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An Introduction To Charak Samhitokta Rishi Galava and Evaluation of His Contribution To Ayurveda

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Abstract

Rishi Galava was one of the disciples of Kashi king Divodasa Dhanwantari along with Sushruta and other. Acharya Dalhana had mentioned him in his commentary 'Nimandha Sangraha' on 'Sushrut Samhita'. *Rishi Galava* was the son of illustrious Brmharishi Vishwamitra. He was the brother of famous surgeon Sushruta. His mother's name was 'Renu'. His father wrote 'Vishwamitra Samhita' on Ayurveda. In the absence of sage Vishwamitra, his mother Renu had to bring up the son 'Galava' in a poor state. Mother Renu put the rope in the neck of Galava and was about to sell him in return of 100 cows out of poverty. Since this son of Vishwamitra was tied around the neck (*Gala*) with the rope, he got the name 'Galava'. He took formal education at *Gurukula* (School) of Vishwamitra. Galava narrated the importance of Shaligram stone to Painjwana. Rishi Galava was truthful, noble, and very kind hearted person. He observed great penance at a place called 'Fullagrama' near south sea to get the boon from lord Vishnu. *Maharishi Galava* was present in the conclave of *rishis* conducted beneath the mountains of Himalayas, some 5000 years ago. This shows his interest in alleviating the sufferings of the mankind. Acharya Dalhana had mentioned about the 'Galava Tantra' a treatise on ancient surgical practices by rishi Galava. Hence, it becomes essential to explore the life of *rishi Galava* to know about his contribution to the Ayurveda.

Keywords – *Vishwamitra, Divodasa, Renu, Madhavi*

Introduction :

Maharishi Galava was present in the conclave of *rishis* conducted beneath the mountains of Himalayas, some 5000 years ago.^[1]

He was the son of famous Bramharishi Vishwamitra. His mother's name was Renu. Famous Ayurvedic Acharya Sushruta was his step brother. Acharya Dalhana had mentioned about the 'Galava Tantra' a treatise on ancient surgical practices by rishi Galava.

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 rishi Galava.

Review Of Literature :

Parents of Rishi Galava :

Rishi Galava was the son famous Rajarshi 'Vishwamitra'. His mother's name was 'Renu'.^[2]

Reason For Name As Galava :

In the absence of father Vishwamitra, his mother Renu raised the son 'Galava' in a poor state. Mother Renu put the rope in the neck of Galava and was about to sell him in return of 100 cows out of poverty. But the Ayodhya prince Satyavrata alias Trishanku saved the Galava from getting sold and took him to his shelter. Since this son of Vishwamitra was tied around the neck (*Gala*) with the rope, he got the name 'Galava'.^[3]

Education of Galava :

Galva joined Gurukul of Vishwamitra as disciple. Pleased with his service, Vishwamitra asked sage Galava to return to home peacefully after completing the studies. But sage Galava insisted on fees of the course (*Gurudakshina*). On repeated

insistence, Vishwamitra got annoyed and put difficult demand to Galava to give 800 horses having one black ear. Galava got depressed with this demand as it was beyond his paying capacity.^[4]

Galva meet Garuda on the way. Garuda consoled him and gave him knowledge about kings of different directions from where Galava can get help. Garuda introduced Galava to famous king Yayayti for having the 800 *Shyamkarva Ashva* (horses having black ears). Yayati praised them for choosing him for donation as against the Suryavanshi Kings. But he conveyed his inability to oblige. However, he offered his daughter 'Madhavi' to Galava saying that she is very beautiful and every king wants to possess her. And she has the power to preserve virginity even after the sex. Anyone will give 800 horses for possessing her.^[5] Accordingly, Galava first took Madhavi to Ayodhya king 'Haryashva' who was known for his vigor and equipped army. Looking at Madhavi, king Haryashva readily accepted the offer of Galava to possess Madhavi in return of white black eared horses. But Haryashva said that he is having only 200 such horses. Hence, he will possess Madhavi for 01 year only. From Madhavi, Haryashva had a generous son called 'Vasumana'. After one year as decided, Haryashva returned Madhavi to Galava.^[6] In the second attempt, Galava took Madhavi to Bhojnagar king 'Ushinara' who was known for his vigour & truthfulness. Ushinara also expressed his inability by saying that he has only 200 such horses. Hence, Galava requested him to possess Madhavi only for 01 year. Ushinara accepted the offer. From Madhavi, king Ushinar had a truth speaking son called 'Shibi'. After collecting 200 such horses and Madhavi,

Sage Galava moved towards Kashi king Divodasa.^[7] In the third attempt, Galava took Madhavi to Kashi king 'Divodasa' who was known for his vigour & righteousness. Divodasa also expressed his inability by saying that he has only 200 such horses. Hence, Galava requested him to possess Madhavi only for 01 year. Divodasa accepted the offer. From Madhavi, king Divodasa had a valorous son called 'Pratardana'. After collecting 200 such horses and Madhavi, Sage Galava moved towards Guru Vishwamitra.^[8]

In the fifth attempt, Galava took Madhavi to 'Vishwamitra' saying that he could collect only 600 such horses. Galava requested Vishwamitra to possess Madhavi for 01 year for price of rest 200 horses. Vishwamitra accepted the offer saying that he would have even compromised 800 horses in exchange with Madhavi. From Madhavi, Vishwamitra had a valorous son called 'Ashtaka'. After this Galava returned Madhavi to her father Yayati and went in forest to observe penance.^[9]

Galava's Watersport with Gandharva-kanya & Yaksha-kanya :

Sage Galava had good time enjoying water sport with Vedavati (daughter of Parjanya Gandharva) and Nadayanti (daughter of Yakshraja Anjan) in the Kalindi River.

