

Notes towards a translation of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*

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Sūtrasthāna, adhyāya 1

1.1 Now I shall narrate the chapter, the origin of this knowledge.¹

1.2 ²

1.3 Now, it is said that Aupadhenava, Vaitaraṇa, Aurabhra, Puṣkalāvata, Karavīra, Gopurarakṣita, Bhoja, Suśruta and [others] spoke to Lord Divodāsa, the best of the gods, who was in his ashram surrounded by an entourage of sages.³

1.4 O Lord, after seeing people who are assailed by the impingements of various pains caused by physical, mental and accidental diseases, who have the support of friends [but] feeling as if they were alone, and acting frantically, shouting out, we have been distressed.

1.28 Thus, living creatures and their strength, complexion (*varṇa*) and energy (*ojas*) are rooted in food. That (food) depends on the six flavours (*rasa*). Thus, the flavours depend on substance (*dravya*), and

¹Ḍalhaṇa understands the word "knowledge (*veda*)" as specifically "medical knowledge." He says that the word "longevity" (*āyur*) has been elided.

²At this point, later manuscripts and commentaries include the statement "as the venerable Dhanvantari stated." The absence of this statement in the early Nepalese MSS is noteworthy.

³On these persons, see [HIML: IA 369 ff.](#) Klebanov (2021) has discussed these authors in the context of an anonymous commentary on the *Suśrutasaṃhitā* that cites them.

substances depend on medicinal herbs. There are two kinds of them (herbs): stationary and mobile.⁴

⁴Suśruta sū.1.28 (Sharma [1999–2001](#): I, 21; [SS 1938²](#): 7).

Abbreviations

- HIML Meulenbeld, G. J. (1999–2002), *A History of Indian Medical Literature*, 5 vols. (Groningen: E. Forsten), ISBN: 9069801248.
- SS 1938 Ācārya, Y. T. and Ācārya, N. R. (1938) (eds.), श्रीडल्हणाचार्यविरचितया निबन्धसंग्रहाख्यव्याख्यया निदानस्थानस्य श्रीगयदासाचार्यविरचितया न्यायचन्द्रिकाख्यपञ्जिकाख्यया च समुल्लसिता महर्षिणा सुश्रुतेन विरचिता सुश्रुतसंहिता (3rd edn., Bombay: Nirṇayasāgara Press); [HIML](#): IB, 313 edition cc.
- SS 1938² Ācārya, Y. T. and Ācārya, N. R. (2004) (eds.), महर्षिणा सुश्रुतेन विरचिता सुश्रुतसंहिता, श्रीडल्हणाचार्यविरचितया निबन्धसंग्रहाख्यव्याख्यया निदानस्थानस्य श्रीगयदासाचार्यविरचितया न्यायचन्द्रिकाख्यपञ्जिकाख्यया च समुल्लसिता (Vārāṇasī: Caukhambhā Kṛṣṇadāsa Akādamī); Reprint of the third, 1938 edition ([SS 1938](#)), with changed pagination.

References

- Adriaensen, R. C. R., Barkhuis, R., and Ruijters, J.-L. (1984), ‘An English Translation of Suśrutasaṃhitā, Nidānasthāna 1, 1–39, Together with Gayadāsa’s Nyāyacandrikā’, in G. J. Meulenbeld (ed.), *Proceedings of the International Workshop on Priorities in the Study of Indian Medicine* (Groningen: Forsten), 277–310.
- Klebanov, A. (2021), ‘On the Textual History of the Suśrutasaṃhitā, (2): An Anonymous Commentary and Its Identified Citations’, in T. L. Knudsen, J. Schmidt-Madsen, and S. Speyer (eds.), *Body and Cosmos: Studies in Early Indian Medical and Astral Sciences in Honor of Kenneth G. Zysk* (Leiden, Boston: Brill), 110–39.
- Sharma, P. V. (1999–2001), *Suśruta-Saṃhitā, with English Translation of Text and Ḍaḷhaṇa’s Commentary Alongwith (sic) Critical Notes*, 3 vols. (Haridas Ayurveda Series, 9; Varanasi: Chaukhambha Visvabharati).

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knowledge

veda, **1**

life, longevity

āyur, **1**

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