

i. Origin and Development of rasa śāstra and bhaiṣajya kalpanā

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Chronological Table of Rasaśāstra & Bhaiṣajya Kalpanā

Era / Period	Key Texts / Authors	Major Contributions & Highlights
1. Mythological / Earliest Mentions	- Associated with Lord Śiva - Rāmāyaṇa- Mahābhārata- Purāṇas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mercury (Pārada) is said to originate from Lord Śiva. Rāmāyaṇa: Mentions of <i>maṇidāraṇa</i>, <i>dhātu-nirmita</i> śāstras, <i>arka</i> śāstra by Rāvana. - Mahābhārata: References to <i>kula-sampradāya</i>, processing of metals (<i>jāraṇa</i>, <i>māraṇa</i>), creation of artificial gold (<i>kṛtrima svarṇa</i>). - Agnipurāṇa/Garudapurāṇa: Usage of <i>dhātu-bhasma</i>, <i>manahśilā</i>, <i>haratāla</i> for skin disorders, initial references to gem testing (<i>ratna parīkṣā</i>).
2. Vedic Period (c.1500-600 BCE)	- Rgveda, Yajurveda, Atharva Veda - Brāhmaṇa texts (e.g., <i>Satapatha Brāhmaṇa</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ayurveda as <i>Upaveda</i> of Atharva Veda. - Early Bhaiṣajya Kalpanā foundations: single-herb use (<i>ekamūlika</i>), forms like <i>svarasa</i>, <i>kvātha</i>, <i>cūrṇa</i>. - <i>Somarasa</i> preparation described in the Rgveda. - Fermentation methods (<i>abhisava</i>, <i>surā</i>) in Brāhmaṇa texts. - Different varieties of <i>ghṛta</i> (e.g., <i>ājya</i>, <i>sarpi</i>) and methods of dairy processing.
3. Epic & Early Classical References	- Overlaps with Itihāsa (Epic) & some Purāṇas - Early philosophical expansions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further elaboration on metals and gem usage. - Magical / alchemical aspects (e.g., <i>jāraṇa</i>, <i>ucchāṭana</i>) in Mahābhārata. - Discusses advanced metal usage for śāstra-vaidya (weapon & surgical knowledge).
4. Kautilya's Arthaśāstra (4th-2nd Century BCE)	- Kauṭilya (Chanakya)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detailed references to minerals and ores (<i>khanija</i>, <i>dhātu</i>). - Sodhana (purification) using <i>kṣāra</i>, <i>tikṣṇa</i> <i>mūtra</i>, <i>gorocanā</i>, etc. - Various methods of gold production: <i>jātarūpa</i> (<i>natural</i>), <i>rasavidda</i> (<i>mercury-based</i>), <i>ākārodgata</i> (<i>from ore</i>). - Knowledge of Pārada (mercury) and Hiṅgula (cinnabar). - Lohabheda (metallurgical classifications) for iron, copper, tin, etc.
5. Saṃhitā Period (1st Century BCE - 6th Century CE)	Caraka Saṃhitā Suśruta Saṃhitā Aṣṭāṅga Hṛdaya & Saṅgraha Kāṣyapa & Harita Saṃhitā	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caraka Saṃhitā - Systematic Bhaiṣajya Kalpanā: <i>pañcavidha kaṣāya kalpanā</i> (<i>svarasa</i>, <i>kalka</i>, <i>kvātha</i>, <i>hima</i>, <i>phāṇṭa</i>). - Fermented preparations (<i>sandhāna kalpanā</i>), dietetics (<i>maṇḍa</i>, <i>peyā</i>, <i>vilepi</i>), <i>kṣāra kalpanā</i>. - <i>Ayaskṛti</i> (iron processing): heating & dipping plates to get <i>loha-cūrṇa</i>. - Use of metals in <i>rasāyana</i> (<i>svarṇa</i>, <i>vāṅga</i>, <i>tāmra</i>, etc.). Suśruta Saṃhitā - Classification of <i>pārthiva dravyas</i> (<i>svarṇa</i>, <i>rajata</i>, <i>tāmra</i>, etc.). - <i>Loha-bheda</i>, metals for <i>yantra-śāstra</i>. - Detailed <i>kṣāra kalpanā</i> as part of surgery Aṣṭāṅga Hṛdaya & Saṅgraha - Summarize Caraka & Suśruta, elaborate on <i>ayaskṛti</i>, <i>netraroga</i> treatments with metals.
6. Post-Saṃhitā to Early Medieval (7th-11th Century)	- Ācārya Nāgārjuna (7th C) - Chakradatta (11th C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ācārya Nāgārjuna credited with flourishing Rasaśāstra among <i>Nātha Siddhas</i> (84 siddhas). - Emphasis on <i>Pārada</i> purification & transformations (<i>lohasiddhi</i>, <i>dehasiddhi</i>). - Chakradatta: Key Ayurvedic compilation with many new formulas; first to mention <i>parpati kalpanā</i> and incorporate <i>parada yogas</i> systematically.
7. Medieval Rasaśāstra Treatises (11th-17th Century)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rasa Hṛdaya Tantra (11th C) - Rasārṇava (12th C) - Gorakhnātha Saṃhitā (12th C) - Rasendra Cūḍāmaṇi (12th C) - Rasa Prakāśa (12th C) - Sudhākara (13th C) - Rasa Ratna Samuccaya (13th C) - Rasa Ratnākara (13th C) - Rasendra Sāra Saṅgraha (13th C) - Rasa Cintāmaṇi (15th C) - Ānanda Kanda (16th C) - Rasa Kāmdhenu (17th C) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rasa Hṛdaya Tantra & Rasārṇava: 18 Saṃskāra (processing steps) of mercury, Tāntrika alchemy (Śiva-Parvatī dialogue). - Gorakhnātha Saṃhitā: Divided into <i>kadi-prakaraṇa</i> (Tāntric worship) & <i>bhūti-prakaraṇa</i> (rasa & rasāyana). - Rasendra Cūḍāmaṇi (Somadeva): 18 samskāra of Pārada, various <i>parada-bandha</i> procedures. - Rasa Prakāśa Sudhākara: Four types of Parada-bandha, <i>kupipākva</i> method. - Rasa Ratna Samuccaya (Vāgbhaṭṭa): Systematic classification of Rasa dravyas, Aṣṭa saṃskāra of Pārada. - Ānanda Kanda: In conversation form of Śiva-Parvatī, includes <i>amṛtikaraṇa</i> (immortalizing processes). - Rasa Kāmdhenu: Detailed <i>yantra</i>, <i>mūṣā</i>, <i>pūta</i>, and 1000+ rasa yoga for diseases.

