

A BOOK REVIEW ON VEERASIMHA AVALOKAM- CLASSICAL TEXT ON MEDICAL ASTROLOGY**Priyanka Susruth¹, Rohini Purohit²**¹PG Scholar, ²Assistant professor

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Medical astrology is an ancient medical system that associates various parts of the body, diseases, drugs as under the influence of the sun, moon and planets along with twelve astrological signs. Each of the astrological sign is associated with different parts of the human body. Since there are not much text available regarding Medical Astrology, *Veerasimha Avalokanam* is treatise meant for the *Vaidyas* for the astrological diagnosis and treatment. This text is not much

popular across India. Actual text is in *sanskrit* language. Translations are available in Malayalam, Hindi and English. It is because of this that the translation of the work done by Sri. K Narayan is noteworthy. Though *Veerasimhans* treatise is titled as astrological diagnosis and treatment, its mainly meant for daily use by *Vaidyas* and useful for all students of Indian traditional medicine as a reference book for both diagnosis and treatment .yet at the same time it can also be used

very effectively used by all the astrologers who are keen on diagnosing the diseases with planetary positions and then prescribe the *Prayaschitha Karmas* and directing to appropriate *Siddha* or *Ayurveda* doctor, for timely medications and treatment. Thus, *Veerasimha Avalokanam* is a treatise on medical astrology that collects, correlates and present quotes related to various diseases and their astrology, *karma Vipaka*, *Prayaschittas* and *Ayurveda* presents them in one place, truly a courageous lions' efforts.

Veerasimhaavalokana was authored by the Rajput King *Veerasimhan* in A.D. 1383. He was the son of *Devavarma raja* and grandson of *Kamlesh Simhan* who established the Tomara dynasty in 1375 A.D. He was having a thorough and deep knowledge of the *Vedas*, *Purusharthas*, Astrology and *Ayurveda*. Other many details are not known about this author.

G. Kochusankaranvaidyar, Thamarakulam is well renowned traditional *Vaidya* translated the Sanskrit version of the book to Malayalam in the year 1950. The other works of the author include *Oushadhi Nighantu*. Sri K Narayan also known as "Saidasan", is well known astrologer and a gifted orator, he had translated the Sanskrit book into English language. He's famous for his predictions and *Upaayas* (Propitiations). With his extensive knowledge he has embarked on this translation of *Veerasimha Avalokanam*, a classical treatise on medical astrology in Sanskrit and is a masterpiece of his effort. The intention of translating the Malayalam version into English was to make it available into a wider public, mainly students and practitioners of *Ayurveda*.

Veerasimhaavalokanam is written in simple Sanskrit. It is assumed that author completed his work after referring to *Samhithas*, *Ayurvedic* text and with a thorough knowledge in *karma vipaka* and Astrology. After analyzing the contents he made practical implications. Most of the diseases mentioned in the *Samhithas* find mention in this text along with their planetary position, *karma vipaka* and *Prayaschitha Karma* to cure each disease and later *Oushadha Yogas*, *Nidana*, *Lakshanas* of each disease is mentioned. The diseases already mentioned in *Samhithas* are not further

detailed, it has given more importance in explaining the astrological part, *Karma Vipaka* and propitiation.

The text as translated comprises of 60 chapters, there are other versions available which is divided into two volumes, but this book is a compiled version of two volumes. The first chapter starts with *Jwara*, the *Jyothisha Shastra*, *Karma Vipaka*, *Prayaschitha*, *Oushahayogas*, *Nidana* and *Lakshanas*. Likewise, diseases like *Atisara*, *Grahani*, *Arshas*, *Ajeernam*, *Krimi*, *Pandu*, *Kamala*, *Rakthapitha*, *Kushta* and so on. In short, the whole text can be sub divided in the following pattern as you take a disease.

1. **Reason:** *Sanchitha (past karma)*

Just physical: in which there is disorder of *Vata*, *Pitta*, *Kapha* or their combinations.

2. **Finding:** Astrological planetary positions.

Symptomatic by *Darshana*, *Sparshana*, *Prashna* method

3. **Treating:** *Japam/homam/Daanam*

Preparation of medicine and treatment method.

This work contains exceptional information regarding the medical astrology of various diseases and helps in the proper diagnosing of the disease. Students and practitioners of Hindu Astrology will find in it, nuggets of data, linking the hoary science with diseases and their treatment. Also, it prescribes the measures to be taken, for propitiating ill placed planets- specific *Mantras* to be chanted like *Jatavedasa Mantra*, *Gomayaakshadha*, *Bala Sarojan*, *Ulbhudasva*, *Imam Deva*, *Adithya Hridayam*, *Agni Varnam*, *Hema Sringi Roupya Gureem*, *Kethum Krinvan Mantras*. Chanting *Sukthas* Like *Purusha Sukthas*, *Stri Suktha* and *Rudra Suktha* for 1008 times. Observing *Vrathas* like *ChandrayanaVratha* and *KrichraVratha*. Several other interesting facts like how person will get disease in next birth is explained beautifully through *Karma Vipaka*.

Ulpalashastikadi Kashayam, *Kalbalaadi Kashayam*, *Kapithashtaka Choornam* *Arkathailam Thuniyaangam*, *Angaragam*, *Agnimukha Choornam*, *Adithya Pakam Tailam*, *Kuruvikizhanguchoornam*, *Dwathrimsal Guggulu* are certain formulations mentioned in the book.

This treatise on with corresponding references to Astrology was a result of labourers by the renowned king

Veerasimha, the book mainly emphasizes on planetary combinations indicative to specific disease and their propitiations to get relief from that. This book is having both pros and cons. In this translated book, the Author had not tried to bring his own interpretations and is judicious in keeping that original text intact. Explanation was done on *Nidanas Lakshanas*, *Bheda*, *Samprapthi* and *Chikitsa* of a disease in a systematic way. *Karma Vipaka* is more emphasized than *Jyothisa Shastra*. This book gives a general idea to Astrology, *Karma Vipaka* and *Prayaschitha* those are beautifully narrated to aspire the readers and to make them curious about the farfetched things mentioned in the book. Most of the *karma vipaka* mentioned are incredible things that's beyond belief therefore Scope for research is very crucial. Cons of the book include, *Jyothisha Sastra* is not explained in detail, *Vruthams* are not described in detail, meaning of *Mantras* are not highlighted. Language is not much complex, but the technical words used in the book will not be familiar to a lay man. Book gives more weight for *Kashayas* and *Choornams*, *Ghrutha* and potent medicinal preparations are described in a lower level, quantities of drugs are not clearly mentioned. So, this book gives a new insight to medical astrology.

The text is not only an authentic account on Medical Astrology but also it is an exemplary reference in general treatment and diagnosis due to its wide range of formulations. The intention of the author in writing the treatise, *Veerasimha Avalokanam* was to help humanity, by providing information on planetary combination indicative of specific diseases, causes, symptoms and cures for such diseases, such information is essential to maintain bodily and mental health, enabling individuals to follow their *Dharma*, the most important *Purushartha*. Though *Veerasimha Avalokanam* known as the text for Astro diagnosis, it is not only meant for astrologers, but for *Vaidyas*, students and those who involved in research in this system of alternative medicines, will find this book, replete with information for help in their research. Finally, even for general readers who are interested both in medicine and astrology will find it a valuable work of general reference.

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