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An Introduction To Charak Samhitokta Rishi Dhaumya and Evaluation of His

Contribution To Ayurveda

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Abstract

Sage Dhaumya is the brother of sage Devala. Pandavas have appointed sage Dhaumya as their chief priest. His reference is mainly found in Mahabharata. Sage Dhaumya had performed the marriage ceremony of Pandavas. Sage Dhaumya, accompanied Pandavas throughout their journey from Panchal state to Hastenapur. He performed the coronation ceremony of the Yudhishtira. He blessed the Yudhishtira and wished him to see as Conqueror of all the kings. Sage Dhaumya, performed the primary and educational rituals of the all the sons of Pandavas. Sage Dhaumya Performed the *Rajasuya Yagya* of The Yudhishtira. Sage Dhaumya told the secrets of *Dharma*. He believed that broken utensils and Banyan tree should not find a place at home. Sage Dhaumya also explained about the main places of worship available at four directions of India to king Yudhishtira. He was present in the famous conference of rishis that held almost seven thousand years ago beneath the mountain Himalaya along with his father sage Asita and brother Devala to discuss the health problems prevalent in the society and the ways to tackle it. This not only shows his interest in the medical science but also put them as the caring persons for the sufferings of mankind. Hence, it becomes essential to explore the life of sage Dhaumya to know about his contribution to the Ayurveda.

Keywords: Dhaumya, Ayurveda, Devala. Pandavas

Introduction :

Since it is mentioned in Mahabharata that sage Dhaumya was the brother of sage Devala, it can be said that his father may be the sage Asita. No other family detail information is available about sage Dhaumya in Indological literature. It was on the suggestion of the Gandharva that Pandavas have appointed him as their chief priest. His reference is mainly found in Mahabharata. Sage Dhaumya had performed the marriage ceremony of Pandavas with Draupadi. Sage Dhaumya, accompanied Pandavas throughout their journey from Panchal state to Hastenapur (famous ancient city on the bank of river Ganga). On the order of king Dhritarashtra, he performed the coronation ceremony of the Yudhishtira. He blessed the Yudhishtira and wished him to see as *Chakravarti Samrat* (Conqueror of all). Sage Dhaumya, the family priest of Pandavas performed the *Jatakarama*, *Chudakaran* and *Upanayan Sanskara* of the all the sons of Pandavas. Sage Dhaumya Performed the *Rajasuya Yagya* of The Yudhishtira. Sage Dhaumya told the secrets of *Dharma*. Sage Dhaumya also explained about the main places of worship available at four directions of India to king Yudhishtira. He was present in the famous conference of rishis that held almost seven thousand years ago beneath the mountain Himalaya along with his father sage Asita and brother Devala to discuss the health problems prevalent in the society and the ways to tackle it. ^[1]

This not only shows his interest in the medical science but also put them as the caring persons for the sufferings of mankind. Hence, it becomes essential to explore the life of sage Dhaumya to know about his contribution to the Ayurveda.

Material & 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 sage Dhaumya.

Review Of Literature:

Parents and Siblings of sage Dhaumya:

Since it is mentioned in Mahabharata that sage Dhaumya was the brother of sage Devala, it can be said that his father may be the sage Asita. ^[2]

Pandavas Making sage Dhaumya As Their Priest:

While on the way to the Panchal state through the forest, Arjuna asked Gandharva about suitable person as their priest. Gandharva replied that in the same forest, near *Utkochaka teertha* (place of worship) there is a priest called 'Dhaumya' who is the brother of famous sage Devala is observing the penance and he is the most suitable person for that if all agrees. Accordingly, all Pandavas went to the *Ashrama* (Hermitage) of sage Dhaumya and requested him to be as their priest. Sage Dhaumya accepted their request and sung auspicious rhymes for them. ^[3]

Sage Dhaumya Performed the Marriage Ceremony of Pandavas:

Sage Dhaumya, the priest of Pandavas who accompanied them through their journey was asked to perform the marriage ceremony of Pandavas. Accordingly, sage Dhaumya organized the sacred fire on the place of marriage and called the Pandavas one by one and performed *Panigrahana* (oath taking ceremony in traditional Hindu marriage) of each of them with the Draupadi, the daughter of Panchal king Drupada. ^[4]

