CHAPTER – 11

Link between Jyothisha, Ayurveda and Karma Kanda

In Ayurveda to be healthy or otherwise, two factors are considered. A healthy person is one who has (1) Equilibrium of vata, Pitta and Kapha and (2) Equilibrium (of mind) in the form of Sattwa, Rajas and Tamas.

If the above qualities are maintained, that person is considered as healthy. If the planets in a horoscope are harmoniously placed, then they are indicative of the equilibrium that exists between Vata, Pitta and Kapha in the body and Sattwa, Rajas and Tamas in the mind.

For diseases of the mind, disturbances of the gunas, sattwa, rajas and tamas is the causative factor (Ayurveda). Jyothisha also supports the view that disturbances of the mind occur due to certain planetary positions and this is causative of diseases. According to Jyothisha sastra, Poorva Janma Karma is the cause for person’s gunas. By gunas, we mean the character of a person, which is due to the existence of Sattwa, Rajas and Tamo gunas in a certain proportion. This character determines his behaviour. Ayurveda proclaims that the imbalance of Sattwa, Rajas and Tamas is the cause of disease. Some of the diseases, which cannot be cured, are said to be Maharogas (Great diseases) “Papam Karmethi dasada”¹ – “Sin is the cause of disease” is the view expressed by Vagbhata in Ashtanga Hridayam.

“Drishta Apacharajaha”, “Adrishta Apacharajaha”, “Ubaya Apacharajaha”, are the three causes of diseases ² with “Known Cause”, “Unknown Cause” and “Partly Known Cause”. Known cause comprises
of wrong food habits and thoughts. Unknown cause is deemed to be on account of sin. The third category comprises both the above-mentioned factors.

When disease is due to a Known cause, intake of medicines will effect the cure. Remedial measures can cure diseases of unknown origin. A combination of both medicine intake and remedial measures (Pariharas) will cure diseases of “Ubaya Apacharajaha” category. This is more comprehensively dealt with by Veerasimha in his treatise Known as “Veerasimhavalokananam”. This book takes the principles of Ayurveda into account for finding out the cause of diseases of unknown origin.

“Boothavidya”, is a doctrine adopted as a remedial measure. “Boothavidya” refers to remedial measures prescribed by Karma Kanda for psycho-somatic diseases.

Both Jyothisha and Ayurveda are complementary subjects with one helping the other and each one expecting some help from the other to make it complete.

For instance, when we perform “Ayushya Homam” on a person’s birthday we do the Homam on the basis of rules and regulations prescribed by vedas. The homam is performed on the day when the person’s janma masa and janma nakshatra are in operation. This establishes the Jyothisha link. The intake of “Havis” (Consecrated food) at the end of the function is one form of medicine. This is the Ayurvedic link. Thus Karma Kanda, Jyothisha and Ayurveda are linked to our day-to-day life.
NOTES AND REFERENCES:

1) Papam Karamethi dasáda
   (Ashtanga hrdayam, Ch II, Ve 22)

2) Drishtapacharajaha Kaschit Kaschit purvaparadajaha | Tat Sankarad
   Bhavat Anyo Vyadi revam Tridha Smrthaha (Ashtanga hrdayam, Ch
   XII, Ve 57)