

## 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 *DaivaghnaKāmadhēnu* (*DK*) for astrological facts. Analyzed data were compared with an Indian medical text, *VrihatNighantuRatnākara* (*VNR*) and no significant homogeneity 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*