

THE MOTHER OF ALL CIVILIZATION----- THE VEDIC CIVILIZATION

1. INTRODUCTION TO VEDIC CIVILIZATION.

THE VEDIC RELIGION OR THE VEDIC WAY OF LIVING

This is the religion that is widely practiced in India and Nepal. This religion is widely perceived to have originated in the Indian subcontinent. This religion is practiced by the inhabitants and also by the people and the families who have migrated to various other geographical areas and countries. What is Hinduism and how is it connected to the Vedic civilization. Sanatan dharma. To answer these questions we have to know what is Vedic civilization and who are the representative of the Vedic civilization. The antiquity of the Vedic civilization also needs to be established.

Statistically there are over 700 million Hindus in Bharat [India] and Nepal. Hinduism is also referred to as Sanatan Dharma which means eternal faith. In the first paragraph I have mentioned Hinduism as a religion but strictly speaking it is not a religion. It is based on the practice of Dharma, the code of life. The very word BHARAT comes from a Sanskrit phrase bhayam ratah bharatatah means the one who is totally dedicated to the way of life based on the divine knowledge even today this is the official name of our country i.e. Bharat, India. Since Hinduism has no founder anyone who practices the Dharma can call himself a Hindu. He has so much freedom that he can even question the authority of any scripture or even the existence of the divine. So how does Hinduism differ from other religions? The difference is very basic. Religion means to bind and Dharma means to hold, and hold what? It is the inner laws that man holds on to and this is what leads man from ignorance to truth. It does not have a Bible or a Koran to which controversies can be referred for resolution. This way of life or the Sanatan Dharma comes out from the scriptures which are the oldest in the history of man's development and evolution.

Hindu scriptures are mainly divided into Shruti [means something which is heard], Smriti [means something which is remembered], and lastly Nyaya [means which is logic deductions made through logic]. These classifications show that the scriptures are based not on the mode of transmission but on the origin. Therefore Shruti means something that was heard by the sages from the gods directly. Smriti refers to those that were written down from memory. Shruti is considered to be authoritative as this comes down directly from the gods to the sages and seers and therefore has no interpretations. These Shrutis are the Vedas or let me put it in this way Vedas constitute the Shrutis while the rest like Itihasa [epics- Ramayana, Mahabharata], Puranas

[moral stories] and agamas [emanated scriptures] are known as smriti Vedantic sutras are classified as nyaya. Logically therefore smriti and nyaya agrees with shruti as it was the only thing that came directly from the gods. The question is why do we call these scriptures as veda what is the meaning of the word Veda. Veda comes from the word 'Vid' means to know, when this is applied to the scriptures it becomes the book of knowledge. The Vedas are the oldest book in the library of a man and they are eternal without a beginning and surely without an end. They are not the composition of the human mind as they were never written they were as said earlier were told to the rishis. My aim therefore in this particular essay is to fix a tentative date for this eternal work and also to trace the dissemination of vedic knowledge in the population of the world.

The Vedas are divided into four great books you can call it divisions also. 1. Rig Ved 2. Yajur Ved 3. Sama Ved 4. and the Atharva Ved. The Rig Ved is again divided into twenty one sections the Yajur Ved into one hundred and nine sections The Sama Ved is divided into thousand sections and the Atharva Ved is divide into fifty sections. Therefore in all Vedas are divided into one thousand one hundred and eighty sections. Each Vedas consists of four parts; the mantra samhitas or hymns, the brahmanas or the explanations of the mantras or rituals, the aranyakas and the Upanishads. The mantra samhitas are the hymns in the praise of the vedic gods for attaining material prosperity here and happiness hereafter. They are metrical poems comprising prayers hymns and incantations addressed to various deities both subjective and objective. The Rig Ved Samhitas are the oldest and the best. The Upanishads are the most important portion of the Vedas. The philosophy of the Upanishad is both sublime and profound. The Upanishad speaks of identity of the individual soul and the supreme soul. They reveal the most subtle and deep spiritual truths.

