

Studies in Traditional Indian Medicine in the Pāli Canon: Jīvaka and Āyurveda by  
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The canonical and post canonical Buddhist literature preserved in Pāli and other Buddhist languages contains many references to diseases and to medical treatments. We will investigate one rather nicely compact episode found in the eighth chapter of the *Mahāvagga* of the *Vinaya Piṭaka*. It recounts six healings performed by the physician Jīvaka Komārabhacca<sup>1</sup> and is told in order to establish the circumstances for the propounding of the rules pertaining to the use and distribution of the robes worn by Buddhist monks. Versions, often with significant variants, are also found in the *Vinaya* portions of Buddhist works in Sinhalese,<sup>2</sup> Tibetan<sup>3</sup> and in a *sūtra* in Chinese,<sup>4</sup> reflecting the popularity of the story.

While there are several published articles drawing our attention to the medical importance of this tale,<sup>5</sup> an intensive and thorough investigation of it in light of *āyurveda* is still wanting. Our purpose, therefore, will be to make a detailed examination of the purely medical sections of each of the healings, comparing them to the classical āyurvedic tradition of the *Caraka* and *Suśruta Samhitās*.

*I. A seven-year-old disease of the head (śīsābādha) suffered by a merchant's wife from Sāketa*<sup>6</sup>

Then Jīvaka Komārabhacca approached to where the merchant's wife was; having approached her [and] having observed her abnormality, he said this to her: "O lady, I have need of a handful<sup>7</sup> of ghee." Then the merchant's wife ordered a handful of ghee to be given to Jīvaka. Jīvaka, then, decocting that handful of ghee with various medicines [and]

making the wife lie down on [her] back on a bed, administered [the decoction] through the nose. The ghee, administered through the nose, then, issued from the mouth [and] was spat out into a receptacle . . . . Now, as the story goes, Jīvaka Komārabhacca eradicated the seven-year-old disease of the head with just one nasal-treatment.<sup>8</sup>

Although the cause of this persistent disease of the head is not specified, the treatment which was administered quite clearly involved nasal-therapy (*natthukamma*), by which ghee decocted with a number of undefined medicines was poured into the nose of a patient lying supine on a bed. The liquid, we are told, was not swallowed, but spat out.

In classical āyurvedic medicine, there are either five or eleven types of diseases of the head, defined according to their special causes. Caraka mentions five, caused by wind, bile, phlegm, a combination of these and worms.<sup>9</sup> Suśruta lists eleven: the five mentioned by Caraka in addition to those caused respectively by the wasting of the elements of the body (*kṣaya*),<sup>10</sup> by *sūryāvarta*,<sup>11</sup> by severe pain in the neck, eyes, eyebrows and temples (*anantavāta*), by a splitting pain in the head (*ardhāvabhedaka*) and by extreme pain in the temples, leading to death (*śaṅkhaka*).<sup>12</sup>

Caraka states that the principal means of treating these diseases of the head is nasal-therapy (*nastakharman*),<sup>13</sup> which is said by Suśruta to be of two types, head-purgation (*śirovirecana*) and lubrication (*snehana*), involving the use of medicines or oil cooked with medicines and administered through both nostrils.<sup>14</sup> Caraka prescribes the following technique for the application of this medicated oil:

The physician who knows the correct medical prescription should administer the nasal-oil . . . to the patient who is lying down comfortably in a supine position on a well-covered couch and who has his head hanging down slightly and his feet a little elevated;<sup>15</sup> . . . and after having pushed the nose up with the thumb of the left hand, he should then properly apply the nasal oil to both nostrils equally with the right hand, by means of a hollow tube or by means of cotton. . . .<sup>16</sup>

Suśruta includes another important point, not mentioned by Caraka: "The wise patient should never at any time swallow down the nasal-oil. The oil should be made to flow to the *śṛṅgātakas*<sup>17</sup>

and should come forth from the mouth; and on account of the danger of disorder to the *kapha*, the patient should spit it out without suppressing the urge (to do so).<sup>18</sup>

The method of treatment of diseases of the head outlined in the āyurvedic texts reflects rather closely that preserved in this Pāli episode.

*II. A seven-year-old disease of the head (sīsābādha) suffered by a merchant from Rājagaha*<sup>19</sup>

Now as the story goes, Jīvaka Komārabhacca made the householder-merchant lie down on the bed [and] bound him to it. Having cut away the skin<sup>20</sup> of the head [and] twisted open a suture [of the skull],<sup>21</sup> he extracted two living creatures and showed them to the crowd of people, [saying:] “Do you see these living creatures, one small and one large . . . ?” . . . Then, he closed the suture, sewed back the skin of the head and applied ointment.<sup>22</sup>

In the previous case, no cause was mentioned; but here two creatures living inside the skull are specified as causing the head-disease. Likewise, the treatment administered by Jīvaka is, rather, a surgical operation similar to that which is known as trepanation.

Among the causes of maladies of the head, the medical texts, as we have already noted, mention worms (*kṛmi*).<sup>23</sup> The treatment of such a morbid condition of the head, however, is quite different from that performed by Jīvaka.

