

v. Basic concept of bhaiṣajya kalpanā

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Bhaiṣajya Kalpanā refers to the **pharmaceutical** branch of Āyurveda that deals with (1) the collection and preparation of raw drugs (mainly herbal, but also mineral/metal-based in Rasaśāstra) and (2) the formulation of various dosage forms (kalpanās). These preparations ensure that each medicine is safe, effective, and properly suited for a given ailment.

Kasāya Kalpanā - Five Main Forms

References in Śārṅgadhara Saṃhitā, Caraka, and Aṣṭāṅga Hṛdaya

Many classical texts describe **five** fundamental *kasāya kalpanās*, i.e., forms of extracting the active principles from dravyas:

“द्रव्यं आद्रं शिलापिण्ठं शुष्कं वा सजलं भवेत् ।
प्रक्षेप आवाप कल्कास्ते तन्मानं कर्ष सम्मितम् ॥ (शा.सं.)”

This verse indicates the usage of **wet or dry dravya** made into forms like *kalka*, *praksepa*, *āvāpa*, etc. Additionally, as stated:

- **Swarasa (juice), Kalka (paste), Śrītha (decoction), Sīta (cold infusion), and Phāṇṭa (hot infusion)** are enumerated, each progressively milder or stronger in potency as per the text:
 - “Swarasa, Kalka, Śrītha, Seetha & Phanta — yathā pūrvam balavaha”
 - Means Swarasa is the strongest extract, Phanta is the mildest among them, in descending order of potency.

Number of Kasāya Kalpanā in Different Sources

1. Arka Prakāśa

- Mentions 5 forms: *Kalka*, *Cūrṇa*, *Rasa*, *Taila*, and *Arka* (distilled essence). It notes *yathottara balavaha*, meaning each subsequent form might differ in potency.

2. Suśruta

- Lists **6** types: *Kṣīra*, *Rasa*, *Kalka*, *Śrītha*, *Sīta*, and *Phāṇṭa*.
- Some consider *Cūrṇa* as a *pāda-bheda* of one of these forms, hence possible variations.
- Suśruta also remarks *yathoharam laghu*, pointing to relative lightness or intensity.

3. Kāśyapa

- Mentions **7** types: *Swarasa*, *Kalka*, *Śrītha*, *Sīta*, *Phāṇṭa*, *Kṣīra*, and *Madya* (*Abhiśava*).

Hence, different texts vary on enumerating these forms, but the underlying principle remains using water or other mediums with different intensities of heat or extraction to yield the medicinal essence.

Kasāya Yoni

- **Kasāya Yoni** refers to the fundamental source for these extracts, typically the panca-rasa except *lavana* (as some references hint).
- *Swarasa* synonyms: *Vinaya*, *Kitta*, *Vista*, *Ambu*, *Neera* in certain contexts.

Two Types: Agni-Siddha & Anagni-Siddha

- **Agni-siddham**: *Śrītha* (decoction) & *Putapāka* methods requiring heat application.
- **Anagni-siddham**: *Niśpeeditam* (expressed juice by pressing) & *Sīta kasāya* (cold infusion) made without direct fire.



Examples

1. **4 pala** of medicine with double water, or 1 part medicine in 8 parts water reduced to 1/4, etc., are typical decoction guidelines.
2. *Kalka* synonyms: *Praksepa*, *Āvāpa* with a standard measure of 1 karṣa (~12 g) and specific volumes of water (3 pala in *Asṭāṅga Samgraha*).

Additional Kalpanās

Kwātha (Śritha, Kasāya, Nirooha)

- **Samānya Kasāya Vidhi:** 1 pala (~48 g) drug in 16 parts water, reduced to 1/8 (*Sarasamgraha*, *Bhaiṣajya Ratnāvalī* references).
- **Śīta Kasāya:** 1 pala dravya in 6 parts water, kept overnight, final yield ~2 pala.
- **Phāṇṭa:** 1 pala drug + 4 pala hot water, steeped, final yield ~2 pala.

Avaleha (Leha)

- Avaleha or *Leha* is a **thick confection** produced by cooking decoctions with jaggery or sugar.
- *Sītā* (sugar) is 4 times, *Guḍa* (jaggery) 2 times, *Drava* (liquid medium) 4 times.
- Classified as *agni-siddha* (cooked on fire) or *anagni-siddha* (like *Manibhadra* avaleha sometimes not requiring direct heat).

Vaṭikā (Pills)

- Synonyms: *Guṭikā*, *Chakrikā*, *Vaṭaka*, *Piṇḍa*, *Modaka*, *Varti*.
- *Praksepa*: *Sītā* 4 times, *Guḍa* 2 times, *Guggulu* & *Madhu* in equal measure, *Drava* 2 times.
- Standard matra is 1 karṣa.
- *Guggulu Kalpana* especially used in *vātavyādhi* (as described in *Suśruta*). Various forms:
 - 5 types:
 - *Mahiśākṣa* (for elephant?), *Mahānīla*, *Kumuda*, *Padma*, *Hiranya*—some textual references revolve around usage for man or animals.

Sneha Pāka (Ghrta / Taila Preparations)

- Ratio: **Kalka : Sneha : Drava = 1 : 4 : 16** is a common baseline.
- In *Charaka*, *Sāngadharā*, *Asṭāṅga Hṛdaya*, cooking done carefully to ensure correct *mṛdu*, *madhya*, or *khara* pāka depending on the therapy.

Comparative Table of Pāka (Ghrta/ Taila Pāka)

Pākam	Caraka	Vāgbhaṭa	Śārṅgadharā	Suśruta
Mṛdu	Nasya	Nasya	Nasya	Pānam, Abhyavahāraṇa (some references)
Madhya	Pānam, Vasti	Pānam, Vasti	Sarva-karma	Nasya, Abhyanga
Khara	Abhyanga	Abhyanga	Abhyanga	Vasti, Karnapūraṇa