Vedangas and Upaveda are texts which augment the Vedas. There are six vedangas namely siksha, [phonetic science] jyotisha, [time science—astronomy and astrology] klapa, [rituals] nirukti, [context—conclusive meaning] kandas, [meter] and vyakarana [grammar]. Jyotish vedanga is the most famous as it deal with astrology. There are five upavedas. And they are artha, dhanur, sthapatya, gandharva and ayur veda. Agamas are the treatise that contains rituals rites and worship of the gods. There are five of them based on the worship of Ganesha, Shakti, Surya, Shiva and Vishnu. All these sections and subsections might put any one in confusion. To put the matter in right perspective one can safely argue that the Vedas show three clear paths. 1. The karma kanda is the path using vedangas 2. Upasana kanda using the agamas while the gyana kanda involves the path of Upanishads to realize the supreme of the supreme the Brahman

Upanishad as mentioned earlier are found at the end of the Vedas, are also called Vedanta [where veda means knowledge and anta means end together it means the end of knowledge] because they expound and dwell on the spiritual essence of the Vedas. Upanishads are mainly text whereas Vedanta is philosophy there are 1108 Upanishads and of these only 108 are considered genuine. Eleven of them ie Isha, Kena, Katha, Prashna, Mundaka, Maandukya,

Taittiriya, Chandogya, Shwetashwata, Brihad aranyaka, are considered to be major as they have been commented upon by many acharyas of various traditions. Upanishad means 'to sit down near' because they were explained to the students who sat near the feet of the teacher, the guru. The learning of the Upanishads were not a time bound study as we might think it to be. This needed a constant closeness with the guru who taught them the essence of the Upanishads through the daily routine. Such schools were called gurukool. Ultimately Vedanta becomes the basis of Hinduism which asserts that Brahman the impersonal god and the universal soul is the absolute truth. This Brahman has multiple role to play He is the creator He is the maintainer and He is the destroyer and here comes the origin of the trinity of the gods Brahma Vishnu Mahesh.

Darshan means sight or vision. In Vedanta philosophy there is just one question which is important and that is what is the source of everything? There were philosophers who saw different stages of the source and explained the same in their view points. These explanations are called Darshans and there are six types of Darshanas [Six system of philosophy] called 'Sada – Darshan' These six systems are:

1. Nyaya propounded by Gautam the philosophy of the source as opined or viewed by Gautam. This philosophy maintains that atom is the cause of cosmic manifestation.
2. Veisheshika as propounded by Kanada. Maintains that combination of atoms is the cause of cosmic manifestation.
3. Sankhya propounded by Kapila. It is the philosophy of analytical study where it maintains that it is the material nature which is the cause of cosmic manifestation.
4. Yoga propounded by Patanjali It is the philosophy of mystic perfection where universal consciousness is the cause of cosmic manifestation.
5. Purva mimangsha propounded by Jamini. It is the philosophy of action and reaction where it maintains fruitive activities are the cause of cosmic manifestation.
6. Uttara mimangsha propounded by Vyasa where the impersonalists maintain that the impersonal Brahman effulgence is the cause of the cosmic manifestation.

All these six systems are written in aphorism (sstras) Beside all the philosophy which talks of the cosmic origin and the cosmic attributes of the divine there are the epics (Itihaas) and stories (Puranas) written to bring into light the human attributes of the divine. Itihaas comprises of two great epics they are Ramayana and The Mahabharata which are the stories of two incarnations of Lord Vishnu i.e. Ram and Krishna. Ramayana was written by Valmiki and Mahabharat was written by sage Vyasa. Bhagvad Gita which is the epitome of Hindu philosophy is found in Mahabharat in the form of dictum and advice given to Arjun by Lord Krishna. It is the most important part of the Mahabharata. Just as Upanishads contain the cream of the Vedas so does Gita contains the cream of Upanishads. Due to its contents Bhagvad Gita is also called as Gito-Upanishad. Vyasa also wrote the Puranas 18 Puranas and 18 sub Puranas. All Puranas emphasize on the morals and is usually a story about a Hindu deity fighting to uphold the morals. Vyasa

supplemented the Vedas with puranas which explains the vedic truths intended for different types of men.

