

ACHARYA PRIYAVRATA SHARMA - A PIONEER IN CREATION OF NEW AUTHENTIC AYURVEDIC LITERATURE IN 20th CENTURY

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Acharya Priyavarata Sharma, the then Director of Post Graduate Institute of Indian Medicine (PGIIM) and the first Dean of Postgraduate Faculty of Ayurveda, B. H. U., was born on 1st November, 1920 in a well cultured family of dedicated social workers of Mustafapur village, post – Khagowl, Dist.-Patna, Bihar, India. An alumnus of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Prof. P. V. Sharma obtained the understanding and commitment of dedication for upliftment of Ayurveda from his father Pt. Ram Awatara Mishara, a renowned Vaidya and the founder Secretary of 'Bihar Praanteeya Vaidya Sammelanam' and who bestowed his love and affection on poor and the ailing. The mother of Prof. Sharma Smt. Ramadulari was a pious and kindness woman who nurtured him with care and love. Prof. Sharma was the fifth child in his family. Respecting the traditions of family in 1936 Prof. Sharma married Kum. Padmavathi and lived together for more than 65 years.

Prof. Sharma took his initial education at 'Vedaratna Vidyalaya', the school at his native village, which was established in the memory of his paternal uncle Pt. Jagannath Sharma, in gurukula system. The 'Poet' in Prof. Sharma had taken shape under the direct and indirect influence of his elder brother Pt. Satyavrata Sharma 'Sujan', who was an eminent poet and famous writer, whom Prof. Sharma accepted as his Aadiguru (first teacher). Prof. Sharma in his childhood started publishing a hand written annual magazine along with his schoolmates.

After completing his basic education young Priya Vrata Sharma joined Ayurveda College, BHU., as per instructions of his father and received A. M. S. degree in 1940. During the study at BHU Prof. Sharma was very busy in learning Ayurveda. Even at that early age Sharma started writing poetry in Hindi and the collection '*Madhu duti*' was published in 1938. After graduation Prof. Sharma started private practice in Ayurveda and he felt that the in-depth knowledge and understanding of Ayurveda is possible only with

proficiency in Sanskrit and English. So he learned these languages along with Grammar, Literature, History, and Philosophy. Prof. Sharma got masters degree in Hindi from BHU and M. A. in Sanskrit from Patna University. From Bihar Sanskrit Samiti Prof. Sharma was awarded *Saahityaacharya*. Prof. Sharma's command over Ayurveda fortified not only by learning these subjects but also by participating in the activities of 'Bihar Praanteeya Vaidya Sammelanam' since his childhood along with his father.

In 1946 Prof. Sharma joined Begusarai Ayurvedic College as lecturer. Here he was teaching Rachana Sharira (Anatomy) and Kriya Sharira (Physiology). In 1953 Prof. Sharma joined Banaras Hindu University as lecturer in Dravyaguna. Later he joined as Principal in Govt. Ayurvedic College, Patna and served for four years from 1956 to 1960. After this, Prof. Sharma served Bihar State Government in capacity of Deputy Director Health (Indian System) for a period of 3 years from 1961 to 1963. Prof. Sharma rejoined his alma-mater B. H. U., in 1963 when Post Graduate Institute of Indian medicine (PGIIM), was started at B. H. U. He was made the professor in department of Dravyaguna, and then he became Director, PGIIM and later as Dean, Faculty of Ayurveda. Now Prof. Sharma started working in three major areas viz. Dravyaguna, Itihas (History) and Ayurvedic Manuscripts. It is true that Ayurveda cannot survive without proper basic understanding & knowledge of Drugs. Prof. Sharma always thought that the contemporary modern medical knowledge should be imparted to Ayurvedic students and to fulfill the same he actively encouraged the experimental and clinical research in the field of Dravyaguna. Prof. Sharma made notable contributions in Dravyaguna like standardization of single drugs and finished products. This approach of Prof. Sharma was accepted not only by different corners of India but also by the Indian union Government. This was in tune of the vision of Mahamana Madan Mohan Malaviya and Dr. K. N. Udupa.