Caraka prescribes the use of nasal-therapy, involving purgations of the head, in order to eradicate diseases of the head caused by worms.<sup>24</sup> Suśruta also specifies purgations of the head for such maladies and details the technique, as follows:

The [medical] treatment of a head being devoured by worms will now be mentioned: Indeed one should give blood in the nose. The creatures become stupified by that, and overjoyed with the smell of blood, they congregate [in the nasal-passages, etc.] from anywhere.<sup>25</sup> Their eradication from there [i.e. from the nasal-passages]<sup>26</sup> is to be accomplished by purgations of the skull or by [a nasal-therapy consisting of] seeds of the *hrasvaśṛiguka* plant mixed with *nīlī* (*Indigofera tinturia*, Linn.).<sup>27</sup> One should treat [the patient] by means of vermi-

fuges and by *avapīda* nasal-therapies (i.e. nasal-drops) prepared with urine. [Likewise,] one should employ vermifuges and smoke-nasal-therapies combined with *pūtimatsya* (= *pūti-karañja*; *Caesalpinia crista*, Linn. = *C. bonducella*, Flem.) as well as various types of foods, vermifuges and drinks.<sup>28</sup>

The treatment by a type of trepanation, therefore, represents a significant variant, not found in the earliest texts of the āyurvedic medical tradition.

*III. A rectal fistula (bhagandala) suffered by king Seniya Bimbisāra of Magadha, which stained his clothes with blood*<sup>29</sup>

Then Jīvaka Komārabhacca, promising the king's son, Abhaya, [that he would treat the king,] took up the medicine with the finger-nail [and] approached to where Seniya Bimbisāra of Magadha was; and having approached the king, he said: "Let us see your malady." Now as the story goes, Jīvaka removed the king's rectal fistula with just one application of ointment.<sup>30</sup>

The affliction from which the king suffered is quite clearly a suppurating rectal fistula. The treatment, performed by Jīvaka, involved the application of a medicated salve to the fistula by means of a finger-nail.

In the āyurvedic tradition, Suśruta begins by enumerating five types of rectal fistula (*bhagandara*), caused respectively by wind, bile, phlegm, a combination (of the three) or external factors. He then proceeds to identify its locations as the perinaeum, the rectum or the bladder and concludes by delineating the difference between a rectal fistula (*bhagandara*) and a rectal pustule or boil (*pīḍaka*), saying that the former has an opening while the latter does not.<sup>31</sup> It seems likely, therefore, that the description offered in the Pāli passage fits well the definition given by the āyurvedic authorities.

Although the account of Jīvaka's treatment of the fistula does not parallel exactly the prescribed course of action outlined in the medical texts, there may be some subtle similarities.

Caraka states that the fistula should be treated initially by purgation, probing and lancing; and, after the tract has been

cleansed with what Suśruta calls an *eṣaṇī*, an application of caustic medicines for cauterisation should be made.<sup>32</sup> Both commentators, Cakrapāṇidatta and Ḍalhaṇa, gloss *eṣaṇī* as *śalākā*. In the āyurvedic tradition there are numerous types of *śalākā*.<sup>33</sup> It is interesting to note, however, that Vāgbhaṭa refers to three types, used for the application of caustic medicines, whose ends resemble the nails of the small, ring and middle fingers.<sup>34</sup> In the Buddhist tradition, *śalākā* (Pāli: *salākā*) is considered to be a bamboo splinter with caustic medicines used in the treatment of boils and of wounds.<sup>35</sup> It seems possible, therefore, that in this account, Jīvaka's finger-nail could have aptly functioned as such an instrument used to apply medicines in the treatment of a rectal fistula.

*IV. A knot in the bowels (antagaṇḥhābādha)<sup>36</sup> suffered by a merchant's son from Vārāṇasī*

The knot is said to have been caused by the man's sporting activities, in the form of turning somersaults with a stick.<sup>37</sup> It hindered the proper digestion of the rice-milk he drank and the food he ate and disrupted the normal evacuation of faeces and urine, leaving him emaciated, wretched looking, ugly and pale, with his body covered with veins.<sup>38</sup>

Jīvaka's treatment of this condition follows:

[Then,] making the people move back, [Jīvaka] encircled [the patient] with a curtain, bound [him] up to a post [and] situated his wife in front of [him]; splitting the outer skin of the abdomen, he extracted the knot in the bowels [and] showed it to the wife, [saying:] "Look at your husband's affliction" . . . . After having disentangled the knot in the bowels, replaced the bowels [and] sewn up the outer skin of the abdomen, he applied a medicated salve. Then as the story goes, shortly after that, the merchant's son from Vārāṇasī became well.<sup>39</sup>

We learn that the merchant's son's affliction was the result of acrobatic activities with a stick, suggesting that he may have suffered a wound to the abdominal wall, from which a part of the bowels protruded. The treatment administered by Jīvaka was a form of laparotomy by which the abdominal wall was cut, the knot

removed and repaired, the incision sewn up and a salve applied.

In the classical āyurvedic treatises, there is no exact equivalent of the Pāli *antaganṭha*, which in Sanskrit one would expect to be *antragrantha* or *antragranthi*. Suśrūta, however, describes a type of wound to the abdomen wall from which the unbroken small intestines have protruded. The treatment of such a condition is as follows: The intestines should be washed with milk, lubricated with ghee and gently placed back into their original position. Where the re-introduction of the intestines is made difficult because the wound is too large or too small, a small incision should be made according to the prescribed method; and the intestines should be replaced in their correct position. In all cases, the wound or incision should be sutured and a medicated oil, prepared with various vegetal products, should be applied to the skin to promote its healing.<sup>40</sup> Vāgbhaṭa mentions the affliction, *vraṇa-granṭhi*, “wound-knot”, which, when located in the bowels, is said to be incurable.<sup>41</sup>

It may be suggested, therefore, that the description and course of treatment of the affliction *anatanaganṭha*, offered in the Pāli, resembles the āyurvedic definition and cure of an abdominal wound or lesion, where a part of the small intestines has protruded from the perforated abdominal wall.