8. Later Medieval to Pre-Modern (18th-19th Century)	- Āyurvedaprakāśa (18th C, Mādhava Upādhyāya) - Bhaiṣajya Ratnāvalī (18th C, Govindadās Sen)	- Āyurvedaprakāśa : 6 chapters, simplified <i>Pārada samskāra</i> , new instruments, <i>dantāgre na kacā kacā</i> (unique bhasma test). - Bhaiṣajya Ratnāvalī : Massive popular formulary with broad coverage of classical & new herbo-mineral formulations, <i>mūrcchanā samskāra</i> of oils & ghṛta, pathya-apathyā guidelines.
9. Modern Period (19th-20th Century)	Rasa Taranginī (Sadananda Sharma) Rasa Jala Nidhi (Pt. Bhudeb Mookerji) History of Chemistry in Ancient & Medieval India (Acharya P. C. Ray) Rasa Yoga Sāgara (Vaidya Hariprapanna Sharma) Bhārat Bhaishajya Ratnākara (Vaidya Gopinatha Gupt) Rasamṛtam (Yadavaji Trikamji) Pārada Vigyāniyama (V. M. Dvivedi) AFI & API	- Rasa Taranginī : 24 <i>taraṅga</i> , practical handbook, only 8 <i>samskāra</i> of mercury described. Introduces some modern chemical methods (<i>gandhakāmle</i> , <i>lavanāmle</i> , etc.). - Rasa Jala Nidhi : 5 volumes, Sanskrit classics + English commentary, enumerates metal/mineral drug usage. - P C. Ray : Pioneering work on Indian alchemy's chemical aspects. - Rasa Yoga Sāgara : Over 100 <i>pottali kalpanā</i> , alphabetical listing of yogas. - Rasamṛtam : Summarizes classical Rasaśāstra with modern scientific explanation; includes 66 original formulations. - Bhārat Bhaishajya Ratnākara : 5 parts, alphabetical array of thousands of Ayurvedic medicines. - AFI & API : Standardize and codify Ayurvedic formulations.

Key Takeaways

- Mythic Origins**: Mercury (pārada) was revered as a divine substance tied to Lord Śiva.
- Vedic Foundations**: Primitive references to single-herb extracts, fermentation, and the earliest forms of medicinal preparations.
- Epic & Purānic Influences**: Growing knowledge of metals, gems, and basic alchemy.
- Arthaśāstra Era**: Systematic mention of mineral ores, purification methods, and the economic aspects of metal usage.
- Saṃhitā Period**: Formalization of the five basic preparations (*pañcavidha kaṣāya kalpanā*), plus the inclusion of metals and mercury in therapeutics and rasāyana.
- Medieval Flourish**: Multiple specialized Rasaśāstra texts detailing mercury purification, metal incineration (bhasma), and advanced formulations.
- Pre-Modern & Modern**: Continued refinement and standardization of Rasaśāstra processes; integration with chemical principles; expanded Ayurvedic pharmacopoeia.

This **flow** from **mythological** to **modern** times shows how **Rasaśāstra** and **Bhaiṣajya Kalpanā** evolved hand-in-hand—incorporating early divine/ritual elements, then scientific methodology and practical pharmaceutical applications, culminating in standard texts still used in contemporary Ayurvedic practice.