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Rasaratnakara: A Jewel Mine of Mercury in Rasashastra

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ABSTRACT: The specialized branch of Ayurved, *Rasashastra* is focusing on using metals, minerals, and herbs to create potent medicines. Rasaratnakara, written in the 13th century, is a key text in Indian alchemy, detailing the practice of producing gems. It offers a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical experience, explaining *Dehavada* and *Lohavada* in depth. The content of the text material is divided into five segments, referred to as *Khanda*, which include *Rasa*, *Rasendra*, *Vadi* or *Riddhi*, *Rasayana*, and *Mantra*. Each *Khanda* comprises multiple chapters known as *Upadesha*. It thoroughly explores the two fundamental ideas of *Rasashastra* in significant detail, providing an in-depth comprehension of alchemical processes.

KEYWORDS: Rasashastra, Siddha Nityanatha, Lohavada

INTRODUCTION

Rasashastra is a branch of Ayurveda that emphasizes the comprehensive study and application of Parada (mercury), along with various metals, minerals, and herbs, to produce powerful medicinal formulations. The main goal of Rasashastra is to enhance health, longevity, and vitality through the use of these substances, frequently in alchemical methods. It entails the creation of elixirs and medicines that can cleanse the body, harmonize the Dosha, and address a range of health issues. Grounded in ancient literature and teachings, it merges the knowledge of chemistry and medicine, making it a vital component of traditional Ayurvedic healing. Many texts on Rasashastra have been composed throughout history, dating from B.C. to A.D. Among these, Rasaratnakara is notable text as an important work, offering comprehensive details about Lohavada (metallic transformation) and Dehavada (longetivity).

The literal meaning of the word Rasaratnakara can be considered as "jewel mine of mercury." It dedicates to alchemical work in 13th century written by Shree Nityanatha Siddha. It is considered a key text in Indian alchemy as it describes the practice of producing gems. The book is made up of five parts titled as *Khaṇḍa* and each *Khanda* comprises of chapters called as *Upadesha*. Two basic concepts of Rasashastra i.e. *Dehavada* and *Lohavada* are explained here in a very detailed manner.

According to the author's dedication, "the alchemical process that is evident in other writings is also present in this one, and anything missing from this text is not found anywhere else." This text presents a cohesive combination of *Shastra* (Theoretical knowledge) and *Kriya* (Practical). Both types of knowledge were taught by his *Guru* and personally experienced by the author, having been acquired through an extensive examination of all the writings that came before his own.

AUTHOR

Shree Nityanath Siddha - Son of Srimati Parvati.

COMMENTARIES AND COMMENTATORS

- The Hindi commentary of 'Shashiprabha' was written by Dr. Swaminatha Mishra. This commentary is made up of three parts.
- The first part of which 'Vadi Khanda', also known as 'Riddhi Khanda', has been published in 1991.
- In second part of the book, 'Rasa Khanda' and 'Rasayana Khanda' also called as 'Kayakalpa Khanda' which is presented under the name of 'Rasa-Rasayan Khanda' has been published in 2015.
- The third part of the book, 'Rasendra Mantra Khanda' also known as 'Chikitsa Khanda' has been published in 2022.

TIME PERIOD

Concerning the era of this text, various perspectives have been identified among Rasashastra scholars.

- The estimated era of Shri Nityanatha Siddha could be the 12th century. It is thought to precede Acharya Rasa Vagbhatta as the name Nityanatha appears in the text named, Rasaratnasamuchchhaya (13th century).
- The Hatha Yoga Pradipika text recognizes Acharya Nityanatha as a *Siddha*, indicating that he was a *Siddha* or was part of the *Siddha Sampradaya*. Some researchers have proposed the likely period to be the 13th century, due to references to *Siddha* figures like Nagarjuna and Acharya Yashodhara. Acharya Yashodhara authored Rasaprakasha Sudhakara, dated to the 13th century, suggesting that the time frame may be the 13th century, a perspective supported by Professor Siddhinandana Mishra.

CONTENTS

The text is composed of 108 *Upadesha* which are divided into five *Khanda* i.e. *Rasa, Rasendra, Vadi, Rasayana* and *Mantra Khanda*.

- **1.** *Rasa Khanda*: It contains 10 *Upadesha* which are useful to *Vaidya*. The treatise details alchemical processes for *Parada* (mercury), including purification, transformation, and binding methods. It covers the *Shodhana* of metals, oil extraction of herbs, and the *Amritikarana* of substances like *Abhraka* and *Loha Bhasma*, emphasizing therapeutic uses and alchemical techniques.
- **2.** *Rasendra Khanda*: It contains 68 *Upadesha* which are useful to *Vyadhita*. detailing treatments for various diseases with *Pathyapathya*. It lists 698 formulations highlighting a comprehensive approach that integrates multiple therapeutic modalities.
- **3.** *Vadi* or *Riddhi Khanda*: It contains 20 *Upadesha* which are useful to those who use science to make artificial metals etc. It covers 8 *Uparasa* and 8 *Maharasa*, detailing alchemical practices, purification processes, and rejuvenation therapy (*Rasayana Kriya*). It discusses metal transmutation, including methods for purifying copper and silver, and the artificial creation of materials like gems and metals. It also lists 133 substances and provides medicinal formulations for *Deha Siddhi*.
- **4.** *Rasayana Khanda*: It contains 8 *Upadesha* which are useful to *Vriddha*. It is also known as *'Kayakalpa Khanda'*. As the name suggests, various formulations have been mentioned for *Rasayana Karma* (rejuvenation). Rejuvenation is possible only by obtaining *Prashasta Saptadhatu* and steady mind. It is most appropriate to publish this *Khanda* as *Kayakalpa Khanda* because the preparation and consumption method of many rejuvenating medicines has been described in this section.
- **5.** *Mantra Khanda*: It contains 2 *Upadesha* which are useful to practitioner of *Mantra* and *Rasa Siddha*.

