

## MEDICAL MANUSCRIPTS OF QUTUB SHAHI PERIOD IN THE LIBRARIES OF HYDERABAD.

### PART I

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### ABSTRACT

In Deccan the Qutub Shahi dynasty ruled from Golconda for a period of about two centuries i.e. from 1518 A.D. to 1687 A.D. The Qutub Shahi rulers were very much interested in the welfare of their subjects. They patronized art, culture, medicine and architecture. There were eight kings of this dynasty starting from Quli-Qutub-ul-Mulk to ending on Abul Hasan Tana Shah. Out of them three kings are most important for a medical historian. During this period a new city of Hyderabad was founded, hospitals, baths, rest houses etc. were built, physicians, scholars, poets were patronised and a number of medical books were written. Though many of the manuscripts might have lost with the time, a few are still available in the different libraries of Hyderabad. These manuscripts have been studied and a brief introduction to each of these manuscripts is presented in this communication.

In Deccan the Qutub Shahi dynasty ruled from Golconda for a period of about two centuries, i.e. from 1518 A.D. to 1687 A.D. The Qutub Shahi rulers were very much interested in the welfare of their subjects. They patronised art, culture, medicine and architecture.

There were eight rulers of this dynasty. Out of them the following three are the most important personalities for a medical historian.

1. Mohammed Quli Qutub Shah  
(1580-1612 A.D.)
2. Mohammed Qutub Shah  
(1612-1626 A.D.)

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### 3. Abdullah Qutub Shah (1626-1672 A.D.)

Qutub Shahi kingdom was at its zenith during this period. Many baths, rest houses etc. were constructed and many gardens were laid out. Physicians, scholars and poets were patronised. A new city of Hyderabad was founded in 1590 A.D. and the first hospital 'Darush-Shifa' (House of cure) was built in this city in 1595 during the reign of Mohammed Quli Qutub Shah, the fifth king of the

Qutub Shahi dynasty. The Hospital was for the treatment of the patients and also to impart medical education to students. The treatment and diet were provided free of cost to as many as 400 patients at a time. A number of valuable medical books were also written during their period. Many rare and valuable works of that period are lost with the time and few such medical manuscripts are preserved in various libraries of Hyderabad, which are as under.

## I. IKHTIYARAT-E-QUTUB SHAHI

Mohammed Quli Qutub Shah was very much interested in discussions on medicine and allied scientific subjects with physicians scholars and learned men. In these discussions 'Ikhtiyarat-e-Badeyi' a treatise on single and compound drugs was frequently referred, for authentic and correct informations. So, the king asked Mir Momin to edit, comment and correct the mistakes of the 'Ikhtiyarat-e-Badeyi' and to make the same up-to-date. Mir Momin was the Peshwa and a very influential personality during the reigns of Mohammed Quli Qutub Shah and Mohammed Qutub Shah. He was one of the most respected medical writers of that period. He was also responsible for planning the new city of Hyderabad and also Charminar, Darush-Shifa and Royal Palace are

the existing example of his extraordinary abilities. He died on 2nd Jammad-ul-awal, 1034 A.H. at the age of about 74 years and buried in Dara-e-Mir Momin.

The 'Ikhtiyarat-e-Badeyi' was compiled by Ali Bin-Al-Hussain-Al Ansari alias Haji Zain-ul-Attar (1330 to 1403 A.D.), based on Qanoon-e-Minhaj, Jamai Ibn Baittar, Jawame, Taqweem-Al-Adviya etc., and it was dedicated by him to his friend and patron Badiul-Jamal. This book is divided into two parts. Single drugs, their names, properties and alternatives along with the information on corrigents have been given in the first part. Compound drugs have been described in the second part. This book was very popular in Islamic countries and it was considered very authentic book on the subject.