The vedic literature also had detailed studies on the various sciences or Kala and these studies and scriptures are the scientific aspect of the Vedas.

The first that needs to be mentioned is the encyclopaedic Shastra which was called Akshara-Laksha. This was written by sage Valmiki. All kinds of mathematics including modern geometry, Algebra, Trigonometry, Physics, Applied mathematics, mineralogy, Hydel, the methods of measuring air heat and even electricity, and geography are said to have been treated in this treatise. The next science of importance is the Sabda –Shastra written by Kandika Rishi which deals with sounds, echoes of moving and non moving objects in creation. It also deals with mechanically reproducing sound, measuring their pitch and velocity.

Sage Sakatayana is the author of Lakshana Shastra which deals with the science of determining the sex in animate and inanimate creation.

Sage Kashyapa is the author of Shilpa Shastra and it comprises of 22 chapters. 307 varieties of shilpas including 11 types of construction like Temples, Palaces, Hall, etc. Earlier writers on this subject were Vishwakarma, Maya, Maruti and Chayapurusha their thoughts have been incorporated in the above Shastra.

Rishi Sukesha was the author of Supa shastra which is the equivalent of the modern day book of cookery. It dealt with the science of cooking. It has 108 variety of preparations from condiments to pickles to sweets, cakes and pudding. It also has an exhaustive index of recipe for people living in different parts of the world. To be precise it contains 3032 types of recipe.

Sage Rishayasringa created something that the Japanese call the science of Ikebana. This treatise is called the Malini Shastra. This work consisted of 16 chapters which includes flower arrangements, making garlands, bouquets, writing love messages on flower petals. The science of time was written by Karttikeya, it divisions into definite periods.

The science of Metal called the Dhatuvada was written by Ashwini Kumaras. In it are 7 chapters which deals with dhatus or the primary substances their combinations and transmutation. Alchemy or converting copper into gold etc has been described in this work.

Ashwini Kumar was a great rishi who also authored the Visha Shastra. This is also an exhaustive work where 32 different types of poison their properties, their preparation and their antidotes

The next in line is the science of fine arts which was composed by sage Bhima and this treatise is called chitra karma shastra. The uniqueness of this science was that students were taught to recreate a person after seeing a single strand of hair or nail. Highly advanced form of forensic science?

Then there is the Mala Shastra which deals with gymnastics and sports necessary for preservation of health .

Sage Vatsyana has composed a work on Ratna Pariksha which means testing of gems.

Sage Vyasa is said to have composed a work on artha shastra which had three chapters on ways of earning money legitimately.

Sage agastya[agastya muni] is the originator of Shakti Shastra. Atomic fission and nuclear science formed a part of this science.

Yantra Shastra by Sage bharadwaj explains 339 types of terrestrial vehicle, 783 types of boats and ships and 101 types of airships by use of mantras Tantras and artificial means. [A detailed notes on these can be found in www.hinduism.co.za/vedas]

In the above paragraphs I have tried to give an overall view of the vedic scriptures, its contents in general and the various divisions that these scriptures have. The last description of the scriptures—Kalas—shows us that the vedic scriptures were not only spiritual but also very very technical and scientific. In fact the scripture shows us that the civilization that gave birth to these scriptures was a very advanced civilization not only spiritually but also scientifically and technologically. Today's civilization at this juncture at the turn of the millennium are yet to uncover and discover and invent many things that has already been discussed in the vedic scriptures. For eg. In the Yantra Shastra there is mention of 101 different types of aircrafts propelled by three different types of fuel,

and attaining very high speed.

