Epistemological Basis of Astro-medical Mandate of Prognosis of Fevers as Mentioned in Sri Lankan Indigenous Medicine

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Astrology was an auxiliary subject associated with Indigenous Medicine (IM) to overcome supra-medical causative factors and perform healing practices in cultural norms. The aim of this study was to find the epistemological basis of mandatory periods of prognosis attributed to 27 kinds of fevers which are originated within astrological mansion (nakshatra) as mentioned in IM texts. This study was based on five IM textbooks belongs to different chronological periods namely SārārthaSangrahaya (SS), Bēsajjamanjusā (BM), Yōgārnava (YN), Varyōgāsaraya (VS), Yōgaratnākaraya (YR). They were written in three different languages in different styles like Sanskrit (SS), Pali (BM), Sinhala (YN, VR and YR). Primary data were collected from these five texts and verified them with a Sri Lankan astrological textbook DaivaghaKāmadhēnu (DK) for astrological facts. Analyzed data were compared with an Indian medical text, VrihatNighantuRatnakara (VNR) and no significant homogeneousness was revealed.

According to BM reference, this theory was originally revealed by sage Harita and this cannot be verified because original version of Harita Samhita is not available due to antiqueness. Astro-medically attributed time durations of 27 fevers were different in all other texts except YN and VS which had identical data. According to the primary data, since SS has deviated only in few time durations from previous texts (YN and VS) basically they could be included into one group while BM and YR were reasonably categorized into another group. Only one point was totally identical in all 5 Sri Lankan texts with VNR and no interrelation has been demonstrated. For relieving malicious affects VNR prescribes rituals associated symbolic trees associated with moon-mansions while SS very clearly dictate specific rituals related to astro-divine ethos and spiritual measures. Epistemological basis of Sri Lankan IM knowledge related to astro-medical mandates of 27 fevers is exclusively evolved within a different paradigm from Indian tradition.

**Key words:** Astromedical, Fever, Epistemological basis, Prognosis, Indigenous medicine