Details of Chapters

I. Rasa Khanda

Table no. 1: Showing the details given in each Upadesha of Rasa Khanda

Upadesha	Detail description
	This chapter starts with invocation of Lord Shiva and Parvati.
	Parada Mahatmya
	• 3 Gati of Parada i.e. Marana, Murchchhana and Bandhana
	• Importance of Rasa Khanda
1 – Rasapithika	Peculiarities of Rasaratnakara
	• 8 Parada Dosha (Naga, Vanga, Mala, Vahni, Chanchalya, Visha, Giri and
	Asahyagni)
	• Quantity of Parada for Shodhana (100, 50, 25, 12 or 1 Pala)
	• Aghora Raksha Mantra – It is chanted during the processes related to mercury.
	Ashta Dosha Nivarana Upaya of Parada
	• 3 methods of <i>Parada Shodhana</i>
	Hingulottha Parada Nirmana
	• Parada Marana Aushadhi known as Mulika (Brahmadandi, Meghanada, Chitraka,
2 –	Trinamustika, Bajravalli, Bala, Shunthi, Katutumbi, Ardhachandrika, Vishmushti,
Rasa	Arka, Laksha, Gokshura, Kakatundi, Kanya, Chandalakanda, Sarpakshi,
Shodhana-	Sarpaukha, Basta, Raktagranirgundi, Lajjali, Devadali, Jati, Jayanti, Varahi,
Marana	Bhukadamba, Kurantaka, Koshataki, Neerakana, Langali, Sahadevi,
Adhikara	Chakramarda, Amruta, Kanda, Kakamachi, Ravipriya, Vishnukanta, Hastishunthi,
	Snukapaya, Bhringaraja, Patu).
	• Parada Bhasma – 10 methods
	Method of preparation of <i>Vajramusha</i> . At the first of the property of t
	• 4 types of Parada Bhasma (Shweta, Peeta, Rakta, Krishna).
	Shadaguna Gandhaka is used for Mukhakarana of Parada (Bubhukshita). Davida Mayara bay Jayara and spith Basia.
	 Parada Marana by Jarana and with Beeja. 5 methods of Parada Marana.
	Vida Nirmana, So Nivaraha Arabadha (Samahahi Vhirani Vandhua Vahadi Matarahahi So Nivaraha Arabadha (Samahahi Vhirani Vandhua Vahadi Matarahahi
	• 59 Niyamaka Aushadha (Sarpakshi, Khirani, Vandhya, Kakadi, Matsyakshi, Kakajangha, Morapankhi, Brahmadandi, Mooshakarni, Punarnavalala, Kanchuki,
	Moorva, Pitapapada, Kamala, Amlika, Shatavari, Vajratala, Soorana, Tinapatiya,
	Mandookaparni, Patali, Chitraka, Grishmasundara, Kakamachi, Maharashtri,
3 – Marana	Haldi, Tilakarnika, Safed Mandar, Shigru, Dhatoora, Mrigadoorva, Haritaki,
adhikara	Guduchi, Mushalipunkha, Bhringaraja, Rakta Chitraka, Tagara, Surana, Mundi,
	Mayanka, Potakokila, Saindhava, Shwetavarshambhu, Sambhara, Hingu,
	Makshika, Vishnukanta, Somavalli, Vranaghni, Vamshalochana, Vyaghripadi,
	Hamsapadi, Vrishchikali, Kurantaka, Swayambhu, Kusuma, Kunchi, Hastishundi,
	Indravaruni, Ayaskara Beeja),
	Parada Bhasma Pariksha Vidhi.
	• Importance of Jarita, Murchchhita and Baddha Parada are found in this text as
	Jarita Parada is Jara Daridryanashaka, Murchchhita Parada is Roganashaka and
	Badhha Parada is Sarvakarmopayogi.

4 – Murchchhanadi Nirupana	 Parada Murchchhana, Parada Bandhana, Murchchhana of Parada and their properties are given. Uses of Parada Sevana. Properties of Marita, Murchchhita and Baddha Parada. Storage of Shuddha Parada (should be stored in Hastidanta, Shringa or Vamsha). It is also mentioned that there are 1 crore properties are there in Parada, 1000 in Vajra and Abhraka, 100 in Kanaka, 80 in Tara, 40 in Kantalauha, 64 in Tikshnalauha and 32 in Tamra. Three types of Chitiktsa i.e. Daivi, Manushi and Rakshasi Chikitsa are mentioned.
5 – Vajravaikranta Shodhana- marana	 19 Uparasa (Gandhaka, Vajra, Vaikranta, Vajrabhraka, Haratala, Manahshila, Kharpara, Tuttha, Vimala, Hemamakshika, Kasisa, Kantapashana, Varatika, Hingula, Kamkushtha, Shankha, Bhunaga, Tankana and Shilajatu). Harmful effect of Ashuddha Gandhaka Sevana Methods for Gandhaka Shodhana Gandhaka Taila Patana Properties of Shuddha Gandhaka, Vajra Shodhana & Marana Vajra (Diamond) types (4), characteristic and Ashuddha Vajra Sevanajanya Vikara, Vajra Shodhana Evam Bhasmikarana and therapeutic action of Vajra Bhasma are explained in detail. Shodhana and Marana of Vaikranta are also described.
6 – Abhraka Shodhana Marana	• Types and identification of Abbraka, A (Pinaka, Durdura, Naga, Vaira)
7 – Sarva Uparasanam Satvapatana	 Ashuddha Haratala, Manahshila, Makshika Sevanajanya Vikara are mentioned. Shodhana of Haratala, Manahshila, Makshika, Kharpara, Tuttha, Vimala, Pravala, Shilajatu, Hingula, Suryavarta, Kantapashana and Sauvira are given. Therapeutic effect of Shuddha Haratala, identification of Shuddha Makshika and Ashuddha Pravala are mentioned. Satvapatana of all Uparasa are explained.
8 – Swarnadi Vanganam Maranam	 8 Lauha - Swarna, Rajata, Tamra, Naga, Vanga, Kantalauha, Tikshanalauha, Mundalauha. 3 Upalauha - Kamsya, Pittala, Ghosha 1 Kittalauha - Mandoora Dhatu Samanya Shodhana and Marana. Swarna Vishesha Shodhana and Marana. Ashuddha - Apakva Parada, Swarna and Rajata Sevanajanya Vikara. Shodhana and Marana of Rajata, Tamra, Naga and Vanga are described. Apakva Tamra, Naga and Vanga Sevanajanya Vikara. Properties of Swarna and Rajata Bhasma.