For detailed study of these scriptures one can take the help of the internet and visit the following site. www.spiritweb.org/spirit/vedas

2. THE REASON FOR THE INVENTION OF THE ARYAN INVASION THEORY

The Reason For The Invention Of The Aryan Invasion Theory

In the schools all over India, in the sixth grade when Indus Valley Civilization is taught in the history class, we come across the elaborate story of how a nomadic tribe “The Aryans” came from the north and destroyed the advanced civilization that was the Indus Civilization. The way this particular story is represented in the curriculum of our schools helps us to understand and perceive India’s historical evolution, the sources of her ancient glorious heritage, and indigenous socio-economic-political institutions, and this has been going on ever since the advent of the British colonies. When the ruins of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa were discovered it was found that the civilization was very advanced. The ruins show a very advanced waste management system an important parameter of a civilization having a sense of hygiene and possessing a scientific outlook. The ruins also show a very elaborate public distribution system, another parameter of a civilization being conscious of well being. In spite of these physical truths, we come across a well spun story of a nomadic tribe calling themselves the Aryans coming from the North and wiping out the civilization.

Megasthenes, one of the earliest European visitor in Chandragupta Mourya’s court in fourth century BC noted in his book *Indika*, “ All Indians are free and none of them is a slave. Indians neither invade other people, nor do other people invade India. They fare happily, because of their simplicity and frugality. Since they esteem beauty, they practice everything that can beautify their appearance, Further they respect alike virtue and truth. “

In 1068 AD an Arab writer from Spain named Andalusí, wrote: “ The Indians, among all nation, through many centuries and antiquity, have been the source of wisdom, fairness, and moderation. They are creators of sublime thoughts, universal apologies, rare inventions and remarkable concepts.”

Five centuries later Akbar’s friend Abdul Fazl wrote, “The Hindus are religious, affable, lovers of justice, given to retirement, able in business, admirers of truth, grateful and of undoubted fidelity, and their soldiers know not what it is to fly from the battle field”

There are many such accounts of the traits of India in the pre-colonial era. Some European thinkers of the eighteenth century wanted to understand and feel India’s philosophy and religion. They were so awe struck by the wisdom, the ancientness, the richness, that they declared India the seat of civilization, or the cradle of human race. The great French thinker Voltaire said, “ We have shown how much we have surpassed the Indians in courage and wickedness and how inferior to them we are in wisdom. Our European nations have mutually destroyed themselves in this land where we only go in search of money, while the first Greeks travelled to the same land only to instruct themselves.” The richness of India was not only in terms of knowledge but also in terms of economy, and the Britishers in India came with the intention of looting this country and that is exactly what they did. In 1757 after the battle of Plassey all the wealth of Bengal was siphoned to England and this very influx of wealth triggered the Industrial revolution of England. *How could then a nomadic tribe calling themselves The Aryans decimate a civilization??*

The beginning of Indological studies in India was out of British curiosity towards Indians, especially Hindus. The British had a fair idea of Islam, but they had never encountered Hindus and Hinduism (the

non Islamic religions) from such close quarters before. The formation of the Asiatic Society of Bengal was the first step in that direction. William Jones through his profound study on the languages of India came to the conclusion that Greek, Latin, Sanskrit all came from a common root; which was undoubtedly lost. Sanskrit was also more perfect than Greek and more copious than Latin.

Jones during those years was a devout Christian who believed completely in the authenticity and infallibility of Biblical History. This was the beginnings of the one of the deepest tragedies of Indian History where its timelines have had always to be sandwiched in archetypal timescales to the liking of Western literary history, and not its own. Jones was aware that Puranic history gave a chronology of events 4,320,000 years back; but he brushed it aside and instead replaced it with a dubious Mosaic timeline where the history of the world begins from 4404 B.C and all men descend from Noah! He simultaneously through some text torturing and specious speculations arrived at identification of the chief biblical characters from Puranic genealogies.

Jones colossal contribution to Indology would usher in a new wave of interest in Indological studies rightly dubbed as indomania by Trautmann. Although it was restricted to a few elite Britons its output was astonishing. In a few years, Holwell had written an account of Christianity which was completely Hinduized. This view was vehemently criticized by other indologists in the fray.