V. *Morbid pallor (paṇḍurogābādha) suffered by King Pajjota of Ujjeni*<sup>42</sup>

The rather involved treatment follows:

The Jīvaka Komārabhacca . . . having gone to Ujjeni, approached to where King Pajjota was; [and] having approached him, he observed his abnormality [and] said this: ‘Give me some ghee! I will boil the ghee which the king shall drink.’ [The king replied:] “Indeed, good Jīvaka, you must do what you can in order to make me healthy without ghee. Ghee is loathsome to me<sup>43</sup> [and] disagreeable.” It then occurred to Jīvaka: To be sure, the disease of this king is of such a kind that he cannot be made healthy without ghee. Let me boil the ghee so that it has the (reddish-yellow) colour, the smell and the taste of an astringent decoction.<sup>44</sup> Jīvaka, then, boiled the ghee with various medicines [so that it] had the colour, the smell and the taste of an astringent decoction. Now, it occurred to Jīvaka: Indeed, when the ghee has been

drunk and digested by the king, he will be given to vomit. . . .<sup>45</sup> He made the king drink the ghee. . . .<sup>46</sup> Then, indeed, when King Pajjota had drunk and digested the ghee, he was given to vomit. . . . Then as the story goes, King Pajjota became well.<sup>47</sup>

Although no symptoms are mentioned, it is clear that the king suffered from morbid pallor. His condition was eradicated by a rather surreptitious application of ghee, which Jīvaka knew to be the essential cure for the disease.

In the medical tradition, *pāṇḍuroga* is considered to be a generic term for diseases which turn the skin a pale colour.<sup>48</sup> There are either four, five or eight types,<sup>49</sup> of which *kāmalā* or jaundice, as we know it, is said to be a part.<sup>50</sup> For this reason, therefore, morbid pallor is perhaps the best translation of the Pāli *paṇḍuroga* and the Sanskrit *pāṇḍuroga*.<sup>51</sup>

Suśruta states that the principal cure for the condition of *pāṇḍuroga* is ghee;<sup>52</sup> and he and Caraka prescribe many remedies containing ghee, none of which, however, appear to be of the astringent variety.<sup>53</sup>

Jīvaka's knowledge of the treatment of the disease *paṇḍuroga* (*pāṇḍuroga*), therefore, seems to reflect, with very little variation, that which is presented in the āyurvedic treatises.

*VI. A condition where the body is filled with the bodily dosas (dosābhisaṅnā), suffered by the Lord Buddha<sup>54</sup>*

The treatment, we are told, required the drinking of a purgative.<sup>55</sup> The prescription that Jīvaka gave for it included: (1) The lubrication of the Buddha's body for a few days;<sup>56</sup> and (2) the use of a weak purgative:

It then occurred to Jīvaka Komārabhacca: It is not proper that I should give the Lord a coarse purgative. Having mixed three handfuls of lotuses<sup>57</sup> with various medicines, he approached to where the Lord was; and having approached him, he presented to him a handful of lotuses, [saying:] "O good one, may the Lord snuff up this first handful of lotuses. It will purge the Lord ten times." And a second time, he presented to the Lord a handful of lotuses, [saying:] "O good

one, may the Lord snuff up. . . . It will purge the Lord ten times.” And a third time, he presented to the Lord a handful of lotuses, [. . . ] “. . . It will purge the Lord ten times; therefore, the Lord will be purged a total of thirty times: . . .” It then occurred to Jīvaka Komārabhacca. . . : Indeed, I administered a purgative to the Lord with a total of thirty times. [Since] the Tathāgata’s body is filled with the *dosas*, it will not be purged a total of thirty times; it will be purged [only] a total of twenty-nine times. Yet, the Lord, after having been purged, will perform ablutions; and when he has bathed, he will purge one time. Thus, the Lord will be purged a total of thirty times. . . . Then, Jīvaka Komārabhacca said this to the Lord: “Until, O good one, your body becomes normal, alms-food of soup will be sufficient.” Then, as the story goes, the Lord’s body soon became normal.<sup>58</sup>

In this final account of Jīvaka’s healings, the Buddha is afflicted with the bodily *dosas* (Skt. *doṣa*), the treatment of which required that a purgative be taken in order to eliminate them. Since the Buddha may be considered to be a type of person with a delicate constitution, a mild purgative was administered. It involved lubrication, the inhalation of the fragrance of three individual handfuls of lotuses mixed with various medicines, and a bath, resulting in a purgation of thirty times. After that, the patient was instructed to eat only light food, until the body returned to its normal state.

Although the term *dosābhisanna*, “filled with the *dosas*,” does not allow us to determine the specific disease from which the Buddha suffered, we can broach a connection with the āyurvedic medical tradition through its prescribed treatment.

In his chapter on “the treatment of supervenient diseases cured by emetics and purgatives,”<sup>59</sup> Suśruta states that these are the principal remedies used to cleanse the system of all *doṣas*<sup>60</sup> and prescribes that when a purgative is administered the patient’s body should first be lubricated (*snigdha*) and sweated (*svinna*).<sup>61</sup> In the case of kings or ones who have never been purged, he advises the use of mild purgatives, which he describes as being pleasant, with noticeable results(?) (*dr̥ṣṭaphala*), savoury, small in quantity but great in potency and presenting little risk of creating disorders.<sup>62</sup> After the application of the emetic or purgative, the patient should be washed with tepid water;<sup>63</sup> and when he feels weak or thirsty, he should be given in small doses a diet of light or lukewarm *peyā*.<sup>64</sup>

Jivaka's course of treatment of a condition where the body is diagnosed as being filled with the morbid humours (*doṣas*), therefore, seems to follow that outlined in the *Suśruta Saṃhitā*. The use of lotuses mixed with medicines certainly fits Suśruta's definition of a mild purgative. Nowhere in the classical āyurvedic treatises, however, are lotuses mentioned in cases requiring mild purgation.<sup>65</sup> Likewise, the mention of a total of thirty (3 times 10) purgations with a mild purgative is not expressed in the medical texts.