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	• Properties and therapeutic uses of <i>Tamra</i> , <i>Naga</i> and <i>Vanga</i> .
	• This <i>Upadesha</i> deals with <i>Lauha</i> .
	 Ashuddha -Apakva Lauha Sevanajanya Vikara.
	• Acceptable features of <i>Kantalauha</i> ,
9 – Kantadi	• Lauha Shodhana and Marana,
Kittamaranam	• Amrutikarana of Loha Bhasma, its therapeutic uses.
	• Shodhana and Marana of Upalauha (Kamsya, Pittala).
	 Properties of Kamsya and Pitala Bhasma.
	Mandura Samskara.
10 – Taila patana	 Methods of oil extraction of 19 herbs (Dhattura, Sahijana, Pushkara, Markava, Ankota, Kakatundi, Bakuchi, Devadali, Karkoti, Vishatundi, Jayapala, Amalatasa, Katutumbi, Gunja, Karanja, Jyotishmati, Putrajeeva, Ankolabeejataila, Shamee/Kesha Taila) are given in this Upadesha. Method of oil extraction from various seeds by levigation with Arka Patra Svarasa. It is also mentioned that Garbha Yantra is used for the oil extraction from Kashtha like Vansha, Narikela Kapala and Tusha Dhanyadi. The properties, Grahyagrahyata, process of storage, contraindication of Vatsanabha is given. 9 types of Visha - Saktuka, Mustaka, Shrungi, Balakam, Sarshapa, Vatsanabha, Koorma, Shvetashrungi, Kalkoota. It is said that, except Kalakoota, the remaining Visha should be used in the formulations. Jangama Visha, Visha Chikitsa, Visha Prayoga Vidhi (formulation - Jayavati), Sthavara and Jangama Visha Lakshana are explained. Shodhana methods of Pitta, Shilajatu, Shankha, Guggulu, Varatika and Mukta are
	• Shodhana methods of Pitta, Shilajatu, Shankha, Guggulu, Varatika and Mukta are explained.

- 1. This chapter starts with invocation
- 2. of Lord Shiva

II. Rasendra Khanda

This *Khanda* contains total 68 *Upadesha* which describes the treatment of all kinds of diseases in detail with *Pathyapathya*. The treatment includes medications, *Mantra* therapy and *Panchakarma*. Total 894 various formulations are given in this *Khanda* as given below.

Table no. 2: Number of formulations given in various diseases in Rasendra Khanda

Sr.	Name of disease Formulations	Rasa	Lauha	Vati	Ghrita	Taila	Churna	Kvatha	Leha	Guggulu	Lepa	Others	Total
1.	Jvara	11	2	1	2	2	1	6	-	-	-	-	25
2.	Atisara	3	3	_	_	_	_	_	-	_	_	_	3

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	T		1	1	1	1				1	1		
3.	Grahani	3	-	4	1	1	3	-	1	-	-	3	16
4.	Arsha	5	4	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	13
5.	Mandagni	2	-	3	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	2	15
6.	Krimi	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
7.	Pandu	5	5	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	20
8.	Raktapitta	1	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
9.	Rogaraja	21	3	1	1	2	3	-	2	-	-	4	37
10.	Kasa	10	-	4	2	-	3	-	1	-	-	4	24
11.	Hikkashwasa	4	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	10
12.	Swarbheda	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	5
13.	Arochaka	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
14.	Chhardi	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
15.	Trishna	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
16.	Murchha	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3
17.	Daha	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
18.	Unmada	2	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	10
19.	Apasmara	2	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8
20.	Vata-vyadhi	7	-	2	2	11	2	-	-	3	-	8	35
21.	Vatarakta	3	2	1	2	6	-	1	-	4	-	1	20
22.	Urustambha	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
23.	Amavata	1	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	6	-	-	11
24.	Shula	9	2	2	2	1	4	-	-	-	-	4	24
25.	Parinama-shula	1	4	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	10	18
26	Annadravajwarap			2								4	
26.	itta	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6
27.	Udavarta	1	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	7
28.	Gulma	6	-	1	5	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	17
29.	Hrudaroga	4	-	-	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	10
30.	Urograha	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
31.	Mutrakruchhra	3	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	6
32.	Mutraghata	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
33.	Ashmari	4	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	7
34.	Prameha	11	3	6	5	2	5	1	1	-	-	-	34
35.	Sthaulya	1	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	8
36.	Udararoga	8	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	17
37.	Yakruta	4	2	1	2	_	_	_	_	_	_	1	10
	pleehodara	7		1								1	
38.	Shotha	-	1	-	3	2	1	1	-	-	1		11
39.	Vranavruddhi	2	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	3	9
40.	Galaganda-	_	_	1	1	7	_	_	_	1	_	1	11
 U.	Gandamala			1						1			
41.	Shleepada	4	1	-	7	2	2	-	-	-	-	5	21
42.	Vidradhi	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	4	8
43.	Vrana-Shotha-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	4	10
				_	_	_							