Charles Grant made the first vicious attack on those Orientalists who had dared to claim a common descent between Hindu, Greek, and Teuton, for that would amount to allowing that there was no difference in the faculties of the people that produced Homer and Shakespeare and those that have produced nothing better than the authors of the Mahabharat and Ramayana; no difference between the home-keeping Hindus who never made a foreign conquest of any kind, and the nations who discovered, conquered, and peopled a new world . After 1857, the British education system in India had been deliberately designed to assist in the development of a narrow but influential class of deeply indoctrinated and predominantly loyal agents of British colonial rule in India. British elaborations of the Aryan invasion theory became powerful and convenient ideological tools in generating legitimacy for British rule. In its most classical and colonially tinged incarnation, it portrayed the Aryans as a highly advanced and culturally superior race in the ancient world, locating their original home in Northern Europe. It then went on to suggest that some time in antiquity, the Aryans migrated from their original home in Europe and brought with them their language and their superior culture and transcendental philosophy to civilize the primitive and materially backward Dravidian people of the subcontinent. All the greatness of Indian civilization was ascribed to the Aryans, thus implying that if India were to ever achieve greatness again, a return to Aryan rule was imperative.

And by claiming a cultural continuity between this noble race of ancient times and themselves, the British could become inheritors of the grand Aryan tradition and assert their "legitimate" civilization right to rule over the people of the subcontinent - not to exploit them, but so as to "reinvigorate" Indian civilization by reintroducing Aryan rule that had been disfigured and corrupted by the violent and barbaric incursions of the Muslims. Preposterous and distorted as it was, this absurdly racist proposition was made palatable to a self-doubting and repressed class of upper-caste Hindus who were told that they were descendants of the Aryans, and could identify with the manifold and globally encompassing

achievements of the Aryan people by accepting British authority so as to participate in this great Aryan renaissance in India. It is a known fact that most of the original proponents of AIT were not historians or archaeologists but had missionary and political axe to grind. Max Muller in fact had been paid by the East India Company to further its colonial aims, and others like Lassen and Weber were ardent German nationalists, with hardly any authority or knowledge on India, only motivated by the superiority of German race/nationalism through white Aryan race theory. And as everybody knows this eventually ended up in the most calamitous event of 20th century: the World War II. Even in the early times of the AIT's onward journey of acceptability, there were numerous challengers like C.J.H. Hayes, Boyed C. Shafer and Hans Kohn who made a deep study of the evolution and character of nationalism in Europe. They had exposed the unscientificness of many of the budding social sciences which were utilized in the 19th century to create the myth of Aryan Race Theory.

Max Muller, a renowned Indologist from Germany, is credited with the popularization of the Aryan racial theory in the middle of 19th century. Though later on when Muller's reputation as a Sanskrit scholar was getting damaged, and he was challenged by his peers, since nowhere in the Sanskrit literature, the term Arya denoted a racial people, he recanted and pronounced that Aryan meant only a linguistic family and never applied to a race. But the damage was already done. The German and French political and nationalist groups exploited this racial phenomenon to propagate the supremacy of an assumed Aryan race of white people, which Hitler used to its extreme absurdities for his barbaric crusade to terrorize Jews and other societies. This culminated in the holocaust of millions of innocent people. Though now this racial nonsense has mostly been discarded in Europe, but in India it is still being exploited and used to divide and denigrate the Hindu society.

Interest in the field of Indology during the 19th Century was of mixed motivations. Many scholars such as August Wilhelm von Schlegel, Hern Wilhelm von Humboldt, and Arthur Schopenhauer lauded praise upon the Vedic literatures and their profound wisdom, others were less than impressed. To accept that there was an advanced civilization outside the boundaries of Europe, at a time before the Patriarchs Abraham and Moses had made their covenant with the Almighty was impossible to conceive of for most European scholars, who harbored a strong Christian tendency. Most scholars of this period were neither archeologists nor historians in the strict sense of the word. Rather, they were missionaries paid by their governments to establish western cultural and racial superiority over the subjugated Indian citizens, through their study of the indigenous religious texts. Consequently, for racial, political and religious reasons, early European indologists created a myth that still survives to this day.

The aryan invasion theory has been one of the most controversial historical topics for well over a century. However, it should be pointed out that it remains just that – a theory.

