

## The Role of *Melothesia* in Ancient Medicine and Its Relation with the *Yavana Jataka*

Alexander's arrival in India opened many doors for the transferal of knowledge between West and East in the ancient world. While scholars can speculate whether concepts (like the transmigration of the soul and monism of the universe) were transmitted from East to West or vice versa, astronomy and astrology are unique cases for which we have definite proof of West to East (or East to West) intellectual development.

The *Yavana Jataka*, or the "Greek Horoscopy," thought to have been composed by an Indo-Greek named Sphujidhvaja (Greek Aphrodisius) around 200 AD, presents the first example of Indo-Greek scientific synthesis. This text incorporated Greek astronomical and astrological concepts into earlier Sanskrit science. Astrology also played a key role in medicine and created the field of *melothesia*, in which astrological and astronomical concepts were correlated to the physical body. Certain elements were thought to be active in specific parts of the body, and certain gems and minerals were used as amulets to treat particular ailments that were, in turn, linked to specific planets that may have been unfavorable for the ailing individual. In this paper, I will investigate the role that the *Yavana Jataka* played in developing theories of *melothesia* and early Indo-Greek medicine.