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	Vatashotha												
44.	Naadivrana	-	-	-	5	8	1	-	-	2	-	3	19
45.	Bhagandara	2	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	2	-	3	12
46.	Upadamsa	-	-	-	1	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	6
47.	Shukadosha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
48.	Bhagna- Kushtharoga	13	4	1	9	13	-	1	-	4	7	7	59
49.	Sheetpittai	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	_	1	1
50.	Amlapitta	1	1	2	1	-	1	2	-	-	_	7	15
51.	Visarpa	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	7
52.	Snayu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
53.	Masuri	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	8
54.	Shudraroga	-	-	2	15	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	25
55.	Mukharoga	1	-	3	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	8	18
56.	Karnaroga	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	1	-	4	16
57.	Nasaroga	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	1	7
58.	Chakshuroga	1	1	1	7	2	-	2	-	-	-	14	28
59.	Shiroroga	3	-	1	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	14
60.	Pradara	1	-	1	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	8
61.	Somaroga	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
62.	Yonivyadhi	4	-	-	2	3	-	1	-	-	-	12	22
63.	Prasutika	3	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	9	16
64.	Stanaroga	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
65.	Balaroga	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	4	8
66.	Visharoga	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6
67.	Rasayana	13	2	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	25
68.	Vajikarana	17	1		5	2	-	-	-	-	-	29	54
	Total	200	53	53	125	111	64	23	11	27	17	210	894

III. Vadi or Riddhi Khanda

Table no. 3: Showing the details given in each Upadesha of Vadi or Riddhi Khanda

Upadesha	Details
1	 1st Upadesha commences with salutation to Parada, Lord Shiva, Goddess Parvati, Bhairava and Siddha Samudaya. Description related to qualities of Acharya (teacher), Shishya (Student), Anuchara (attendant or assistant) and Kupatra Shishya (unsuitable or unqualified student) are given. Description of Rasashala, Rasamandapa and Rasalinga. Synonyms of Parada (4) - Shivbeeja, Sutaraja, Parada, Rasendra. Rasa Diksha. 8 Uparasa - Gandhaka, Haratala, Kasisa, Manashila, Kankushtha, Jasta, Rajavarta and Gairika 8 Maharasa - Rasaka, Vimal, Tapya, Chapala, Tuttha, Anjana, Hingula, Sasyaka.

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	Name of 27 <i>Rasa Siddha</i> which are to be revered.
	• Guidelines are mentioned for the <i>Rasayana Kriya</i> .
	• In the context of Rasa Sadhana (alchemical practices), whenever the
	specific parts of a substance (such as roots, leaves, etc.) are not
	mentioned, the root should be used. For <i>Svarasa</i> (fresh juice or extract),
	the entire plant, referred to as <i>Panchanga</i> , should be taken. Additionally,
	in cases where the quantity is not specified, the same amount as
	previously mentioned should be used.
2	• Nagavarga is given which includes Ksharavarga, Shwetavarga,
	Amlavarga, Lavana Panchaka, Ksharatraya, Mutravarga, Raktavarga,
	Pittavarga, Mitra Panchaka, Vasa Panchaka and Visha Varga.
	Divyaushadhi Gana - 133 Dravya.
	• 3 methods of <i>Vajramusha Nirmana</i> .
	• 3 methods of <i>Rasa Shodhana</i> .
	• 2 methods of <i>Hingulottha Parada Nirmana</i> .
	Description of Tapta Khalva Yantra.
	• Types of Vajra, its Shodhana (2 methods), Marana (12 methods) and
	Mridukarana (6 methods).
	Vaikranta Shodhana,
	• 2 methods of <i>Gandhaka Shodhana</i> .
	• Shodhana of 7 Uparasa are mentioned - Tankana, Shankha, Varatika,
3	Anjana, Gairika, Kasisa and Bhukhaga Shodhana,
	• Haratala Shodhana (2 methods),
	Vimala, Rasaka, Sarva Dhatu Shodhana.
	Preparation of <i>Dhanyabhraka</i> .
	Bhasmikarana of Abhraka (2 methods), Naga, Loha, Vanga, Tamra,
	Roupya, Suvarna, Kamsya, Pittala is included in this Upadesha.
	Preparation of Gandhaka Pishti and its Marana.
	Suvarna Pishti.
4	• 19 methods of Ganthakapishta Taravidhana.
-	• 2 methods of <i>Tarapishti Nirmana</i> .
	• 8 methods of <i>Taraarishta Vedhana</i> .
	• Vedhana of Tara from Naga Bhasma are explained.
	• The method of colouring white gold (silver) with the help of <i>Parada</i> ,
	Maharasa and Uparasa and nine rational methods for applying golden
	colour have been described.
5	• Preparation of <i>Pakvabeeja</i> and its use for the <i>Vedhana</i> of <i>Sitaswarna</i> i.e.
	silver to make gold are described.
	• Method for removal of Kalika from Tamra and formation of gold from
	Kalikahina Tamra are given along with Varnavivardhana are explained.
	• 4 methods of Naga (Lead) Ranjana,
6	• 8 methods of <i>Tamra</i> (Copper) <i>Vedhana</i> ,
	• 2 methods of <i>Parada Vedhana</i> .
	•