### *Conclusions*

The results of our investigation allow us to observe certain trends with respect to the āyurvedic medical ideas in the Buddhist tradition.

In general, the account of the cures preserved in the legend of the physician Jivaka Komārabhacca reflects a basic āyurvedic foundation. This is supported to some extent in versions of the legend itself: Jivaka's teacher is said to be a world-renowned physician who lived in Taxila<sup>66</sup> and who, in the Tibetan *Vinaya*, is said to be Ātreya,<sup>67</sup> whose words are actually supposed to be the *Caraka Saṃhitā*. Rather than adhering to the tradition of Ātreya, however, the evidence points to a closer connection with the *Suśruta Saṃhitā*, as most of the medical details in the comparative passages quoted have been derived from that text.

There is one treatment which simply is not found in the āyurvedic works: the cure of a disease of the head caused by creatures living in the skull by means of a type of trepanation does not occur in the classical medical literature. There is, however, evidence for such a surgical practice offered from archaeological remains: in at least one skull discovered at Timargarha in west Pakistan<sup>68</sup> and perhaps others from the area of the north-west of India,<sup>69</sup> there are definite signs of trepanation, suggesting that the practice was used, but was not included in the classical āyurvedic treatises.

Other differences, such as the use of lotuses as a mild purgative, indicate only minor variations from the medical tradition of *āyurveda* and may merely be fanciful. The case of a knot in the bowels suffered by a merchant's son poses a problem because there is no exact equivalent in Sanskrit for the Pāli *antaganṭha*. The underlying current of ideas, however, supports an āyurvedic basis.

The Pāli account of the physician Jīvaka, therefore, illustrates a well-established āyurvedic medical tradition and preserves at least one practice not found in classical *āyurveda*. If the fourth century B.C. date of the *Vinaya*, suggested by Frauwallner, is correct,<sup>70</sup> we can safely conclude that the crystallisation of the classical system of Indian medicine was already well under way by that time. Further research into the medical principles found in the Buddhist texts in Pāli and other languages would, however, allow us to draw more concrete conclusions concerning the evolution of āyurvedic medicine and the role that the Buddhists played in it.

## NOTES

1. On the possible derivation of the name Komārabhacca from the Sanskrit, *kumārabhṛtya*, the medical science of paediatrics as well as the care of women during pregnancy, parturition, the puerperal period and lactation, see *Vin. Texts*, pt. 2, p. 174 n., Horner, vol. 4, p. 381 n.2 and Malalasekera, *Dictionary*, vol. 1., p. 957 n.2.

2. See Hardy, *A Manual of Buddhism*, pp. 237-249.

3. The Peking *Kanjur*, vol. 3, leaves 50-67; see also Schiefner, *Mélanges Asiatiques*, Tome VII (1879), pp. 472-514 and W.R.S. Ralston, trans., *Tibetan Tales*, pp. 75-109.

4. "Sūtra prononcé par le Buddha au sujet de l'Avadāna concernant 'Fille-de-Manguier' (Āmrpāli) et 'K'l Yu' (Jīvaka)," No. 499 (Trip. XIV, 6, pp. 48r.-52v.) in *Cinq cents Contes et Apologues extraits du Tripitaka Chinois et traduits en Français par Édouard Chavannes*, Tome III, pp. 325-261 (also Tome IV, p. 246).

5. See in particular D.V. Reddy, "Jeevaka, a physician of the VI century B.C.," *Indian Journal of History of Medicine*, Vol. 3 (1958), pp. 37-49; G. Mukhopādhyāya, *The History of Indian Medicine*, vol. 3, pp. 681-744; and Mme Liacre de Saint-Firmin, *Médecine et légendes bouddhiques de l'Inde*, Paris, 1916.

6. MV 8.1.7: *tēna kho pana samayena Sākete setṭhibhariyāya sattavassiko sīsābādho hoti*.

7. Buddhaghosa, at *Samantapāsādikā*, 8.1 (p. 1116) glosses: *ekahatthapūḷena*, "with the hollow of one handful"; cf. *Vin. Texts*, pt. 2, p. 178n.1 and Horner, vol. 4, p. 384n.2.

8. MV 8.1.10-11,13: *atha kho Jīvako Komārabhacco yena setṭhibhariyā ten' upasamkamī, upasamkamitvā setṭhibhariyāya vikāraṃ sallakkhetvā setṭhibhariyaṃ etad avoca: pasatena me (N.). ayye sappinā atho 'ti. atha kho setṭhibhariyā Jīvakassa Komārabhaccassa pasatam sappim dāpesi: atha kho Jīvako Komārabhacco tam pasatam sappim nānābhesajjehi nippacitvā setṭhibhariyaṃ mañcaka uttānaṃ nipajjāpetvā (B.: nipāetvā, "making to descend") natthuto adāsi. atha kho tam sappi natthuto dinnam mukhato uggañchi (R.: uggacchi). atha kho setṭhibhariyā patiggāhe nittubhitvā (R.: nittuhitvā) . . . atha kho Jīvako Komārabhacco setṭhibhariyāya sattavassikam sīsābādham eken'eva natthukammena apakaddhi. At *Sumāṅgala-vilāsini* 1.1.27, Buddhaghosa states the nasal-treatment consists of a mixture of oil (*telam yojetva natthukaranam*).*

9. SuSth. 17.6; 19.4.

10. The *Madhukoṣa* to MN 60.1 explains this as “by the wasting away of blood, marrow (or fat), etc.” (*kṣayeneti asṛgvasādīnām kṣayeṇa*).