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Demise of the Aryan Invasion Theory

By Dr.Dinesh Agrawal

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3. A MYTH OR A REALITY

A MYTH OR A REALITY

The major rivers of the north west of the Indian subcontinent (Punjab, Sindh, Rajasthan, and Gujrat) were : Saraswati, Sindhu (Indus), Shatadru (Sutlej) Vipasa (Beas), Parushni (Ravi), Asikni (Chenab), Yamuna, Drishadwati ,and Lavanavati. All these rivers have changed their courses since vedic times. Of these, three rivers: saraswati, Drishadwati, and Lavanavati no longer exist.

In vedic times the rivers Beas Jhelum, Ravi and Chenab joined the Sindhu to form one channel from Himalayas to the Arabian sea. Saraswati and her tributaries: Yamuna sutlej Drishadwati and Lavanavati formed the other channel from Himalayas to the Arabian Sea. Saraswati was a huge river . Her bed was as vast as 10 km in some places. In the early days, Saraswati river met the Arabian sea at the Rann of Kachh. After the level of Rann increased, she crossed the Rann to join the Arabian Sea at the gulf of Khambat. It was on the banks of this vast river system that the vedic ashrams thrived .It was the waters of the saraswati that gave rise to vedic culture. Thus Saraswati was called the goddess of knowledge. The epitome of knowledge. something like the Havard or the Oxford of modern times.

During the late vedic period tectonic movements pushed up the Aravali hills, in northern Rajasthan, changed the drainage pattern of the Northwest India dramatically. Saraswati lost her major tributaries ie Yamuna and Sutlej. Sutlej turned west and joined the Beas-Sindhu system. Yamuna started migrating east to join Ganga. Yamuna now was basically carrying the saraswati water and bringing it to the Ganges. Because the Yamuna was bringing the water of Saraswati to the Ganges, it was now becoming the confluence of the three rivers namely Yamuna, Ganga, Saraswati and hence the term "Tribeni Sangam"

Rig veda , the oldest of the Vedas mentions about the river Saraswati in many of its verses. The one that is very pertinent here is as follows: “ambi tame devi tame nadi tame Saraswati.....” which means that :You are the mother. You are the goddess. You are the river –Saraswati. If the Indians specially the Hindus just try to find a synonymous situation today they will find that Ganges fits the verse very perfectly as of date. Today Ganges has the same status that Saraswati had many many years ago. Ganges is the life line today of the entire country. Its fertile banks and the navigability have sustained human settlements for ages. The delta that the river makes before going into the sea has helped to maintain a healthy population of flora and fauna through out the Gangetic West Bengal, The Sundarbans, and the south of Bangla Desh. The river and its major tributaries like the Hooghly are the life line of many inhabitants in and around them as they are highly navigable and perennial in nature. The Saraswati was a similar but very much on a large scale, river some 9000 yrs to 11000 yrs before present. The very mention of this river in the rig Vedas at least proves that a intelligent civilization did exist during that period of time who knew about the river and its tributaries, and the civilization which thrived along its bank enjoyed all the benefits of being on the vicinity of the mighty river. In fact if we plot the various archaeological sites like the Lotahl, Kalibangan, Dwarka, and about 23 other archaeological sites on the map of undivided India Or the Indian Subcontinent we will see that these sites are mostly on the either banks of the legendary river Saraswati. Even today there is a channel which at places is more than a kilometer wide in Haryana which is severely cultivated and the locals call it the Saraswati. During monsoon this channel carries a small amount of water which is mostly captured for irrigation—The river per-se is not dead. We will see some of the Rig Vedic shlokas on the river Saraswati which will give us some idea about how the river was in its hay days.

1."maho arnah sarasvati pra cetayati ketuna dhiyo visva virajati" means sarasvati like a great ocean appears with her ray, and she rules all inspirations.

2."ni tva dadhe vara a prthivya ilayspade sudinatve ahnam;

Drsadvaty am manuse apayayam sarasvatyamrevad agne didhi" Means we set you down, oh sacred fire at the most holy place on earth, in the land of Ila, in the clear brightness of the day. On the drishadvati, the apaya and the Sarasvati river, shine out brilliantly for men.