Sage Dhaumya Performed the Coronation

Ceremony of Yudhishtira:

Sage Dhaumya, the priest of Pandavas who accompanied them throughout their journey from Panchal state to Hastinapur, on the order of king Dhritarashtra and Shrikrishna performed the coronation ceremony of the Yudhishtira. Other sages like Krupacharya and Dronacharya had also joined him the ritual process. He blessed the Yudhishtira and wished him to see as *Chakravarti Samrat* (king of all) ^[5]

Sage Dhaumya Performed the Upanayan

Sanskara of sons of Pandavas:

Sage Dhaumya, the family priest of Pandavas performed the Jatakrama, Chudakara and Upanayan Sanskara of the all the sons of Pandavas. First, he performed these sanskaras for the son named Prativindhya of Yudhishtira from Draupadi. Then of a Bhima's son called Sutasoma from Draupadi. Then of Arjuna's son from Draupadi called Shrutakarma. Then of Nakula's son from Draupadi called Shataneeeka. Then of a son of Sahadeva from Draupadi called Shrutseena at the interval of one year. Sage Dhaumya not only performed these sanskaras but also taught the Vedic knowledge to all the sons of the Pandavas. ^[6]

Sage Dhaumya Performed the Rajasuya Yagya of The Yudhishtira:

Sage Dhaumya, the family priest of Pandavas along with other 15 Ritviks (expert of Rigveda and rituals) performed the Rajasuya Yagya of Yudhishtira. They gave oblations to fire at regular intervals while enchanting the Vedic rhymes. ^[7]

Secrets of Dharma by Sage Dhaumya

Sage Dhaumya is of the opinion that in home there should not be broken utensils, broken bed, Cock or dog or tree of Banyan. As per him in broken utensils are habitat of Kaliyuga. Because of broken bed at home, there is loss of money. Because of presence of cock and dog at home the ancestors do not take the food made for them. The Banyan tree is a habitat of snake, scorpion and other poisonous animals. Hence, it should not be grown at home. ^[8]

Sage Dhaumya Explaining The Places of Worship of Eastern India To The Yudhishtira:

When Arjuna was on training in the heaven, the other brothers were waiting for him eagerly. The long wait was frustrating to them. Hence Sage Dhaumya, the family priest of Pandavas explained the places of worship of India to the Yudhishtira and other brothers. First, he explained the places of worship of eastern India. He stated that in the east there is *Naimish teertha* and *Gaya teertha*. At Gaya there is river Falgu and on *Gayasheersha* there is Akshay Vata (sacred banyan tree). Those who soever goes there and performs Shraddha for their ancestors get unending blessings. There is also a river Kaushiki (now called as Kosi) where sage Vishvamitra got *Brahmanatva*. In the east there is a river Ganga where ancient king Bhageeratha performed Yagya. Then there is a place where river Ganga and Yamuna meet. That place is called as Prayag where lord Brahma performed the best Yagya. Hence, that place had got the name Prayag (*Prakrishtha Yagya*). There is a mountain called Kalinjara where there use to be the hermitage of revered sage Agasti and lake and place of worship called Hiranyabindu. Near the mountain Kundod

there is hermitage of Matanga *muni*.^[9]

Sage Dhaumya Explaining The Places of Worship of Southern India To The Yudhishtira:

Next, sage Dhaumya explained the places of worship of southern India. In south there are rivers like Vena and Payoshni. On the bank of Payoshni river at Varaha *teertha*, king Nruga had performed the Yagya in ancient time. Sage Markandeya had narrated this history to his descendants. There is auspicious forest called Mathar Vana in the south. On the *Varun strotas* peak of mountain there is a victory tower of Mathara. This is located on the north branch of river Praveni near the hermitage of famous Kanva *muni*. In the Shurparak region (Goa and Konkan) there is *Vedi* of rishi Jamadagni. Also, there is famous *Pashan teertha*. At the Ashok *teertha*, there are hermitages of many rishis. In the Pandya *desha* (Andhra to Tamilnadu) there are Agastya *teertha* and Varun *teertha* and Kanyakumari *teertha*. There is famous Goakarna *teertha* along the sea. There is hermitage of sage Agasti on the mountain Vaidurya. In the Surashtra (Gujrat) along the sea there is famous Prabhas and Pindaraka region. There is famous mountain Ujjayanta near which there is famous city of Dwarka. The person observing penance on Ujjayant mountain gets the heaven.^[10]