Accepting the reality is the basis for progress of any science. Ayurveda is not an exception. One has to be open & broad mind and not to hesitate to change the views for development. Prof. Sharma always followed this formula and supported for progress of Ayurveda. This vision of Prof. Sharma was accepted and made him chairperson / member in almost all committees constituted for Ayurveda by Government of India during those days. The glory of Prof. Sharma attracted the scholars worldwide and he was invited to participate in conferences and symposia. On 17th July 1973 first time Prof. Sharma visited Paris and participated in the Seminar on Asian Medicine & Pharmacopoeia, 29th International Congress of Orientalists. He presented a paper entitled 'Drugs as Landmarks of the History of Indian Medicine'. In 1976, 3-8 Aug. Prof. Sharma presented the paper 'the Vanaushadhi Varga of the Amarakosha and its Historical Implications', at the 30th International Congress of Human Sciences, Mexico. Prof. Sharma superannuated from his services at BHU in 1980.

After superannuation his literary and academic activity became accelerated. He started spending his full time in publications. In September 1984, Prof. Sharma presented a paper entitled 'Role of Commentators in Textual Criticism' in ICTAM II at Surabaya (Indonesia). Prof. Sharma visited Holland in 1987 August 23-29 to present a paper 'Some New Information about Niscala's Commentary on Cakradatta' in Workshop on Sanskrit Medical Literature, World Sanskrit Conference, Leiden, Holland. His last visit abroad (Vienna) was on 27th August 1990 to participate in the World Sanskrit Conference August 27- September 2 to present a paper 'Works of Cakrapanidatta on Meteria Medica'. After this Prof. Sharma stopped visiting abroad due to his physical limitations.

Leaving behind his family (six sons, four daughters, number of grand and great grand children and thousands of direct and indirect students throughout the world) Prof. Sharma left to heavenly abode on 18th May 2007.

The scientific contribution of Prof. Sharma is outstanding and amazing. In complete career of Prof. Sharma as researcher, teacher and research guide, he successfully supervised 16 D.Ay.M., / M.D.(Ay.)s and 14 Ph. D.,s. Prof. Sharma was a pioneer in creation of new authentic ayurvedic literature in 20th century. His

first article on *santata jwara* and *vishama jwara* was published in *Sudhanidhi* vol 32, No. 2. February 1941. As per the available records Prof. Sharma published about 395 research papers. The list of Hindi Journals in which Prof. Sharma's Articles / Research papers / case studies etc., were published are *Avagaahan*, *Aaj* (Varanasi), *Ayurmani* (Ahmadabad), *Ayurveda (Akhila Nepal Ayurveda Mahasammelan Patrika)*, *Ayurveda Mahasammelan Patrika* (New Delhi), *Ayurveda Vikas*, *Ayurvedic College Patrika* (Jaipur), *Ayurvedic College Patrika* (Patna), *Arogya sandesh*, *Aryavarth* (Patna), *Indraprsthya Ayurveda Sammelan Patrika*, *Kalyani gow* (Varanasi), *Jai Desh*, *Jyotishmati* (Astanga Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya Patrika, Indore), *Divyalok*, *Dainik Jagaran*, *Dahanvantari*, *Navabharat Saptahik* (Calcutta), *Navarashtra*, *Prajna* (B H U), *Pradip* (Patna), *Bhiar Rajya Sanskritsahityasammelan patrika* (Patna), *Brahmajyoti*, *Rashtravani* (Patna), *Sanskrita – Sushama* (varanaseya Sanskrit Viswavidyalaya), *Sachitra Ayurveda*, *Sandaha* (varanasi), *Sanmarg* (Varanasi), *Saptahik Hindusthan*, *Sudhamshu* (Begusarai Ayurvedic College Patrika), *Sudhanidhi* (Prayag), *Sudhanidhi* (Vijayagadh), *Swasthya* (Ajmer), *Swasthya Sandesh* (Patna).