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	Sita Swarna Vedhana. Sita Swarna Vedhana.
	Description of Chakrayantra.
	• The method of preparing the <i>Sattva Pishti</i> of <i>Dhatu</i> ,
	• All the processes of Stambhana, Nigada, Lepa, Khotabandha and Vidruti
7	are described.
	• Sarva Dhatu Vedha (Naga, Tara (Silver), Chandrarka, Sitaswarna) and
	Rasadravana are mentioned.
	• The treatise outlines a novel, efficient, and cost-effective method for the
	Vedhana (purification or processing) of Shuddha Tamra (pure copper). It
	also describes the preparation of silver by combining <i>Tara</i> , <i>Suta</i> , and
	Shulba, followed by the systematic removal of impurities to obtain a
0	purified metallic form.
8	• 15 methods of Vanga (Tin) Vedhana,
	 8 methods of formation of <i>Tara</i> from <i>Tamra</i>, 3 methods of <i>Tamra Shodhana</i>.
	Dalayogya (Tarayogya) Tamra, Tarajotaka, Tamravedhana through Hayatala Satya and two methods of Nirmalikayana of Taya ara
	Haratala Satva and two methods of Nirmalikarana of Tara are mentioned.
	• Four methods of Vajradwandva Melapana (mixing), Vajra Suta Melapana, Swarna Vajra Melapana,
	 Dwandwa Khota – 3 methods.
9	 Dwanawa Khota – 5 methods. Druta Suta Bhasmikarana,
	Parada Abhra Jarana. Parada Abhra Jarana.
	Abhra Pishti.
	• Pakvabeejakarana – 2 methods,
	 Naga Beejakarana,
	Pakwa Beeja Ranjana,Naga Bhasma Upayoga,
	 Naga Bhasma Upayoga, Pakwa Beeja Ranjana Taila,
	 Tara Beeja Ranjana, Sarana, Sarana Taila, Kramana Satva -7 methods,
10	, in the second of the second
	Kramana Vina Rasa Siddha Nishphalata are explained. Maka Vida (1) Rasa Patradhi Janana (2) Rasa Phubhukahita Kanana
	 Maha Vida – (1) Rasa Ratnadhi Jarana, (2) Rasa Bhubhukshita Karana, (3) Sarva Jarana, (4) Vida, (5) Abhra Satva Jarana, (6) Sarva Loha
	Jarana, (7) Vahni Mukha Vida (Sarva Jarana), (8) Vida, (9) Jwalamukha
	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 are
	mentioned in detail.
	• Siddha Purusha have described many Samskara of Parada for various
11	purposes. In this <i>Upadesha</i> , after discussing the achievable and
	impossible and by observing all the Samskara on the basis of one's own
	impossion and of costs this all the sameward on the same of the sown

	 experience, eighteen Samskara from Swedana to Kramana of Parada are being described which are easy and possible for clever people. 18 Samskara of Parada - Swedana, Mardana, Murchchha, Utthapana, Tridha Patana, Nirodhana, Niyamana, Deepana, Anuvasana, Jarana, Charana, Garbhadruti, Bahyadruti, Ranjana, Saranam, Sarana, Pratisarana and Kramana. Among them first nine Samskara are described. It is also said that, after performing 9 Samskara from Swedana to Anuvasana, Parada gets purified from the Saptakanchuka Dosha and only one eighth part remains.
12	 Gandhaka Jarana – 2 methods, Pakwa Beeja Jarana and 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 Lakshakoti Vedhi Rasa – 2 methods Kotivedhi Roupya Kara Rasa Nirmukha Rasa Charana – 2 methods, Abhraka Jarana Kramena Vedha are explained in this Upadesha.
13	 Abhraka Satva Patana Purvam Samshodhana Abhrakadi Satvapatana Sutha Jaranartha Satva Mrudukarana Abhra Satvapatana Makshika Satvam - 6 methods (1. Gunjanibha, 2. Indragopa Nibha, 3. Maninibha, 4. Shuka Tunda Nibha, 5. Shulva Nibha, 6. Kimshuka Nibha), Vimala Satvapatana, Makshika Dhautasatva, Makshika Satva (Laksha Nibha), Manashila Satva - 2 methods (Hema Nibha, Balarka Kiranopamam), Haratala Satva - 4 methods (1. Sphatikopamam) Tuttha Satva - 3 Methods (1. Kimshuka Prabha, 3. Shuka Thundasama), Vara Naga Satva, Rasaka Satva - 2 methods, Vaikranta Satva - 4 Methods, Gairika Satva, Saurashtri Satva, Sasyaka Satva, Kasisa Satva, Raajavarta Satva, Srotoanjana Satva, Dvandvamelapana (Vyomasatvamelapana), Sarvasatvamelapana- 3 methods Sarvaloha- Sarvasatva-Maharasamelapana-3 method, Satvadvandvamelapana, Vangabhra Satva Melapana- 3 methods Abhisheka- 2 methods Charanasya Sanketa are explained.
14	 Charana, Jarana, Grasa Grahi Rasa, Beeja Jarana, Jarana, Sarana Siddha of Beeja,

	Shodasha Gunita Gandhaka Jarana,
	Vasanamukhita Rasa Jarana, Gandhaka Jarana,
	• Sahasra Vedhi Rasa,
	• Swarna Beeja – 4 methods are explained.
	• Vedhana by Swarnabeeja Yoga.
	Kotivedhi Rasa
	• Vedhana of Shatavidha Tarabeeja (3 methods).
	Sahasravedhi Tasabeeja.
	• 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,
15	Garbha Dravana, Garbhadravita Jarana,
	Jarita Punaranjana,
	Beejadravana Ranjana Sarana (Koti Vedhi),
	• Gandhaka Jarana, Gandha Jeerna Rasa Jarana Yogena Koti Vedhi
	Karana,
	Rasabeejakarana, Jarana,
	Dhumavedhi Rasa.
	• 7 methods of <i>Bhunaga Satva</i>
16	• 2 methods of <i>Bhunaga Taila</i>
	• 4 types of <i>Chapala</i> are mentioned.
	Abhraka Druti – 14 methods
	• <i>Abhraka Satva Druti</i> – 6 methods
	• Swarna Druti- 5 methods
	Swarna Roupya Druti
	• <i>Teekshna Loha Druti</i> – 3 methods
	• Sarva Dathu Druti – 2 methods
17	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.
	Druti Rasena Melapana or Sarva Drutimelapana (Mixing of Druti with)
	Parada)- 6 methods,
	 Description of <i>Lipta Musha</i>,
18	 Druti Jarana Shatadhara Koti Paryanta Vedha,
	 Druti Jarana,
	 Vajra Beeja, Vajra Beeja Jarana
	- rajra beeja, rajra beeja sarana