Sage Dhaumya Explaining The Places of Worship of Western India To The Yudhishtira:

Next, sage Dhaumya explained the places of worship of western India. In the west there flows the auspicious river Narmada on the bank of which there are mango and Priyangu trees. There was hermitage of sage Visharwa and where Kubera was

born in ancient times. There is famous mountain called Vaidurya shikhara on the top of which there is a beautiful lake in which beautiful lotuses are always visible. There is one river which was evolved due to the penance of Rajarshi Vishwamitra. At this place king Yayati fell from heaven. There is famous mountain Mainak on which there was hermitage of rishi Chyawana and Kachha. There is famous forest called Saindhavaranya. There is famous Pushkar lake in the west side (Pushkar city of present-day Rajasthan state of India). Bathing in the Pushkar lake cleans all the sins.^[11]

Sage Dhaumya Explaining The Places of Worship of Northern India To The Yudhishtira:

Next, sage Dhaumya explained the places of worship of northern India. There is famous river Saraswati in the north. River Yamuna is having very forceful flow and end in sea. There is famous *Plakshavataran teertha* on the bank of river Saraswati where Brahmins bath and performs Yagya. Famous Balkhilya rishi also performed Yagya on the bank of river Sarswati. There is also the famous *teertha* called Agnishira on the bank of river Yamuna where Pandav Sahadeva threw the stick and performed famous Yagya. On the same place conqueror of world king Bharata performed the *Ashwamedha Yagya*. In Uttarkhanda, there is famous hermitage of Sharabhangarishi. Famous river called Drushatwati flows in the Uttarkhanda. The famous hermitage of Nara and Narayana is also there in the Uttarkhanda. (Badarikashram place in the present day Uttarkhand state of India). Famous sage Jamdgni performed Yagya there in forest of

Palasha (forest with trees of *butea monosperma*). There is famous mountain Himalaya wherein lives the Kiratas, Kinnaras, Yakshas, Gandharvas and Rakshasas. Nymphs please them. Breaking the mountains auspicious river Ganga appeared in Haridwara and there is a *teertha* (place of worship) on its bank. There is famous *teertha* called Kanakhala on the bank of river Ganga and mountain Puru where ancient king Pururawa undertook pilgrimage. There is famous mountain Bhrigu Tunga where there is hermitage of famous sage Bhrigu. There is famous city of lord Vishnu called Vishalapuri in the Badarikashrama where there is hermitage of sage Nara and Narayana. The sand in the river Ganga glows like gold there and it has warm and cool water at some places. Badarikashrama is a very sacred place on the earth where all *rishis*, *siddhas*, *devas* and all takes the blessings of lord Narayana.^[12]

Observation :

Table no. 1 - Sage Dhaumya in Nutshell

01	Grand father	Kashyapa
02	Father	Asit
03	Mother	Ekaparna
04	Brother	Devala
05	Uncle	Vistara
05	Contemporary sages	Agasti, Gautama, Brihaspati
06	Educational interest	Rituals, <i>Yagyas</i> & Participation in Ayurvedic conference

Discussion:

No much information is available about the birth and family tree of the sage Dhaumya except for the fact that he was the brother of legendary sage Devala. From this piece of information his family details could be traced. Ever since after his appointment as priest of Pandavas, sage Dhaumya stayed with them in all the adversaries and the glory. He accompanied them in the forest when they were in exile. He had also performed the marriage rituals of Pandavas. He carried out all the basic and educational rituals of sons of Pandavas in the royal palace. He guided Pandavas about the different places of worship in India. He took out Pandavas from post war depression. He also put Pandavas on righteous path as court minister. He motivated king Yudhishtira to undertake Rajasuya Yagya to establish his rule all over the India. Throughout his life he remained loyal to the Pandavas. Loyalty and honesty are some noble qualities which needs to be learnt from the life of sage Dhaumya.

Conclusion:

Sage Dhaumya was present in the conclave of *rishis* conducted beneath the mountains of Himalayas, some 7000 years ago and he learnt the wisdom of Ayurveda from rishi Bhardwaja.

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Declaration :

Conflict of Interest : None

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