11. According to Ḍalhaṇa at SuUtt. 25.1—4, some consider *sūryāvarta* to be pain in the head caused by bile and wind, which increases during daylight hours and becomes calm at night (. . . “*tatra vātānugaṃ pittam citaṃ śivasi tiṣṭhati, madhyāhne tejasā ’rkasya tad vivṛddhaṃ śirorujam. karoli paittikīṃ ghorāṃ saṃśāmyati dina-kṣāye, astaṃ gate prabhāhīne sūrye vāyur vivardhate. pittam śāntim avapnoti tataḥ sāmyati vedanā, eṣa pittānilakṛtaḥ sūryāvartaviparyayaḥ*” . . .).

12. Utt. 25.2-4; see also AHUtt. 23, MN 60.1 and Jolly, *Medicin*, p. 118. On the latter four causes, cf. CaSiSth. 9.70—87.

13. SiSth. 9.88.

14. CiSth. 40.21; cf. also CaSiSth. 9.89—92, 116.

15. SiSth. 9.98—99: . . . *bhīṣak snehaṃ nastah kuryād vidhānavit, . . . uttānasya śayānasya śayane svāstrie sukham, pralambaśirasah kiñcīl kiñcīl pādommatasya ca*.

16. SiSth. 9.102—103: . . . *nāsāmunnamya vāmenāṅguṣṭhaparvanā, hastena dakṣiṇenātha kuryād ubhayataḥ samam. praṇādyā picunā vā ’pi nastahsnehaṃ yathāvidhi, . . .* Cf. also SuCiSth. 40.25—27.

17. Ḍalhaṇa to SuCiSth. 40.30 explains *śṛṅgātaka* as “being the combination of the vessels which soothe the apertures of the nose and ear as well as the eye and the tongue” (*nāsākarnasrotokṣīhvātārpaṇīnām sirvāṇaṃ samnipātaḥ śṛṅgātakah*). This definition seems to point to the sinuses.

18. CiSth. 40.29—30: *snehanasyaṃ nopagilet katham cid api buddhimān. śṛṅgāt-akam abhiplāvya nireti vadanād yathā; kaphotkleśabhayaḥ cainam niṣṭhived avidhārayan*. Cf. also CaSiSth. 9.103—107.

19. MV 8.1.16: *tena kho pana samayena Rājagahakassa setthissa sattavassika sīsā-bādho hoti*.

20. Cf. Buddhagosa at *Samantapāsādikā* 8.1 (p. 1117): *sīsacammaṃ apanētvā*.

21. Buddhagosa (*ibid.*) glosses: “having opened the suture of the skull” (*sibbinim vivarivā*).

22. MV 8.1.18: *atha kho Jīvako Komārabhacco setthim gahapatim mañcake nipaj-jāpetvā* (B.: *nipātetvā*, “having let fall”) *mañcake* (S.: *mañcakena*) *sambandhitvā sīsac-haviṃ upphāletvā* (N.: *uppāletvā*, “having torn up”, S.: *phāletvā*, “having cut or split”) *sibbinim* (S.: *sibbanim*) *vināmetvā dve pāṇake niharivā janassa* (N.: *mahājanassa*) *dassesi: passeyyātha* (R.: *passath’ ayyo*, B.: *passathayye*, Si.: *passatha ime dve pāṇake ekaṃ khuddakam ekaṃ mahallakam. . . , sibbinim sampāṭicchādetvā* (R.: *sampāṭipādetvā*, B.: *sampāṭipādetvā*) *sīsacchaviṃ sibbetvā* (B.: *sibbitvā*) *ālepam adāsi*.

23. See in particular CaSūSth. 17.27—29, CiSth. 26.118, SuUtt. 25.10—11 and AHUtt. 23.12—15.

24. ViSth. 7.20 and CiSth. 26.183—187.

25. Following Ḍalhaṇa (to SuUtt. 26.27): . . . *samāyānti samāgacchanti. yata-tato nāsāśrotaḥprabhṛtibhiḥ tatra cāgatānāṃ kṛmīnāṃ kūrcakādibhir nīrharāṇaṃ kartā-vyam* (or from the 1915 edition: *samāyānti itastato nāsāśrotaḥprabhṛtiṣu, tatra. . .*).

26. This rendering is based on AHUtt. 24.15-16: *kṛmīje soṇitaṃ nasyaṃ tena mūrccanti jantavaḥ, maitāḥ soṇitagandhena niryānti ghrāṇavaktrayoḥ. sutīkṣṇanasya-dhūmābhyaṃ kuryān nīrharāṇaṃ tataḥ, . . .* Ḍalhaṇa (to SuUtt. 26.29), however, considers the vs. beginning with *teṣāṃ* to be a treatment for the eradication of those

worms which are inaccessible by the nasal-passages (*idānīm kūrcakādibhir agamyānām kṛmīṇām nirharānārthaṃ cikitsitam āha: teṣām ity ādi*). Cf. also K.L. Bhishagraṭna, vol. 3, p. 137. See also H.K., p. 633.

27. Following Ḍalhaṇa. He also refers to Gayin, who offers the interpretation that the purgation of the skull is composed of the seeds of the *hrasvasiṅgurukabijāni* plant, etc. (*mūrdhavirecanaiḥ. . . ; gayī tu vakṣyamāṇāni hrasvasiṅgurukabijāni śirovirecānadravyāni manyate. hrasvasiṅgurukabijair ity ādi. . .*); see also SuUtt. 54.34-36 and cf. K.L. Bhishagraṭna, vol. 3, p. 137.

