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Medico-Legal Classification of Snakes, Postmortem Appearance and Medico-Legal Aspect of Poisoning & Treatment Approach

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ABSTRACT

In Agadatantra, the sixth branch of Ashtanga Ayurveda in Ayurveda science, studies inanimate and animate poisons (Jaangam and Sthavara), their symptoms, and how to treat them. Because they lived in woodlands, animate poisoning was a typical occurrence in the past. Texts provide a detailed explanation of the Sarpa (snake), its bite, and its treatments. Because to the absence of mobility and medical services, snake poisoning deaths occur often in rural areas of this agricultural nation. Ritualistic serpent qua snake handling is a rare ceremony performed by a distinct minority of the Kerala community, which is primarily found in India's popular mythology. It is based on steadfast religious conviction arising out of literal interpretation of specific passages of the New Testament. Nonetheless, the obsessive, frantic pursuit of close contact with a variety of poisonous snakes by anointed "sign-followers" exposes the handler, sect members, and onlookers to the risk of fatal envenomation, especially when the congregation of faith holds prompt medical attention to be against God's will. The authors detail three distinct instances of snakebite envenomation deaths that occurred during church services, along with the handler's religiously motivated decision not to seek medical attention. Similar physical findings from each postmortem were linked to different hazardous aftereffects of the intricate venoms. Reviewing the harmful components of these chemical toxins also entails talking about the intricate pathophysiological processes that lead to demise. Furthermore, the writers examine the past of legislative and judicial reactions to the shockingly deadly occurrence, which inevitably raises basic constitutional concerns arising from such contentious religious customs. We emphasize the belief that a well-documented medicolegal inquiry and autopsy are essential for providing information on public health issues and helping to formulate appropriate public policy. Snake bite management through different antidotes mentioned as Agadas in classics and Lexicons. Conclusion- There is huge significance of Agadas and role of Agadatantra in snakebite management as a first aid.

Keyword:-Agad, Snakes, Medico legal aspect, Poisoning

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