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BOOK REVIEW: INDRIYA SHARIR

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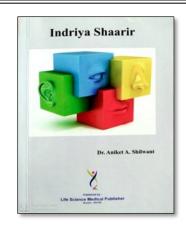
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This is a short book aimed to provide comprehensive understanding regarding concept of *Indriya*. It includes both theoretical and practical aspect of *Indriya* along with modern correlation of same. The Author of the book *Dr Aniket A Shilwant* is well-known academician and researcher in the field of *Kriya Sharir*. He has a total of 26 research

articles to his credit inclusive of 14 peer reviewed research articles. He also co-authored another book name namely "Understanding *Deha prakruti* made easy". His areas of expertise are *Dosha, Prakriti, Pramaan* and *Dhatu Sarta*.

This book contains total 16 chapters starting right from 'Introduction of *Indriya*' to 'Physiology of motor organs'. In embedded with vivid references from various classical text regarding derivation, definition, formation, classification, learning process, *Pariksha* of *Indriya* etc. with contemporary correlation i.e. physiology of sense organs. It also contains color atlas of receptor structure for sense organs.

In chapter 'Introduction to *Indriya*' author explained regarding the term that *Indriya* as component meant to achieve desired object and to experience satisfactory feeling about the same. Further he explained how *Indriya* perceive respective object i.e. Ear perceive sound

(*Shabda*). He also added that the controlling of *Indriya* also plays a role in achievement of spiritual health.

In second chapter various references from *Panini Sutra*, *Shabdakalpadruma*, *Charaka Samhita* etc. regarding a detailed lexicographical study comprising of Derivation, Etymology, Synonyms, and *Lakshana* of *Indriyas* are compiled and translated. Chapter three contains definition of the word *Indriya* i.e. it is an Instrument responsible for perception of Knowledge. Subsequently significance of *Indriya* is described by relating it with *Prameya*, its role as *Pratyaksha Pramana*. Chapter ends with references from *Ayurvedic* and philosophical texts regarding formation of *Indriyas*,

Chapter four encloses type and classification of *Indriya*. Total eleven types of *Indriyas* are divided into *Dyanendriya*(05), *Karmendriya*(05) and *Ubhayendriya*(01). *Dyanendriya* are five in number i.e. *Chakshu*(Eyes), *Shrotra*(Ears), *Ghrana*(Nose), *Rasna*(Tongue), *Sparshana*(Skin). *Karmenriyas* are also five i.e. *Vaak*(Speech apparatus), *Paani*(Upper extremity), *Paada*((lower extremity), *Payu*(Defecator instrument) and *Upastha*(Reproductive elements). Here *Mana*(Mind) is considered as *Ubhayendriya*. Author has also classified *Indriya* according to location (External, internal etc.) and according to functioning (Independent and dependant).

In chapter five references from *Charaka Samhita* and *Sushruta Samhita* along with *Dalahana's* opinion on process of nourishment of *Indriya* is stated. Here author acknowledged role of *Bhutagni* in nourishing *Indriya* is explained by *Charakacharya* along with *Acharya Dalhana's* opinion regarding significance of *Tarpaka Kapha* in nourishment of *Indriyas*. Chapter Six deal with details of *Indriya Panchapanchaka* (Five pentads of senses). *Acharya Charaka have* mentioned the intellectual aspect depending on five *Dyanendriya* present inside *Sharir* is also of five types. This is termed as *Indriya Panchapanchaka* i.e. *Indriya, Indriya Dravya, Adhisthan, Indriya Artha and Indriya Buddhi*. Further in chapter seven, author has depicted the conglomeration of the triad Indriya-Mana-Atma which is responsible for perceiving all type of knowledge.

Aniket has skillfully detailed each *Dhyanendriya*, *Karmendriya* from the point of *Kriya Sharir* in chapter eight and nine. While detailing *Dyanendriya* he introduced each *Indriya* by its *Bhautik* predominance and their respective attribute and function in their normal state. Further he specified *Kriya Sharir* of each *Indriya* based on characters like *Dosha*, *Dhatu*,

Upadhatu, Mala, Pramna, Adhisthana etc. subsequently Karmendriya are described as organs involved in bodily activities. These Karmendriyas work in coordination with Mana which interconnects with Atma to perceive knowledge. He also states the various objects and function of specific Indriya i.e. Object of Hasta is Adana and functions are grasping, collecting and holding. Control center of Indriyas are also told in relation to mythological personalities dominating the Indriya e.g. Paayu is related with Surya.

Concept of *Ubhayendriya* is described in chapter ten. Here *Mana* (Psyche) is described as an *Ubhayendriya* and *Atindriya* as well. Various references regarding etymology, definition, synonym and structure of *Mana* has been quoted. Reason for quoting *Mana* as *Atindriya* has been dealt in detail along with *Sthana* and *Guna* of it. Philosophical consideration regarding *Guna* of *Mana* such as *Samkhya*, *Parimana*, *Sanskar* etc. are also added in Chapter. Aniket explained that *Mansika Dosha* (*Raja and Tama*) vitiate *Dhi*, *Dhruti* and *Smriti*. Which may be lead to Pradnyapradha. This results in improper functioning of *Mana* and respective *Indriya* along with *Indriyartha*. *Lakshana* of *Mana* is added here i.e. to have a sense of perception of knowledge and not to have the same is the Lakshana of *Mana*. Various objects of *Mana* such as *Chintyam*, *Vicharyam Dheyam* etc. are added with detail description of same.