3."ayasi puh visva apo mahina sindhur anyah,sucir yati girbhya a samudrat" means sarasvati is like a bronze city surpassing all other rivers and waters, pure in her course from the mountain to the sea.

From this one thing is for certain that the honor of the greatest and the holiest of the rivers was not bestowed to Ganga but upon Saraswati ,in fact the name of Ganga appears only once in the Rig Vedas. Saraswati features about sixty times.

The hymns in Rg veda also describes the lives of people residing in the saraswati valley and there are many Indian literature that contains references of many places of learning all along the banks of this mighty river. Therefore in Rg veda, which is the earlier part of the vedic literature we see that the river has been immortalised by the very sholka "ambitame naditame devitame saraswati" because this was the very river which nurtured the people who lived along the banks of this river and supported a very vibrant intellectual society with its places of learning, having their own resident scholars sages and

seers. It is highly possible then that the very vedas were written, at least the Rg veda, along the banks of this river.

But the later part of the vedic literature, to be more precise the Mahabharat, refers to the saraswati as the dying river. It describes balaram's pilgrimage from Dwarka to Mathura along the drying river. There are references to balaram's visit to various rishi ashrams along the banks of the once great river but dying at the time of the Mahabharat. There were references to large fissures and fault in the ground of the dry bed of the river Saraswati. This has been confirmed by Landsat imagery which has found large numbers of fissures and faults in the earthquake prone Northwest India that constituted the saraswati--Sindhu Valley. Such ground faults caused the seepage of water of the saraswati into under ground channels thus refering to the saraswati as the dying river.

Refer to the **map that is shown below**, This map shows the River Saraswati in its full glory. The dotted lines are the later changes that came about in the river due to plate tectonic movements in the earth's crust, changing the courses of many tributaries and causing ground fissures and faults, thereby robbing the river of its water which came from the tributaries feeding the river and the disappearance of the water in the underground channels. More than 1400 sites have been discovered of the IVC. Most of these sites are on the Indian territory and only a few about One third are on the Pakistan side. Important among them is the site at Guneriwala in Pakistan. Manda in J&K, Ropar in Punjab, Banawali and Rakhigarhi in Hariyana, Alamgirpur near Meerut, Kalibangan in Rajasthan, Lothal, Dholavira, and Surkotada in Gujrat and Daimabad in Maharashtra. When these are plotted along the map these sites seem to crowd along the dry bed of the river Ghaggar in Punjab Hariyana, and Rajasthan and river Hakra and Nara in Bhawalpur and sind in Pakistan and ending in the Rann of Kutch in Gujrat. Ghaggar is the same river which is called the Hakra when it enters Bhawalpur in Pakistan and continues as Nara in the Sindh Province. Dr. Naresh Gupta in his book "Saraswati: Legend or History" has described the find in details and I would request my readers to read that book to get a thorough insight into the legendary river. The demise of the Saraswati, was near fatal to the people and civilization thriving on the banks of the river. The scarcity of water forced the people to migrate. Saraswati-Sindhu civilization did not vanish but there was shift of population after the economy around the river collapsed. The civilization moved to the east to the Ganga Yamuna Plains, west northwest and south to Godavari plains. The Mittani and the Kassites are probably the Saraswati civilization of west. They also worship vedic gods.

At Lothal site a huge dock capable of handling ocean going and river navigable ships have been excavated. Also dough nut shaped anchors have been found at this site and other sites indicating internal and external maritime trade and also that rivers were used to navigate large ships to and from sea. Therefore the river used for this purpose have to be huge and should be perennial and should have the capacity to displace a huge quantity of water. Saraswati was a similar type of river. This river was more than seven kilometer wide.