Later the trio went to Pushkar Teertha and had joint bath there. Other people in lake commented on shameless behaviour of Galava. Hurt with the comment Galava went deep into the lake and never came back. The other two girls kept on waiting for him on the bank. Eventually Galava came on the marriage ceremony of both girls and became priest in the marriage function at Hatkeshwara.^[10]

Galava's Penance for Progeny :

Sage Galava did not have any child till he achieved senility. Hence, he used to remain in sorrow. Hence, Sage Galava observed *Tapas* (penance) in the south at a place called Sambhaditya (Near Naleshwara) and requested lord Surya to grant him the boon of to be father. After 15 years, Lord Surya obliged Galav muni seated under the banyan tree and gave him the boon of having child.

Galava kept the name of the son as 'Vateshwara'.^[11]

Galava's Advise to Paijwana Regarding Importance of Shaligram Shila :

Once there was a person belonging to Shudra community called 'Paijwana' in Treta Yuga. He was person with noble virtues. His wife and sons use to serve him. Once Sage Galava visited his place and inquired his wellbeing Paijwana requested Galava to advise him about wisdom. Galava told that anyone worshipping the Shaligram stone with holy basil (Tulasi) particularly in Chaturmasa (four month's period), will not meet untimely death.^[12]

Galava told Paijwan that once, Goddess Parvati got annoyed over lord Shiva and Vishnu and cursed them to get worshipped in the form of stone. Lord shiva as linga of stone found in River Narmada and lord Vishnu as Shalgram stone found in Gandaki river (Nepal). When lord Vishnu begged pardon, then Parvati said that yogis will get Moksha on worshipping your shalgram form in chatur masa. Similarly, the stone found in river Narmada will act as shiva linga. The person chanting 'Ram' nama in Chaturmasa (period of holy 4 months) will get everything.^[13]

Chakrateertha by Sage Galava :

Sage Galava observed great and hard penance near Fullgrama on the bank of channel Pushkarini of south ocean for years together. Sage Galava was truthful, noble, and very kind hearted sage. Pleased with his penance lord Vishnu appeared before sage Galava and offered him the boon. When sage Galava was observing the penance again there, one demon came to kill the sage Galava but the Sudarshan wheel of lord Vishnu beheaded that demon. Sage Galava praised the Sudarshan wheel and requested lord Vishnu to keep the name of that place as Chakra Teertha and demanded that who so ever will stay and pray there should get lord Vishnu's abode and those who so ever will feed their ancestors (*Pitars*) there should go the heaven. [14]

Contribution To Ayurveda :

Galava was among the 12 disciples of the Kashi king Dhanwantari Divodasa along with his younger brother Sushruta. Hence, it can be inferred that sage Galava also constructed his treatise '**Galava Tantra**' on surgical practices but it had lost in the course of the time. [15]. Maharishi Galava was present in the conclave of *rishis* conducted beneath the mountains of Himalayas, some 5000 years ago.

Observations :

Galava In Nutshell :

1	Father	Vishwamitra
2	Mother	Renu
3	Siblings	Sankruti, Ashwalayan, Badarayan, Sushrut, Harita
4	Place of Birth	Aryavarta (Ayodhya district - Uttar Pradesh)
5	Children	Vateshwara

6	Teacher	Vishwamitra and Divodasa
7	Lineage (Vansha)	Kaushik
8	Important work	Importance of Shaligram Shila
9	Penance at	South sea
10	Ayurved work	Galava Tantra

Discussion :

Sage Galava was truthful, noble, and very kind hearted sage. He fulfilled the hardest demand of his teacher. This portrays him not only as obedient student but also as the person adhering to the words given. When he was criticized for his behaviour with daughter of Yaksha and Gandharava, he did not come out of water rather acted as priest in their marriage. This depicts him not only as person with shame but with broad heartedness. Sage Galava got boon from both lord Surya and lord Vishnu on account of his hard penance. This put him not only as hard worker but also the person with great conviction and devotion. Galava was among the 12 disciples of the Kashi king Dhanwantari Divodasa along with his younger brother Sushruta. Maharishi Galava 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.

Conclusion :

Galava was among the 12 disciples of the Kashi king Dhanwantari Divodasa along with his younger brother Sushruta. Hence, it can be concluded that sage Galava also constructed his treatise '**Galava Tantra**' on surgical practices but it had lost in the course of the time.

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Declaration :

Conflict of Interest : None

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