Aniket mentioned functions of *Mana* by *Acharya Charak* (*Indriya Abhigraha*, *Uhya* etc.) and dealt in detail regarding each one. He correlated *Indriya Abhhigraha* with sensory functions, *Uhya* with reasoning and *Vichara* with thinking. He summarized that after *Vikalpa*, *Uhya*, *Chintana*, *Dhyana Guna* and *Vivechana* of any object, the *Mana along with the Atma and Buddhi comes to the point to take wholesome or unwholesome decision* and is acted thereafter accordingly.

Author wrote that the different types of *Manasa Bhavas as like Kama Krodha, Harsha* etc, are mainly classified in to three types i.e. *Sattva, Raja* and *Tama*. Identification feature according to different *Manopravrutti* is added to from the point of psychological examination of *Swastha* and *Aatura* as well. For e.g. *Satvika* person posses good memory and they are calm, gentle and well mannered. People with *Sattvika Guna* are of seven types. (*Aindriya, Varuna, Yamya* etc.) on other hand People with *Tamasika Guna* are ignorant, Lazy and have poor memory. They are classified into three i.e. *Pashava, Matsya and Vanaspatya. Manobala* or *Satva pariksha* is also an important aspect of *Rogi Pariksha*. It is said to be of three types

Pravara, Madhyama and Avara. Chapter ends with description Acharya Chakrapani and Acharya charaka explanation of Manovaha Srotas.

Chapter eleven contains various references regarding relation of *Indriya* with *Dosha-Dhatu* and *Mala*. e.g. *Sthana* of *Vata Dosha* is *Srotra* and *Sparshnendriya* whereas *Meda Dhatu* is related with *Netra*(Chakshuendriya), *Kshya* (lessening) of *Sweda* (Mala) Causes symptoms related to *Twacha* (i.e.- *Twak Sphutana*, *Twak Shosha* etc.). Chapter also highlights relation of *Srotomula* and *Indriyas* (*Twacha* is *srotomula* of *Mamsavahasrotas*). Author have also extended the concept of Indriya beyond many limits involving its relation with the *Rasa* Sach as Amla rasa is responsible for Mano Bodhan and *Indriya* Dradhikarana.

Chapter twelve emphasized on *Indriyanikaminndriya Adhyay* of *Charak Samhita*. In this section author explained the abnormal and Fatal signs with respect to *Indriya*. e.g.- Hearing of inaudible sounds and those which are audible are not heard.; also inability to hear the internal(astral) sound even after closing ears with fingers are symptoms related to *Srotrendriya* indicative of death of subject.

The title of chapter thirteen is Indriya Pariksha, where the title is suggestive of examination of these indriya is also possible. Dr Aniket explained that Dyanendriya is examined for its functional status as the status of perfection in perception of knowledge of respective object. The Karmendriya are examined for their functional status as the status of activity done by them in coordination to commands received by Dyanendriya. The Ubhayendriya is examined by the coordination of the command and the response with the suitable appropriate perception of knowledge and sense of understanding. Procedure and questionnaire for examining each Indriya is compiled in summarized competently referring diverse classical and contemporary texts. For examination of Karmeendriya Darshana, Sparshana, Prashna method is mentioned such as for examination of Vagindriya color of tongue(Shyam, Arakta etc) and structural abnormality should be inspected, Surface for tongue is touched(Sparshana) for checking Snigdhta/Rukshta etc. and question (Prashna) should be asked for saliva secretion(lalasrava) etc. Test from moderns medical science books such as Finger's nose test and Rhomberg's test is added for examination neuromuscular coordination by Paani, Pada.

Ayurvedic description of *Indriya* ends by mentioning demarcation between Indriya and *Indriya Adhisthana* in chapter fourteen. Author mentioned that *Indriya* and *Indriya Adhisthana* are different but having a very thin inseparable demarcation between them and

both work in conjugation to each other. A table is also given to learn differences between them. e.g. *Indriya* are *Sthula* (Gross) and *Indriya Adhisthana* are *Sukshma*(Subtle). Contemporary Physiology of sense organs and motor organs are mentioned in last two chapters of the book successively. Author has used flow charts, figures and tables to describe both.

Based on above review it can be opined that the book 'Indriya Sharira' is an endeavor to explain concept of Indriya. He explored that Indriya are more than just sense organ. Assessments of Indriya are made easy for beginners through this work. Author used plenty of cross references to impart deeper understanding of the concept. Cross references used in the book help its reader to gain both contemporary and Ayurvedic knowledge of Indriya Sharir in one place. It can be used as a reference book for literary review and generating new idea for researches in Kriya Sharir with respect to Indriya. It can be concluded that the book Indriya Sharir by Dr Aniket is a must read for graduates and postgraduates research scholars of Ayurveda.