	Sparshavedhi Shabdhavedhi Rasa, Dhumavedha Vidhi, Sparshavedha Vidhi, Shabdhavedha Vidhi, Pashanavedha Vidhi, Medhinivedha Vidhi, Trailokya Vyapaka Vidhi, Shabdhavedhi Rasa are mentioned.
19	 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 (Vanga Shodhana) – 2 methods, Amlavetasa Karana, Masee Karana, Ghrita Karana – 4 methods, Chandhana Karana, Karpura Karana, Kasthuri Karana, Kasthuri Karana, Kumkuma Karana – 3 methods, Divya Dhupa – 2 methods, Pushpa Druti, Dhanya Vriddhi Karana – 3 methods,
20	 Dravyadi Vridhi Karana, Dhanyavridhi Karana. Parada Bandhana – 21 methods, Parada Bhasma – 3 methods, Muukhakarana of Khotabaddha Rasa, 2 methods of conversion of Swarna from Tamra, Tamra Ghata, Naga, Tara Sputhita Dhathu Mrudukarana, Vangasya Roupyam, Naga Mukhakarana, Kathina Dhathu Mridu Karana – 3 methods, Abhra Grasa Rasa, Guhyayoga, Kamadhenu – 3 methods, Taravedhi Kalka,
Parishishta	Gagana Grasa.
Parishishtha 1	Total 19 Yantra have been explained – Kacchapa Yantra, Dhupayantra, Tiryakapatan Yantra, Jarana Yantra, Bhudhara Yantra, Damaru Yantra, Patala Yantra, Dolayantra, Garbhayantra, Nadikayantra, Adhahapatana Yantra, Taptakhalva Yantra, Balukayantra, Somanala Yantra, Hansapaka Yantra, Palika yantra, Vidhyadhara Yantra, Urdhvapatana Yantra, Kosthika Yantra.

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Parishishtha 2	• Total 10 Puta have been explained - Mahaputa, Gajaputa, Varahaputa, Kukkuta Puta, Kapotaputa, Gomayaputa, Bhandaputa, Valukaputa, Bhudharputa, Lavakaputa.
Parishishtha	• Prachina Mana – Magadha Mana, Kalinga Mana, Adhunika Mana are
3	given.
Parishishtha	• Aushadhi Sarini – Sanskrit, English, Botanical name of the drugs which
4	are used in this treatise have been mentioned.

IV. Rasayana Khanda:

Table no. 4: Showing the details given in each Upadesha of Rasayana Khanda

Upadesha	Details
1– Rasamarana	• At the starting of the <i>Upadesha</i> , <i>Parada Shreshthata</i> has been given.
	• After that, Deha Shodhana before Rasayana Sevana
	Ashuddha Parada Sevana Janya Vikara
	Contraindications after Parada Sevana
	Pathya - Apathya during Rasayana Sevana
	Rasasankramaka Aushadhi
	Method of <i>Parada Marana</i> method
	Garbhayantra used for Parada Marana
	Specification, description of Garbha Yantra
	Rasayanyogya Parada Bhasma have been mentioned.
	• Quantity of Abhraka for Kshetrikarana are mentioned as one Nishka
	(24 Ratti - 3 g) for one month,
	• Importance of Kshetrikarana before Rasa Bhasma Sevana,
	• 26 Rasayoga (Vajrapanjara, Vajreshwari, Vajradhara, Bhairava,
2 -	Shileeveera, Amrutarnava, Udayaditya, Gaganeshvara, Vateshvara,
Divyasarasaihi	Gandhamruta, Kalakantaka, Amrutesha, Rasaveera, Kanchayana,
Dehasadhana	Prananda, Mahakala, Hemaparpata, Shrikantha, Kheechara,
	Baddha, Swayama, Agni, Kakshaputa, Mahashakti, Natakeshvara,
	Balasundara, Bramha Panjara and Shivamruta Rasa) have been
	given.
	• Description of <i>Vajramusha</i> is given in this <i>Upadesha</i> .
	• <i>Upadesha</i> starts with the <i>Shloka</i> which is said that without the use of
	Kramana Anupana, neither Divyayoga nor Gutika nor Rasayana are
	successful. Therefore, <i>Anupana</i> are being mentioned in this <i>Upadesha</i>
	to get quick results.
	• 30 Gutika have been mentioned - Mritsanjivani, Vajreshwari,
3 - Rasagutika	Vajrasundari, Hemasundari, Vajrakhechari, Vyomasundari,
Prayoga	Hatakeshvari, Arkaprabhavati, Surasundari, Vajratundi,
	Kamasundari, Gandhari, Martandi, Tarakeshvari, Vidhya
	Vageshvari, Vajratunda, Gaganeshvari, Aananda, Vajrakhechari,
	Ratneshvari, Divyakhechari, Svarnavaikranta Baddharasa,
	Vaikranta, Divya Khechari, Prachanda Khechari, Kankala Khechari,
	Kalavidhwansika, Panchanana, Shatabedhikadi Gutika.

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4 – Nanarasayana	 In this <i>Upadesha</i> it is said that, by using any one of <i>Parada</i>, <i>Gandhaka</i>, <i>Abhraka</i>, <i>Lauha</i>, <i>Tamra Bhasma</i> and <i>Amritikruta Mulikagana</i>, <i>Deha Siddhi</i> is attained. There is description of <i>Kantadi Maharasayana</i>, <i>Amrita-Abhraka Rasayana</i>, <i>Kantarasayana Yoga</i>, 8 <i>Kalpa</i> (<i>Brahmavruksha</i>, <i>Shwetapalasha</i>, <i>Mundi</i>, <i>Devadali</i>, <i>Shweta Arka</i>, <i>Hastikarna</i>, <i>Rudanti</i>, <i>Nirgundi</i>) and some <i>Rasayana Yoga</i>.
5 – Udvartana Kesharanjana Adhikara	 Formulations included in this <i>Upadesha</i> Palitahari Kacharanjana Yoga Triphaladi Taila Keshushuklikarana Yoga.
6 – Veeryavardhana	 Vajikarana Yoga. 11 Rasayoga (Makardhwaja, Madanodaya, Madaneshvara, Kamkala, Kamdeva, Ratikam, Madavardhana, Kamanayaka, Poornendu, Madanakam, Kamanganayaka). Anangasundari Vati. Kameshwara Modaka.
7 – Veeryasthambh ana Lingavardhana	 Brahmanda Gutika. Siddha Yoga. Veeryasthambhana Yoga. Madana Jaloka. Lingavardhana Yoga.
8 – Shree Parvatasadhan	 In this <i>Upadesha</i>, it is said that <i>Deha Siddhi</i> is attained on <i>Shailaparvata</i> by <i>Vriksha</i>, <i>Mruttika</i> and <i>Kanda</i>. Consumption of <i>Gorochana Sannibha Mruttika</i>, <i>Chandrodaka</i> etc. helps in attaining <i>Deha Siddhi</i>.

