

19/08/21

Caraka Samhitā

Qn: → Write a note on the contribution of the Caraka-Samhitā?

Ans: → The Caraka Samhitā is nothing but the off-shoot of the Atharva-vedic knowledge which has been flowing like a stream from generation to generation since the time of the Atharvaveda. According to the narrative that finds place in the Caraka-Samhitā itself, the tradition of Ayurveda started right from Brahmā and passed through Dakṣa Prajāpati and Indra to Bharadwaja who finally handed it down to Ātreya. Ātreya discussed the topics of medicine among scholar-sages in different symposia and finally formulated its basic concepts. These concepts then passed through his six illustrious disciples of whom Agniveśa was the most brilliant who documented all the concepts of his teacher in faithfully in his compendium known as Agniveśa-Tantra. Afterwards it was again refined and enlarged, as and when necessary, by Caraka to be known later on that as Caraka-Samhitā. Thus the Caraka-Samhitā is indeed no other than Agniveśa-Tantra only with some refinement and enlargement given to

it by Caraka with his this respect were so spectacular that the original treatise of Agnivesa finally came to be known only as Caraka-Samhitā.

As regards the real identity of Caraka, there are, of course, few conflicting opinions prevalent among ~~some~~ scholars. But, at the question of the ascertainment of the identity of Caraka has nothing to do anything with the assessment of work's contributions to the field of Indian Medicine, so its detail discussion is needed not most within the perview of discussing its contributions. Viewed from the point of contributions given to the field of Indian Medicine, the Caraka Samhitā has been ~~adjudged~~ adjudged the most outstanding and authoritative one amongst all ancient works on medicine.

The main contributions of the Caraka Samhitā may briefly be enumerated as follows:

① Advancement of Basic Ayurvedic concepts:-

The basic Ayurvedic concepts evolved during the vedic period were placed ~~on~~ on a sound scientific