28. Utt. 26.26-30: *kṛmībhir bhakṣyamāṇasya vakṣyate śirasah kriyā. nasye hi soṇitam dadyāt tena mūrchanti jantavaḥ, mattāḥ soṇitagandhena samāyānti yatatataḥ. teṣām nirharānaṃ kāryaṃ tato mūdhavirecanaiḥ, hrasvasiṅgurukabijair vā kāmṣyanīlīsamāyutaiḥ. kṛmighnair avapīḍaiś ca mūtrapiṣṭair upācāret, pūtimatsyayutān dhūmān kṛmighnāṃś ca prayojayet. bhojanāni kṛmighnāni pānāni vīvidhāni ca*. Cf. also AUtt. 24.15-18.

29. MV 8.1.14: *tena kho pana samayena rañño Māgadhassa Seniyassa Bimbisārassa bhagandalābādho hoti, sātakā lohiteṇa makkhiyanti* (Sī.: *makkhīyanti*).

30. MV 8.1.15: *evaṃ devā 'ti kho Jīvako Komārabhacco Abhayassa rājakumārassa paṭisūnitvā nakhena bhesajjaṃ ādāya yena rājā Māgadho Senīyo Bimbisāro ten' upasaṃkami, upasaṃkamtivā rājānaṃ Māgadhaṃ Senīyaṃ Bimbisāraṃ etad avoca: ābādhaṃ te (N.) deva passāma 'ti. atha kho Jīvako Komārabhacco rañño Māgadhassa Seniyassa Bimbisārassa bhagandalābādhaṃ eken' eva ālepena apakaḍḍhi*.

31. NiSth. 4.3: *vātapittaślesmasannipātāgan tunimittāḥ śataponaakoṣṭragrīvaparīsrāvīsaṃbūkāvartanmārgiṇo yathāsaṃkhyāṃ pañca bhagandarā bhavanti, te tu bhagagudabastipradeśadāraṇāc ca "bhagandarā" ity ucyante, abinnnāḥ piḍakāḥ, binnās tu bhagandarāḥ*. Caraka defines *bhagandara* more generally: "For the rectal fistula should be [known as] pustules on the side of the rectum, which frequently ripen and suppurate [and as being caused] by worms, slight injury to the [tail-] bone, copulation, diarrhoea, etc., and excessive horse-back [riding] (CaCiSth.12.96: *krimyasthisūksmakṣaṇanavyavāyappravāhaṇādy(not, āny) ukhaṭakāśvapṛṣṭhaiḥ, gudasya pārsve piḍakā bhṛśārṭiḥ pakvaprabhinnā tu bhagandaraḥ syāt*). Cf also SuNiSth. 4.10-13.

32. See CaCiSth. 12.97 and SuCiSth. 8.4. Cf. also AHUtt. 28.25-26, where Vāgbhaṭa merely prescribes the use of a surgical instrument (*śastra*).

33. See Mukhopādhyāya, *Surgical Instruments of the Hindus*, pp. 155-174.

34. AHSūSth. 25.38: *aṣṭāṅgulā nimnamukhās tisraḥ kṣārausadhakrame, kaññīmadhyamānāminakhamaṇa asamair mukhaiḥ*. Cf. also Mukhopādhyāya, *Surgical Instruments*, vol. 1, p. 159.

35. For *salākā*, cf. *Miln* IV.1.33(112) and IV. 2.13(149). See also PTS-PED, p. 699 and cf. MWSED. p. 1059, col. 1.

36. Sī., however, reads perhaps more clearly: *antagaṇḍābādho*, "the affliction of a swelling in the bowels."

37. On the exact meaning of this, see especially *Vin. Texts*, pt. 2, pp. 184-85 n.1; and cf. Horner, vol. 4, p. 389 n.2.

38. MV 8.1.21: *tena kho pana samayena Bārāṇaseyyakassa setṭhiputassa mokkhaci-kāya kilantassa antagaṇṭhābādho hoti yena* (Sī.: *tena*) *yāgu pi pītā na sammā pariṇāmaṃ gacchati bhattam pi bhuttam na sammā pariṇāmaṃ gacchati uccāro pi passāvo pi na paguṇo. so tena kiso hoti lūkho dubbaṇṇo uppaṇḍuppaṇḍukajāto dhamanīsanthataḡatto*.

39. MV 8.1.22: *evaṃ . . . Jīvako Komārabhacco . . . gantvā yena Bārāṇaseyyako setṭhiputto ten' upasaṃkami, upasaṃkamtivā Bārāṇaseyyakassa setṭhiputtassa vikāraṃ sal-*

*lakkhetvā janam ussāretvā tirokaraṇīyam* (S. and Sī.: *tirokaraṇim*) *parikkhipitvā* (B.: *parikkhipetvā*) *iḥambhe ubbandhitvā* (S. and Sī.: *upanibandhitvā*, “binding him on to”) *bhariyam purato ṭhapetvā udaracchaviṃ uppātetvā* (R.: *upphāletvā*, “cutting open”) *antagaṇṭhiṃ nīharitvā bhariyāya dassesi passa te sāmikassa ābādham*, . . . *antagaṇṭhiṃ vinivethetvā antāni paṭipavesetvā udaracchaviṃ sibbetvā* (B.: *sibbitvā*) *ālepaṃ adāsi. atha kho Bārāṇaseyyako seṭṭhiṃputto na cirass’ eva arogo ahoṣi.*

40. SuCiStH. 2.56-66; Caraka does not mention such a disease or treatment. Cf. NM 43.4

41. AHUtt. 29.12-14.

42. MV 8.1.23: *tena kho samayena Ujjeniyam(N.) rañño Pajjotassa paṇḍurogā-bāḍho hoti.*

43. Buddhagosa (p. 1117) explains rather fancifully: “Surely this king is born of a scorpion; and ghee is medicine for the sake of warding off the poison of a scorpion. Therefore, it is loathsome to a scorpion” (*ayaṃ kira rājā vicchikassa jāto, vicchikavisapaṭighātāya ca sappi bhesajjam hoti vicchikānaṃ paṭikkūlaṃ tasmā evam āha*).