As per the order of the King, Mir Momin took up this laborious task and wrote a treatise, consulting original sources and contemporary experts and named it 'Ikhtiyarat-e-Qutub-Shahi'. This book contains explanatory notes and criticism on the said book i.e. 'Ikhtiyarat-e-Badeyi'. Further, the original text was also given side by side with the appendices and addendums to make the things more clear. Only two copies of this manuscript are available in the Library of Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad. The copyist of the first one is Mohammed Momin Arab Bin Shirazi (also known as Arab Shah Shirazi) who was a famous scribe of Qutub Shahi court. The date of its transcription is 1040 A.H. (1630 AD) Its size is  $10\frac{1}{2}'' \times 6\frac{1}{2}''$  and contains 451 folios with 21 lines on each page. The script is in beautiful Nastaliq and its first page is gilded with gold and silver colours and its margins are embellished with floral designs in gold. Other pages of this manuscript are decorated by inks of different colours in a beautiful style. A list of the names of 2714 single drugs along with their names in different languages in alphabetical order is given, covering 32 pages under the head of the contents of the Ikhtiyarat-e-Qutub Shahi. Page no. 33 is blank, but it is beautifully decorated on margins with attractive designs in gold and silver.

#### **Beginning :**

It begins with 'Praise and thanks

are due to God, the wonderful signs of whose wisdom are manifest in every particle of this universe'.

#### **The End :**

'Neemah is a plant which is otherwise known as Sumbul in Shiraz. It is used for treatment and cure of wounds'.

#### **Addendum :**

According to the original text. The first and the last page of this book bear the seal of Hyder Yar Khan and the date on one of them is 1167 A.H. Under the first seal, the following words are given with another seal of the same person affixed below them.

"On seventh Rabeeh-ul-awal, 1183 A.H. this book is reviewed".

The second copy of the Ikhtiyarat-e-Qutub Shahi was written by Nizama Ibn Abdullah-Al-Saidi-Al-Shirazi, for the library of Sultan Abdullah Qutub Shah. Its size is  $10\frac{3}{4}'' \times 6''$ , containing 488 folios with 21 lines on each page. Its date of transcription is given 1039 A.H. The script is in beautiful Nastaliq and its first two pages are gilded and margins are decorated with attractive designs in gold and silver. Its contents are given on folios 455 to 488 with first two pages gilded. Following words are mentioned on folio 454:

"The book 'Ikhtiyarat-e-Qutub Shahi was completed on 1st Ziquad

1039 A.H. in the capital city of Hyderabad in the reign of Sultan Abdullah Qutub Shah". A cutting bearing the following words is pasted on folio 455 :

"This book was presented to Mir Mehmood Ali on 22nd Ramazan 1072 A.H. by Sultan Abdullah Qutub Shah".

## 2. RISAL-E-MEQDARIAH

Mohammed Qutub Shah, the 6th king of the Qutub Shahi dynasty, succeeded Mohammed Quli Qutub Shah in 1612 A.D. He was very pious, learned and an ideal king. He continued all the good works of his predecessor. As there was a lot of difference of opinions amongst the experts with regard to fixation of standard weights and measures for business, religious purposes and medical use, the king requested Mir Momin (the compiler of *Ikhtiyarat-e-Qutub Shai*) to study the subject and to compile an exhaustive and authoritative work on weights and measures for the guidance of the people. Mir Momin accordingly collected informations and facts from authentic sources and various books on law, religion and medical Encyclopedias and compiled a journal giving correct weights and measures under the name of "*Risal-e-Meqdariah*". He writes:

"For the purpose of law and medicine, it is entirely necessary to know correct weights and measures. So, by the behest of Sultan Mohammed Qutub Shah, I am writing this treatise".

The original manuscript written

by Mir Momin, bearing the seal of Sultan Mohammed is in the Salar Jung Museum Library, Hyderabad. This journal contains foreword, different chapters and closing notes.

### The Foreword :

In the foreword, certain general remarks about the contents of the book, and names of the books referred by Mir Momin have been given. He writes "whatever I have written are extracts from authentic books on medicine, religious laws and medical encyclopedias". The names of some of such books referred by him for this purpose are as under:

Sahah Jowhari, Qamoos Fairozabadi, Mohazzeb-ul-Asma, from some other compilations of Sheikh Jamaluddin, Sheikh Shaheed Ameli, Qanoon-e-Sheikh, Zaqeera-e-Quarizm Shahi and Jawama-ul-Adviah etc. In addition to the informations compiled from these books Mir Momin has also given his own experiences and observations about the weights and measures along with the synonyms of these weights and measures used locally for making this book more practical and useful for the king and the public as well.

After the foreword 12 chapters devoting to each of the measures are given and the following nearest unimportant measures are also mentioned.