The English journals in where Prof. Sharma's Articles / Research papers / case studies etc., were published are A.B.O.R.I: Annals of Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (Poona), AMCO Magazine, B.H.U., Ancient Science of Life, Annals of Academy of Indian Medicine (Varanasi), Antiseptic, Arogyabhandhu, Aryavaidyan (Kottakkal), Ayurveda News Letter (Paris), B.I.I.H.M. : Bulletin of Indian Institute of History of Medicine (Hyderabad), Bulletin P.G.I.I.M. : Post Graduate Institute of Indian Medicine, B. H. U., Government Ayurvedic College Magazine (Bangalore), Hindutwa, I.J.H.S. : Indian Journal of History of Science, INSA (New Delhi), Indian Medical Gazette, Indian Nation (Patna), J.E.A.S. : journal of European Ayurvedic Society (Germany), J.N.I.M.A. : Journal Of National Integrated Medical Association (Bombay), J.O.I.B. : Journal of Oriental Institute (Baroda), J.R.I.M. : Journal of Research in Indian Medicine (New Delhi), Journal of the Asiatic Society (Calcutta), Journal Of Ayurveda, National Institute of Ayurveda (Jaipur), Journal of Kuppaswami Shatry Research Institute (Madras), Journal of Medical Sciences B.H.U., Nagarjuna (Calcutta), NAMAHA (Pondichery), Pharmastudent, B.H.U., Searchlight (Patna), Swastha Hind, The Times of India and Yoga Awareness, B.H.U.

Published Articles and Lectures of Prof. Sharma have been reprinted in the form of a book – A Collection of the Selected Articles and Lectures by Prof. Priya Vrat Sharma entitled "SIX DECADES OF AYURVEDA (1941 – 2000)" edited by Prof. Satya Deo Dubey and Dr. Anugrah Narain Singh is neo Ayurvedic Samhita, which gives the complete idea of the academic profile of Prof. Sharma and inspiration to the future generations.

The Books written, Translated, Edited by Prof. P. V. Sharma:

Prof. Sharma's contributions to Dravyaguna subject are 'Na bhuto na Bhavishyati'. Prof. Sharma authored Dravyaguna vijanana in 5 parts (1955 – 81) which is not only a text book but also a reference book to U. G. & P. G. students and Researchers of Ayurveda. Introduction to Dravyaguna (1976), Fruits and vegetables in Ancient India (1979), Dalhana and his Comments on Drugs (1982), *Priyanighantu* (1983), *Dravyagunasutram* (1994), Classical uses of Medicinal Plants (1996), Dravyaguna koshah (1997), *Pushpaayurvedah* (1998), and *Namarupajnanam* (2000), *Susruta Samhita – Saptadhyayee mein Vanaspatiyam aur Anya dravya* (along with Dr. Sanjay Talamale) (2002), Dravyaguna vijnana part – 1 (Edited and Elaborated Golden Jubilee edition – 2006) are major contributions in the field of Dravyaguna done by Prof. Sharma. The unpublished work of Prof. Sharma on Dravyaguna is *Charak ki Dravyaguna Saptadhyayee: Sameekshatmakam Adhyayan* (along with Dr. Mohan Lal).

Prof. Sharma's contributions on Philosophy of Ayurveda are remarkable. *Doshakaranatvamimamsa* (1978) and *Ayurveda-darshanam* (1994) are major contributions in this class.

Prof. Sharma made outstanding and un-challengeable publications in the field of History of Ayurveda. He authored following books related to History of Ayurveda, *Vaagbhata-vivechan* (1968), *Charak chintan* (1970), *Indian Medicine in Classical Age* (1972), *Ayurved ka vaijnanik Itihas* (1975). Prof. Sharma edited *History of Medicine in India* (1992) which is the prestigious publication of Indian National Science Academy.