44. Cf. Horner, vol. 4, p. 391n.1.

45. Buddhagosa (p. 1117) glosses *uddekaṃ* as *uggāraṃ*.

46. Buddhagosa (p. 1117) elaborates: “Both making him drink the ghee and explaining the action of the food to the maidservants” (*sappiṃ ca pāyetvā paricārīkānaṃ ca āhāravidhiṃ ācikkhitvā*).

47. MV 8.1.23-25: *evaṃ . . . Jīvako Komārabhacco . . . Ujjenim gantvā yena rājā Pajjoto ten’ upasaṃkama, upasaṃkamtivā rañño Pajjotassa vikāraṃ sallakkhetvā rājānaṃ Pajjottaṃ etad avoca: sappiṃ dehi* (B.) *sappiṃ deva nippacissāmi, taṃ devo pivissatīti. alaṃ bhāṇe Jīvaka yaṃ te sakkā vinā sappinā arogaṃ kātuṃ taṃ karohi. jegucchaṃ me sappi, paṭikkūlan* (B.: *paṭikkūlaṃ*, Skt. *pratīkūla*, “disagreeable”) *tī. atha kho Jīvakassa Komārbhaccassa etad ahoṣi: imassa kho rañño tādiso ābādho na sakkā* (Sī.: *sakkā mayā*) *vinā sappinā arogaṃ kātuṃ. yaṃ nūnānaṃ sappiṃ nippaceyyaṃ kasāvavaṇṇaṃ kasāvagandhaṃ kasāvavasaṇṇaṃ kasāvavandhaṃ kasāvavasaṃ. atha kho Jīvakassa Komārbhaccassa etad ahoṣi: imassa kho rañño sappi pītaṃ pariṇāmentaṃ uddekaṃ dassati . . . atha kho Jīvako Komārabhacco rājānaṃ Pajjotaṃ sappiṃ pāyetvā . . . atha kho rañño Pajjotassa taṃ sappi pītaṃ pariṇāmentaṃ uddekaṃ adāsi . . . atha kho rājā Pajjoto arogo samāno . . .*

48. See in particular SuUtt. 44.3-4; cf. also AHNiStH. 13.1-4 and MN 8.2.

49. The older edition(1913) of SuUtt. 44.4 mentions four types of morbid pallor, the newer, following Ḍalhaṇa, eight: those caused by the three *doṣas* plus the combination of those caused by the three *doṣas*, by their combination, by the consumption of earth, by the two kinds of jaundice, *kāmalā* and *kumbhakāmalā*, and by *halīmaka*. CaSūStH. 19.4(CiStH.16.3), AHNiStH. 13.7 and MN 8.1 list five kinds: those being caused by the three *doṣas*, their combination and the consumption of earth.

50. See CaCiStH. 16.35-36, SuUtt. 44.5-6, AHNiStH. 13.15-16 and MN 8.16-23.

51. Cf. G.J. Meulenbeld, *The Mādhavanidāna*, pp. 296-313 and R.F.G. Müller, “Wörterheft zu einigen Ausdrücken indischer Medizin,” *MIO*, vol. 7(1961), p. 112.

52. Utt. 44.14; cf. also AHCiStH. 16.1.

53. CaCiStH. 16.47-55; 134-135; SuUtt. 44.15-20; cf. also AHCiStH. 16.

54. MV 8.1.30: *tena kho pana samayena bhagavato kāyo dosābhisanno hoti*. See also Horner, vol. 4, p. 394n.1.

55. MV 8.1.30: *icchatī tathāgato virecanam pātun ti*.

56. MV 8.1.30: *tena hi bhante Ānanda bhagavato kāyaṃ katipāhaṃ sinehethāṃ'ti*. Buddhagosa (p. 1118) comments: "Now, is the body of the lord coarse? It is not coarse! Therefore, he said thus: 'Divine beings always place the divine-strength into the food of the lord; and now, the oily liquid moistens, everywhere, the *dosas*; it makes the vessels supple'" (. . . *kiṃ pana bhagavato kāyo lūkho. na lūkho. bhagavato hi āhāre sadā devatā dibbojaṃ pakkhipanti, sinehapānaṃ pana sabbattha dose temeti, sirā mudukā karoti, ten' āyaṃ evam āha*).

57. Buddhagosa (p. 1118) explains: "One handful of lotuses is for the sake of removing the coarse *dosa*; one is for the sake of removing the middle *dosa*; and one is for the sake of removing the subtle *dosa*." (. . . *ekaṃ uppalahatthaṃ olārikadosaharaṇatthaṃ ekaṃ majjhimosaharaṇatthaṃ ekaṃ sukhumadosaharaṇatthaṃ*).