V. Mantra Khanda:

Two *Upadesha* have been given in *Mantra Khanda*. In *Prathamopadesha*, 15 *Mantra* are given and in *Dwitiyopadesha* Various *Mantra* have been given for the treatment of various diseases.

DISCUSSION

The author's name is stated at the end of every *Upadesha*. Therefore, it is evident that this book has been written by Shree Nityanath Siddha. The time frame of the book remains unclear, as various authors have shared differing views on its dating. Some scholars have proposed that Shri Nityanatha Siddha's timeframe could be the 12th century; however, there is a compelling case for situating his era in the 13th century. This assertion is supported by references to another *Siddha* such as Nagarjuna and Yashodhara, who are linked to that timeframe. Acharya Yashodhara's work, Rasaprakasha Sudhakara, which is associated with the 13th century, lends further credence to this theory. Professor Siddhinandana Mishra also supports this perspective, bolstering the possibility that the timeframe of Shee Nityanatha Siddha could actually reside within the 13th century.

Rasa Khanda

The text offers a detailed explanation of the specialized processing of *Parada* for achieving *Lauha* and *Deha Siddhi*. Three distinct *Gati* (states or qualities) of *Parada* (Mercury) are outlined, namely *Marana*,

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Murchchhana and Bandhana. The author mentions that after a thorough review of various classical texts, including Rasarnava, Rasamangala, Acharya Vagbhatt Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, and others, any treatments or remedies deemed incurable have been excluded from the work. Additionally, medicines that are rare or difficult to procure have been left out. The focus of the book is to present only the core, practical essence of the teachings, ensuring that the knowledge shared is both accessible and applicable.

In alignment with the author's commitment, it is stated that "the alchemical processes described in other texts are also included in this one, and anything not found in this text is absent from all other works." This assertion emphasizes the comprehensive nature of the text, suggesting it contains both familiar and unique content in the realm of alchemy. This knowledge was imparted to him by his *Guru* and also personally experienced by him, after thoroughly studying all the texts that preceded his work. The treatise mentions 59 *Niyamaka Aushadhi* (regulatory medicines) that are used for various alchemical processes, including *Bhasmikarana* (calcination) of *Parada* (mercury), *Murchchhana* of *Parada*, and for achieving the proper *Parada Bandha* (binding or stabilization) in alchemical formulations. These substances play a crucial role in regulating the transformation and preparation of mercury for medicinal and therapeutic use.

In the *Rasa Khanda*, three distinct *Gati* (states or qualities) of *Parada* (Mercury) are outlined, namely *Marana*, *Murchchhana* and *Bandhana*. These terms refer to specific processes or transformations that *Parada* undergoes. On the other hand, other texts within the *Rasagrantha* tradition describe five *Gati* of *Parada*, which are identified as *Jala*, *Dhuma*, *Mala*, *Hamsa*, and *Jeeva Gati*.

Properties of three Gati of Parada has been given;

- 1. Maritam Dehasiddhi (Marita Parada is used for Dehasiddhi)
- 2. Murchchhitam Vyadhinashanam (Murchchhita Parada is used for the treatment of diseases)
- 3. *Baddham Shastradrushte Karmana* (*Baddha Parada* can be used in both the conditions according to method prescribed in Ayurvedic treaties).

In the 4th Upadesha, characteristics of Murchchhita Parada has been given as

- 1. Kajjalabha (Blackish in colour)
- 2. Ghanachapalam Vihaya (Mercury gives up its fickleness)
- 3. *Madhurya* and *Gauravata* (Sweet in taste and heavy in nature)
- 4. Tejasa Bhaskaropamah (when it is kept on fire, it appears as bright as sun)

It is also mentioned that *Siddha Parada* (processed mercury) should be stored in materials such as *Hastidanta* (elephant tusk), *Shringa* (horn), or *Vamsha* (bamboo). These materials may be believed to preserve the potency and efficacy of *Siddha Parada*, ensuring its stability and longevity.

Most of the content of this *Khanda* is similar to the text Rasendra sara Sangraha (13th century). 19 *Uparasa* (*Gandhaka*, *Vajra*, *Vaikranta*, *Vajrabhraka*, *Haratala*, *Manahshila*, *Kharpara*, *Tuttha*, *Vimala*, *Hemamakshika*, *Kasisa*, *Kantapashana*, *Varatika*, *Hingula*, *Kamkushtha*, *Shankha*, *Bhunaga*, *Tankana* and *Shilajatu*), 8 *Lauha*, 3 *Upalauha* and 1 *Kittalauha* have been mentioned. The process of *Amritikarana* (immortalizing) of *Abhraka* (mica) is described in detail following the section of Anadakanda³. This part of the text outlines the specific alchemical procedures and rituals required to transform *Abhraka* into a potent, rejuvenating substance. The process of *Amritikarana* of *Loha Bhasma* (iron ash) is also thoroughly described, alongside a detailed explanation of the *Mandura Samskara* (purification and processing of copper). These sections provide in-depth guidance on how to enhance the therapeutic properties of these substances through specific alchemical treatments. This treatise uniquely includes the methods of oil extraction for 19 specific herbal drugs These detailed instructions on oil extraction represent a distinctive feature of this text, highlighting its comprehensive approach to medicinal and alchemical processes. Uses and *Shodhana* method of *Visha-Upavisha*, *Guggulu* etc. have been described in *Dashamopadesha* of *Rasa Khanda*.

