

A CHRONOLOGICAL PROBE INTO SIDDHA SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

To revive the Siddha system of medicine, a chronological probe including archaeological and historical sources of this discipline is necessary. Siddha system is based on the atom and 96 *tathuvams* of Saiva Siddhanda. Archaeological excavations at Harappa and Mohenjedarro, showing light on Siva-Sakti cult form a background for Siddha. There are views of links with the submerged Lumeria continent and these are to be probed and established.

It gives four chronicle tables giving periods classified on the basis of Mythology, Vedas, Tamil Sangam etc.

To improve the vitality and to revive the Siddha system of Indian Medicine and to make it more contributory to the wealth of the nation as a whole and to serve the common man, a chronological probe of this discipline is necessary. Such a probe naturally includes historical and archaeological sources. It establishes that the starting point of Siddha, as per *agamas*, is an atom and 96-*thathuvam* of Saiva-Siddhanda whereas that of Ayurveda is Vedic and has a *panjaboodic* base. This important difference has to be historically explored in a congenial manner.

The word 'chronology', is defined as computation of time and assignment of events etc to their correct date and finally arrangement of the same order of time, in relation to chronological table or list. This basic principle has to be applied in relation to Siddha for its revival and research in relation to its history also.

Archaeology initiates a study of ancient cultures through their material remains. With the help of this principle, a study of Indus valley civilization, as supported by the archaeological excavations of Harappa and Mohenjedarro forms a background for Siddha. The material remains of these two excavations throw light on the 'Siva-Sakthi' cult and on evidence for a highly evolved urban civilization, contrasted with a simple nomadic rural civilization of the central Asia. These evidences take one to one of the very old Dravidian culture and civilization which has got a link with the submerged Lumeria continent i. e. 'Kumari-Kandam' in the southernmost

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end of India. These considerations form a sound background for Siddha or Tamil system of medicine, having a direct bearing on the southern languages and cultures, as well as have an all India relationship. This vital link has to be probed and established chronologically and archaeologically supported by internal and external evidences of very old manuscripts, inscriptions and others.

Accordingly new chronological tables or lists are given, to serve as a working base with regard to Siddha, in order of time, for assignment of events in relation to the system to their correct historical dates. These tables are as follows :

Chronicle Table I :

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|------------------------|--|
| 1. Mythological Period | (Siddha medical and other allied knowledge considered to have come first from)
Siva
Umai
Nandhi
Muruga |
| 2. Pre-Historic Period | Agathiyar and Thirumoolar |
| 3. Historic Period | Other Siddhars and others |

Chronicle Table II :

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Pre-Vedic Period
(Indus Valley Civilization) | ... 2500 B. C. and earlier |
| 2. Vedic Period | ... 2500 B. C. to 1500 B. C. |
| 3. Post-Vedic Period | ... 1500 B. C. and later |
| 4. Present Period | ... Hindu period
... Muslim Period
... British Period
... Present period
... Independent India |

Chronicle Table III :

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|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. First Tamil Sangam Period | ... 4000 B. C. and earlier (Kumari Kadam i. e. Lumeria continent) |
| 2. Second Tamil Sangam Period | ... 4000 B. C. to 1500 B. C. (Madurai as capital) |

3. **Third Tamil Sangam period to recent Times.** ... 1500 B. C. and later (Madurai as capital)
1. Chera-Chola-Pandian Period
 2. Pallava period
 3. Nayakar period
 4. Muslim period
 5. British period
 6. Independent India

Chronicle Table IV :

- As per Thotrakiramam of Siddhars i. e. evolution of the universe upto present periods as recorded in Tholkappiam etc. ...
1. 'Choonium Nilai' (State of Emptiness)
 2. Param (Evolved by Panja Bootha Panjeekaranam)
 3. Para-param
 4. Imboothams
 5. Oor-Arivu to Aruarivu Man etc.
 6. Pre-Historic to recent period.

Any of the pattern or patterns of chronological tables given above may be taken for a probe into Siddha History to fix up events about the history of Siddhars. Basic Principles of Siddha. Siddha medical formularies and Pharmacy. Clinical treatment on Siddha lines with special reference to Nadhi reading, Kayakalpa treatment finally leading to Raja-Yoga and Samathi Nilai etc. have to be historically probed and fixed up. At this stage epigraphical and archaeological findings etc. serve as internal and external evidences, as source materials to arrive at useful conclusions objectively. Comparative study in all these aspects with other disciplines will also be very helpful for re-writing of all the fields, bringing out every thing to light.

But this very big job requires a well established department of history of Siddha medicine, with a team of whole hearted research scholars without racial and other preconceived narrow ideas. Also this historic revival requires continuous and sustained efforts without any break of work in this historical research of our heritage.

The patterns of the periods and the governing principles of chronology and archaeology are given only as food for thought, for senior as well as junior pioneer research scholars in the history of Siddha system on all its aspects.

सारांश

सिद्धप्रणाली में कालानुक्रमिक जाँच-पडताल

पी. गुरुशिरोन्मणी

चिकित्सा की सिद्धप्रणाली को पुनरुज्जीवित करने के लिए इस प्रणाली के पुरातत्त्वीय और ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धियों की जाँच-पडताल आवश्यक है। परमाणु तथा शैव सिद्धान्त के ९६ तत्त्वों पर सिद्धप्रणाली आधारित है। हडप्पा तथा मोहनजोदड़ो में हुई खुदाई सिद्ध की पृष्ठभूमि के शिवशक्तिवाद पर प्रकाश डालती है। जलमग्न लुमेरिया द्वीप के साथ सम्बन्ध होने के विचार हैं और उनकी जाँच पडताल कर स्थापित किया जाना है।

यह चार इतिहास की सारणी की अवधि को प्रस्तुत करती है, जो कि पुराण, वेद, तमिलसंगम आदि के आधार पर वर्गीकृत है।