58. MV 8.1.31-33; *atha kho Jīvakassa Komārabhaccassa etad ahoṣi: na kho me taṃ paṭirūpaṃ* (N.: *patirūpaṃ*) *yo 'haṃ bhagavato olārikaṃ virecanam dadeyyān* (Si.: *dadeyyān yan nūnāhaṃ*) *ti. tīni uppalahatthāni nānābhesajjehi paribhāvetvā* (Si.: *paribhāvetvā tathāgatassa upanāmeyyaṃ*) *yena bhagavā ten' upasaṃkami, upasaṃkamitvā ekaṃ uppalahatthaṃ bhagavato upanāmesi imaṃ bhante bhagavā paṭhamam uppalahatthaṃ upasiṅghatu, idaṃ bhagavantam dasakkhattuṃ virecessatīti. dutiyaṃ pi uppalahatthaṃ bhagavato upanāmesi . . . , bhante bhagavā . . . upasiṅghatu, idaṃ bhagavantam dasakkhattuṃ virecessatīti. tatiyaṃ pi uppalahatthaṃ bhagavato upanāmesi . . . , idaṃ bhagavantam dasakkhattuṃ virecessatīti, evaṃ bhagavato samatimsāya* (B.: *samatimsāya*) *virecanam bhavissatīti. . . . atha kho Jīvakassa Komārabhaccassa . . . etad ahoṣi: mayā kho bhagavato samatimsāya virecanam dinnam. dosābhisanno tathāgatassa kāyo, na bhagavantam samatimsakkhattuṃ virecessati, ekūmatimsakkhattuṃ bhagavantam virecessati, api ca bhagavā viriṭṭo nahāyissati, nahātam bhagavantam sakim virecessati, evaṃ bhagavato samatimsāya virecanam bhavissatīti . . . . atha kho Jīvako Komārabhacco bhagavantam etad avoca: yāva bhante bhagavato kāyo pakatatto hoti, alaṃ yūsapiṇḍapātenā* (S. reads perhaps preferably: *yūsapiṇḍakenā*) *'ti. atha kho bhagavato kāyo na cirass' eva pakatatto ahoṣi*.

59. SuCiSth. 33: *vamanavirecanasādhyopadravacikitsatam*.

60. SuCiSth. 33.4.

61. SuCiSth. 33.5.19.

62. SuCiSth. 33.44-45; cf. CaSūSth. 15.17-25. Vāgbhaṭa states that because it is mild and safe, the plant *caturāṅgula* especially should be used as a purgative for a child, for one who is old, for one who is injured, for one who is emaciated and for a very delicate man (AHKaSth. 2.31: *bāle vṛddhe kṣate kṣiṇe sukumāre ca mānave, yoṃyo mṛdvanapāyitvād viśeṣāc caturāṅgulah*).

63. SuCiSth. 33.11.

64. *Ibid.* and SuCiSth. 33.26. *peyā* is defined as thin gruel (See G.J. Meulenbeld, *The Mādhavanidāna*, pp. 476-477; cf. also U.C. Dutt, *Materia Medica of the Hindus*, p. 269).

65. See *ibid.*, pp. 110-112 and CaKaSth. 1.4-7.

66. MV 8.1.5-7.

67. See Ralston, trans., *Tibetan Tales*, pp. 93f.

68. See A.H. Dani, ed., "Timargarha and The Gandhara Grave Culture,"

*Ancient Pakistan*, vol. 3 (1967), p. 48, 100 and 240 and Wolfram Bernhard, "Human Skeletal Remains from the Cemetery of Timargarha," *ibid.*, pp. 368-369.

69. See A.K. Roy Chowdhury, "Trepanation in Ancient India," *Asiatic Society of Calcutta*, Communications, vol. 25 (1973), pp. 203-206; A.K. Sharma, "Kalibangan Human Skeletal Remains—an Osteoarchaeological approach," *JOIB*, vol. 19 (1969), pp. 109-114; and A.K. Sharma, "Neolithic human burials from Burzahom, Kashmir," *JOIB*, vol. 16 (1967), pp. 239-247.

70. Erick Frauwallner, *The Earliest Vinaya and the Beginnings of Buddhist Literature*, p. 67.

### *Selective Bibliography and Abbreviations*

B. Burmese edition of the Pāli Tipiṭaka.

CiSth. *Cikitsāsthāna*.

*JOIB Journal of the Oriental Institute*, Baroda.

KaSth. *Kalpāsthāna*.

*MIO Mitteilungen des Institut für Orientforschung*.

N. Nālandā-Devanāgarī edition of the Pāli Tipiṭaka.

NiSth. *Nidānāsthāna*.

R. Romanised edition of the Pāli Tipiṭaka.

S. Sinhalese edition of the Pāli Tipiṭaka.

ŚāSth. *Śārīrasthāna*.

SiSth. *Siddhāsthāna*.

Sī. Saimese(Thai) edition of the Pāli Tipiṭaka.

SūSth. *Sūtrāsthāna*.

Utt. *Uttaratantra*.

ViSth. *Vimanāsthāna*.

### *Texts*

AH *Aṣṭāṅgahṛdayasaṃhitā* by Śrīmad Vāgbhaṭa. Edited by Śrī Jīvānadavidyāsāgarabhaṭṭācārya. Second edition. Calcutta, 1890.

Ca *The Carakasamhitā* by Agniveśa, revised by Caraka and Dṛdhabala, with the *Āyurveda-dīpikā* commentary of Cakrapāṇidatta. Edited by Vaidya Jā-davjī Trikamjī Ācārya, Bombay: Nirṇaya Sāgar Press, 1941.

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- MN *Mādhavanidāna* by Mādhavākara, with the commentary *Madhukośa* by Vijayarākṣita and Śrī Kaṇṭhadatta and extracts from *Ātaṅkadarpaṇa* by Vācaspati Vaidya. Edited by Vaidya Jādavjī Tirkamjī Ācārya. Bombay: Nirṇaya Sāgar Press, 1955.
- MV *The Vinaya Piṭakam. Vol. 1: The Mahāvagga*. Edited by Hermann Oldenberg. London: Luzac and Company, Ltd., 1964. *The Mahāvagga*. Edited by Bhikkhu J. Kaśyapa. Bihar: Pāli Publication Board, 1956 (Nālandā-Devanāgarī-Pāli-Series).
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- MWSED Monier-Williams, Sir Monier. *A Sanskrit-English Dictionary.* 1899; rpt. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1974.
- PTS-PED Rhys Davids, T.W. and William Stede. *The Pāli Text Society's Pāli-English Dictionary.* London: The Pāli Text Society, 1972.
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