Rasendra Khanda

Rasendra Khanda having 68 Upadesha, describes the treatment of all kinds of diseases in detail with Pathyapathya. A total of 698 formulations are mentioned, with the majority (200) presented in the form of Rasakalpa. The first and foremost mention regarding Pottali is found in this text under Putapaka Vidhi. Ratnagarbha Pottali⁴ and Shankhagarbha Pottali⁵ are worth mentioning in this classic. However, Parpati Kalpana does not appear in this text. This comprehensive approach underscores the integration of multiple therapeutic modalities within the text.

Vadi or Riddhi Khanda

In Rasa Khanda of this text has already mentioned 19 Uparasa and again in this Khanda, 8 Uparasa (Gandhaka, Haratala, Kasisa, Manashila, Kankushtha, Jasta, Rajavartha, Gairika) have been mentioned. 8 Maharasa (Rasaka, Vimala, Tapya, Chapala, Tuttha, Anjana, Hingula, and Sasyaka) are included. This chapter also contains names of 27 Rasa Siddha which are to be revered. The text specifies guidelines for the practice of Rasayana Kriya (rejuvenation therapy), providing guidelines for its proper application. In the context of Rasa Sadhana (alchemical practices), whenever the specific parts of a substance (such as roots, leaves, etc.) are not mentioned, the root should be used. For Svarasa (fresh juice or extract), the entire plant, referred to as Panchanga, should be taken. Additionally, in cases where the quantity is not specified, the same amount as previously mentioned should be used. The text provides a section on Nagavarga, which categorizes a range of substances into specific groups based on their qualities and therapeutic uses. These includes; Ksharavarga, Shwetavarga, Amlavarga, Lavana Panchaka, Ksharatraya, Mutravarga, Raktavarga, Pittavarga, Mitra Panchaka, Vasa Panchaka and Visha Varga.

The text mentions the *Shodhana* (purification) process for seven specific *Uparasa* (secondary metals or substances), which includes *Tankana*, *Shankha*, *Varatika*, *Anjana*, *Gairika*, *Kasisa* and *Bhukhaga*. The treatise outlines the method of colouring white gold (silver) using *Parada* (mercury), *Maharasa* (superior metals), and *Uparasa* (secondary metals). Additionally, it describes nine distinct methods for applying a golden colour to these metals. These techniques are classified based on the alchemical processes and substances used, demonstrating the advanced knowledge and practices in metal transmutation and enhancement of color through specific Rasashastra procedures. Thus, it can be concluded that the classification of substances into *Maharasa* (superior metals) and *Uparasa* (secondary metals) is based on the specific substances employed in various alchemical processes. This classification reflects the role and significance of each substance in enhancing or transforming other materials through alchemical methods.

The treatise outlines a novel, efficient, and cost-effective method for the *Vedhana* (purification or processing) of *Shuddha Tamra* (pure copper). It also describes the preparation of silver by combining *Tara*, *Suta*, and *Shulba*, followed by the systematic removal of impurities to obtain a purified metallic form. 18 *Samskara* of *Parada* have been explained in 11th *Upadesha* including *Anuvasana Samskara*. The formation of lower metal into gold have been given in detailed in this text. Total 133 *Dravya* have been included in *Divyaushadhi Gana*. One of its specialties is that many methods of artificial manufacturing of materials like *Manikya*, *Indranil*, Emerald, Onyx, *Pushparaga*, *Mukta*, *Pravala*, *Hingula*, *Sindoora*, *Saindhava*, *Hingu*, *Vanga*, *Ghrita*, Camphor, *Kasturi*, *Kumkuma* etc. and many methods of *Dhatuvedha* (metallurgy) have been described in 19th *Upadesha* of *Riddhi Khanda*. There are four *Parishishta* included in *Riddhi Khanda* which contains 19 *Yantra*, 10 *Puta*, *Prachina Mana* and *Aushadhi Sarini* – Sanskrit, English, Botanical name of the drugs which are used in this treatise have been mentioned. *Rasayana Khanda* deals with *Deha Siddhi*, in which various formulations like *Rasayoga*, *Divyarasayana*, *Rasagutika*, *Kesharanjaka Yoga*, *Veeryavardhaka Yoga*, etc have been given to attain *Deha Siddhi*.

Rasayana Khanda

Rasayana Khanda focuses on Deha Siddhi (bodily perfection or rejuvenation), providing various formulations designed to promote health and vitality. These include Rasayoga, Divyarasayana, Rasagutika, Kesharanjaka Yoga, Veeryavardhaka Yoga, and other alchemical preparations aimed at achieving physical and spiritual well-being. These formulations are integral to the practice of Rasayana, which seeks to enhance longevity, strength, and overall vitality through medicinal and rejuvenative treatments.

Mantra Khanda

Two *Upadeshas* (teachings) are provided in the *Mantra Khanda*. In the *Prathamopadesha* (first teaching), 15 specific *Mantras* (sacred chants) are presented. The *Dwitiyopadesha* (second teaching) includes a variety of *Mantras* designed for the treatment of various diseases, which could offer a comprehensive approach to healing through the power of sound and vibrational energy.

CONCLUSION

Rasaratnakara is a significant text in the field of *Rasashastra* that provides a thorough description of *Lohavada* and *Dehavada*. The work serves as a valuable source of alchemical techniques and practices. The content is presented in a clear and uncomplicated way, employing simple language and straightforward expression; however, the explanation of *Paribhasha* is absent, and the subject matter lacks systematic organization.

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