1. Habba - 1 Yava
2. Tasboh or Tasso - 2 Yava
3. Qirat - 4 Yava
4. Danaq or Dang - 8 Yava
5. Dirham or Dram - 48 Yava
6. Misqal - 68 Yava
7. Istar - 4.5 Misqal
8. Auqia or Waqia - 7 Misqal
9. Ratal - 12 Auqia
10. Mann - 2 Ratal
11. Kelja - 2 Mann
12. Mako or Makok - 3 Kelja

#### The End :

The closing chapter consists of three sections. Out of which, the first section deals with a detailed description of five standard stone weights which were known as 'Panch Wazan' collectively. These weights were equivalent to 1 drachm, 3 drachms, 9 drachms, 27 drachms and 60 drachms. The second section contains information about distances, such as miles, farsaq and Bareed and the third section provides general information about mensuration.

The journal became very popular among the people. It was considered to be an authoritative book, on weights and measures and hence, frequently used for reference. Many copies of this book are at present in existence, but the most important among these copies is the original one,

written by Mir Sahab, which is preserved in the Salar Jung Museum Library. On its first page is the seal of Sultan Mohammed Qutub Shah 'Banda-e-Shah-e-Najaf, Sultan Mohammed Qutub Shah' (Slave of Shah of Najaf, Sultan Mohammed Qutub Shah) under the seal the year 1020 A.H. is also mentioned on the title page following line is given :

“Journal of Weights and Measures compiled by Mir Mohammed Momin Peshwa” (May blessing of God be on him). Beneath the line is affixed the famous seal of Sultan Mohammed Qutub Shah “Mohar-e-Suleman Zehaq gashta mayessar Mara” (I have obtained this seal of Solomon from God). This proves no doubt that, it is the copy which Mir Mohammed Momin had prepared for Sultan Mohammed Qutub Shah. Bounded along with this, there is one more copy of the same book, which was later copied at Lahore. There is yet another copy of the journal in the same library which is in Nasq script and its date of transcription is 12 Zil Hijja 1276 A.H. There is a fourth copy of this book completed by scribe Mohammed Rafeeh Bin Ussamuddin Mohammed on 30th Ramazan 1053 A.H. The name of the scribe appears on the second book which is bounded with journal in one volume, as both the books were copied by the same scribe at the same time. This manuscript is preserved in the Persian collections of State Central Library, Hyderabad.

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सारांश

## हैदराबाद के पुस्तकालयों में कुतुब शाही काल की चिकित्सापरक पाण्डुलिपियां

भाग-१

मोमिन अली  
एस. ए. हुसैन

दक्षिण भारत में कुतुब शाही वंश ने गोलकोण्डा से लगभग दो शताब्दियों अर्थात् 1518 से 1687 ईसवी तक शासन किया। कुतुब शाही शासक अपनी प्रजा के कल्याण में बहुत रूचि लेते थे। उन्होंने कला, संस्कृति, चिकित्सा-विज्ञान तथा भवन निर्माण को प्रोत्साहन दिया। इस वंश के प्रथम राजा कुली कुतुबुल्मुल्क से प्रारम्भ करके अन्तिम राजा अबुल हसन तानाशाह तक कुल आठ शासक हुए। जिनमें से तीन शासक एक आयुर्विज्ञान इतिहासकार के लिये अत्यन्त महत्त्व के पात्र हैं। इस काल में एक नये शहर "हैदराबाद" की नींव डाली गई, चिकित्सालयों, स्नान-गृहों, तथा विश्राम-गृहों आदि का निर्माण किया गया, चिकित्सकों, विद्वानों एवं कवियों को प्रोत्साहन दिया गया तथा अनेक चिकित्सापरक ग्रन्थ लिखे गये। यद्यपि इन ग्रन्थों में से अनेक पाण्डुलिपियां कालचक्र के साथ लुप्त हो गई होंगी, तथापि उनमें से अभी भी कुछ हैदराबाद के विभिन्न पुस्तकालयों में उपलब्ध हैं। ऐसे कतिपय पाण्डुलिपियों का अध्ययन करके उनमें से प्रत्येक का संक्षिप्त परिचय इस लेख में प्रस्तुत किया गया है।