Prof. Sharma did a valuable and long time study on Ayurvedic Manuscripts. He had studied the Ayurvedic manuscripts written and preserved by his ancestors and

published a book on it entitled *Ayurved ki kuch prachin pustaken* in the year 1962. Prof. Sharma had edited and published more than a dozen books on Dravyaguna subject after studying the ancestral Ayurvedic Manuscripts. *Astanganighantu* (1973), *Madhava-Dravyaguna* (1973), *Hridayadeepika*, *Sidhdamantrah* (with *Prakash* commentary), *Yogaratanamala* (1977), *Abhidhanaratnamala* (1977), *Sodhala Nighantu* (1978), *Kaiyadevanighantu* (1979), *Dhanvantarinighantu* (1982), *Madanadi Nighantu* (*Viprakirna prakarana*) (1986), *Shabdachandrika* (1989), *Charakatatvapradipika* (along with Dr. Satya Deo Dubey) (1990), *Chakradatta Ratnaprabha* (1993), A descriptive Catalogue of Manuscripts on Ayurveda in Banaras Hindu University (1994), *Vaidyajeivan*, *Rudrabhattakrita vyakhyasahita* (1998), *Chakradatta Ratnaprabha (Parishishta)* (2003) are major books published by Prof. Sharma based on Manuscripts study.

Prof. Sharma also did Critical study and translation of Ayurvedic classics. He published English Translation of Charaka *Samhita* Vols. I– IV (1981-1994). *Charaka Samajna* (1996) is a major contribution by Prof. Sharma, which is a rearrangement of classical *Charaka Samhita* in to present day understanding in light of modern view. Further Prof. Sharma translated and published *Susruta Samhita* (English Translation) Vols. I-III (1999 – 2001), *Chikitsa Kalika* (with *Candrata's* Commentary and English Translation) (1981), *Chikitsa Kalika* (with Hindi Translation) (1987), *Chakra data* (English Translation) (1994).

Prof. Sharma had written the first book on research methodology namely *Ayurvediya Anusandhana Padhdhati* in 1976. He also published *Sarirkriyaa vijnan* (1978 second edition), *Rogiparikshavidhi* (1982 third edition), *Shodasangahrudayam* (1987), *Essentials of Ayurveda* (1993).

Prof. Sharma's command on Sanskrit Language is unparallel. He proved this by publishing *Sriramavataracharitam* in 1948 and *VasantaShatakam* in 1968.

Students are always the best Judges of Teachers because they observe them from very near. As quoted in obituary by Prof. (Km.) P. V. Tiwari, Former Head, Department of Prasuti tantra & Dean, Faculty of Ayurveda, Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU, Varanasi, the first Ph. D., student of Prof. Sharma, that Prof. P. V. Sharma had a command over three languages i.e. Hindi, Sanskrit and English. He even learned Bengali to read certain

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manuscripts. He was a voracious reader, prolific writer, orator, teacher, researcher, leader, administrator and above all a good human being, which was accepted equally by his admirers and adversaries. His dedication, hard work and conceptual thinking, simplicity, dutifulness and discipline made him unique and incomparable. He created new path not only for his own self but also for many others to follow.

Though the mortal remains of Prof. P. V. Sharma are joined their basic source – *Panchbhutas*, but his sprit is existing with all his disciples, associates, admirers all over the world in their thoughts. Prof. Sharma showered

blessings and encouraged to work to all those who ever came in contact with him. "Prof. P. V. Sharma is true Son of Goddess SARASWATI", who borne for creation of new authentic ayurvedic literature in 20th century.

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1. Obituary by Prof. (Km.) P. V. Tiwari (2008), Indian Journal of History of Science, 43.2(2008) 309- 338.
2. Six Decades of Ayurveda (1941 – 2000) edited by Prof. Satya Deo Dubey and Dr. Anugrah Narain Singh (2005) Chaukhambha Sanskrit Pratishthan, Delhi.