also gave the knowledge of *Nadi Vigyan* (Pulse examination) to the scholars.

### Conclusion:

It is concluded that lord Vamadeva had contributed significantly in the development of Ayurveda by not only pioneering the *Rasashastra* (Indian alchemy) but also by giving the knowledge of Pulse examination to the medical scholars.

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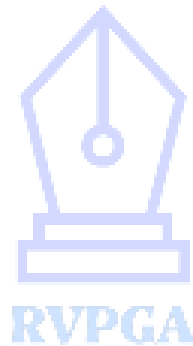
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