



Nadivijnana: The Crest-Jewel of Ayurveda: A Translation of Six Central Texts and an Examination of the Sources, Influence and Development of Indian Pulse-Diagnosis

Prudence Bruns

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Pulse diagnosis, which is the primary diagnostic tool used by traditional Indian medicine or Ayurveda, is the consummate symbol of Ayurveda often referred to as its lotus flower or supreme nectar. But it was not always so. According to textual evidence, the application of the pulse in Indian medicine first appears -- and then only in a minor role -- over a thousand years after the writing of the first major medical texts. The question as to how and why the pulse came to the position of prominence it has achieved today embraces the deepest foundation of Ayurvedic medical thought; for to comprehend the role of the pulse is to understand and grasp the very soul of Indian medicine.

To date, very little research has been done on the development of the use of pulse in Ayurveda. Basic questions persist not only concerning the practice's origin and status, but also its influence, function, methodology, transmission and preservation. Using historical research and in-depth analysis of the pulse literature itself, this book considers these issues by exploring origins, influences, and elements derived from both outside and inside India. Included in the analysis are original translations from Sanskrit to English of the 2 principal texts on the pulse along with 4 additional central treatises ranging over a time-period of approximately 1000 years.

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