

## The Physician's Examination of the Patient's Constitution According to the Carakasamhitā Vimānasthāna

The latter half of the Carakasamhitā Vimānasthāna (CS Vi) – a critical edition of which is currently under preparation at the University of Vienna, Austria – contains a comprehensive discussion of the ten topological points a physician should investigate to equip himself in order to cure without too much effort. Among these points the examination of the patient with regard to his or her bodily and mental strength (*bala*) is said to be vital. If the strength of the patient is not in a suitable ratio to (a) the strength of the disease and (b) to the medical effectiveness of the applied drug, the treatment may either lack any effect at all, or its effect may be fatal. In view of the importance of the concepts of “strength of the patient” for medical treatment in general it comes as no surprise that the determination of its degree is said to require complex inferences on the basis of an examination of ten characteristic aspects of the patient's body and mind. The present paper analyzes the list of these characteristics which occurs in CS Vi 8.95-122 (according to the numeration of passages in Trikamji's influential edition, published Bombay 1941) with a view to contribute to answering the following question: Who were the patients in early classical India? Which typologies of patients were current in early classical Āyurveda? Which concepts of the human body were important for medical treatment? What did physicians know about “diseases”, and what about the human body? What was the ideal of the human body? And finally, in a reverse conclusion, how did physicians view their own profession? How did they estimate their own capability to cure?