In 1980 the palaeochannels of Saraswati was discovered by Professor Yashpal using landsat imagery. In 1996 professor Valdiya traced the course of river Saraswati from west garhwal in the himalayas to the Gulf of Khambat in Gujarat using Hydro-geological studies. These two sources come to the same conclusion regarding the course of this mighty river. According to this the river Saraswati followed the

course of the modern rivers Ghaggar, Hakra and Nara where most of the IVC sites are located. In 1997 Hindustan times dated Feb 17 carried the research result of Dr S.M. Rao and Dr.K.M.Kulkarni of Bhaba Atomic Research Center. They tracked the course of the old Saraswati from its source in the Himalayas and its flow through Rajasthan Bhawalpur and Sindh to the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat by using the same landsat imagery. They undertook what is known as isotope hydrology study wherein using low levels of Tritium, which is a naturally occurring radioactive isotope they collected evidence to prove that waters trapped in the underground channels below the ancient course of the river Saraswati belonged to that river itself. Times Of India dated 02.05.2001 carried an article regarding the research which has been on the past so many years roughly 15 years ago. The concerted efforts of about 200 scientists brought back this legendary river to life. Reality. Rig Vedic river Saraswati "ambitame, naditame devitame saraswati" was no cock and bull story but a ground reality. This river originated from Har-ki-dhun Glacier in the west Garhwal, Bandarpunch massifs in the Himalayas along with river Yamuna. The two rivers flowed parallel for some distance later joined together and then proceeded south as the vedic mighty river Saraswati. Seasonal rivers and rivulets including Ghaggar, joined Saraswati as it followed the course of the present river Ghaggar through modern punjab and Haryana. The Sutlej and the Shatdru, another vedic river, joined Saraswati as a tributary at shatrana approximately 25 kilometers south of patiala. Saraswati then followed the course of the Ghaggar through Rajasthan and Hakra in Bhawalpur before emptying into the Rann of Kutch Via Nara in the Sindh province running parallel to the Indus river. Therefore this river which carried the waters of three perennial rivers and numerous seasonal rivers was a mighty river indeed "naditame" which means 'the greatest river'.

I have reproduced an article verbatim which was published in the Indian Express of 5th April 1999 to give an idea to my readers, as to why such a huge civilization perished. We are so feudalistic that we still teach our students that it was the Aryan Invasion that destroyed IVC (Indus Valley Civilization) which the British imperialists imposed upon us, the unsuspecting and the gullible lot. Conclusively this pushes the date of the vedic civilization to 6000 years or more, back from the present.

Indus Valley civilisation destroyed by tectonic changes: Scientists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA HYDERABAD, APRIL 4: Contrary to popular belief that the Indus Valley civilisation was destroyed by invading Aryans, archaeological and paleoclimatic studies reveal that tectonic upheavals led to the destruction of Mohenjodaro settlements, according to a scientist with the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) here. Environmental changes, marked by shifting river courses, changing drainage patterns, tectonic disturbances, earthquakes, floods and monsoon fluctuations, had resulted in the disappearance and reconstruction of Mohenjodaro several times between 7,400 BC and 1800 BC, Dr J G Negi, emeritus professor at NGRI, told PTI here.

The geomorphological and temperature changes had led to cyclical increase or decrease of rainfall, which had a profound impact on ascent and decline of human civilisations and migrations in different parts of the world, he said. It was evident from pollen grain studies of

Sehwan lake (in Rajasthan) that there were at least 10 cycles of floods preceded by earthquakes and other tectonic disturbances in the region around the Indus Valley civilisation during which Mohenjodaro was destructed and reconstructed, the geologist pointed out.

The movement of rivers away from the towns or destruction of vegetation due to monsoons might have ravaged the Harappan township around 1500 BC, Negi said.

The long-held belief that the Dravidian cultural sites of Harappa and Mohenjodaro were destroyed by Aryans from the North-West stands demolished with the increasing archaeological and climatological studies worldwide, Negi said.

The growing evidence suggests that the Indus Valley civilisation was destroyed not by invaders but by environmental changes, the most important of them being the drying up of the Saraswati river which found prominent mention in the Rig Veda, the geologist said.

The Rig Vedic description of Saraswati as a massive river and a source of livelihood matches well with the highest rainfall period around 3,800 BC but by 1,800 BC, the rainfall had almost stopped in the region followed by a dry period which led to migration to the banks of the Ganga, he said.

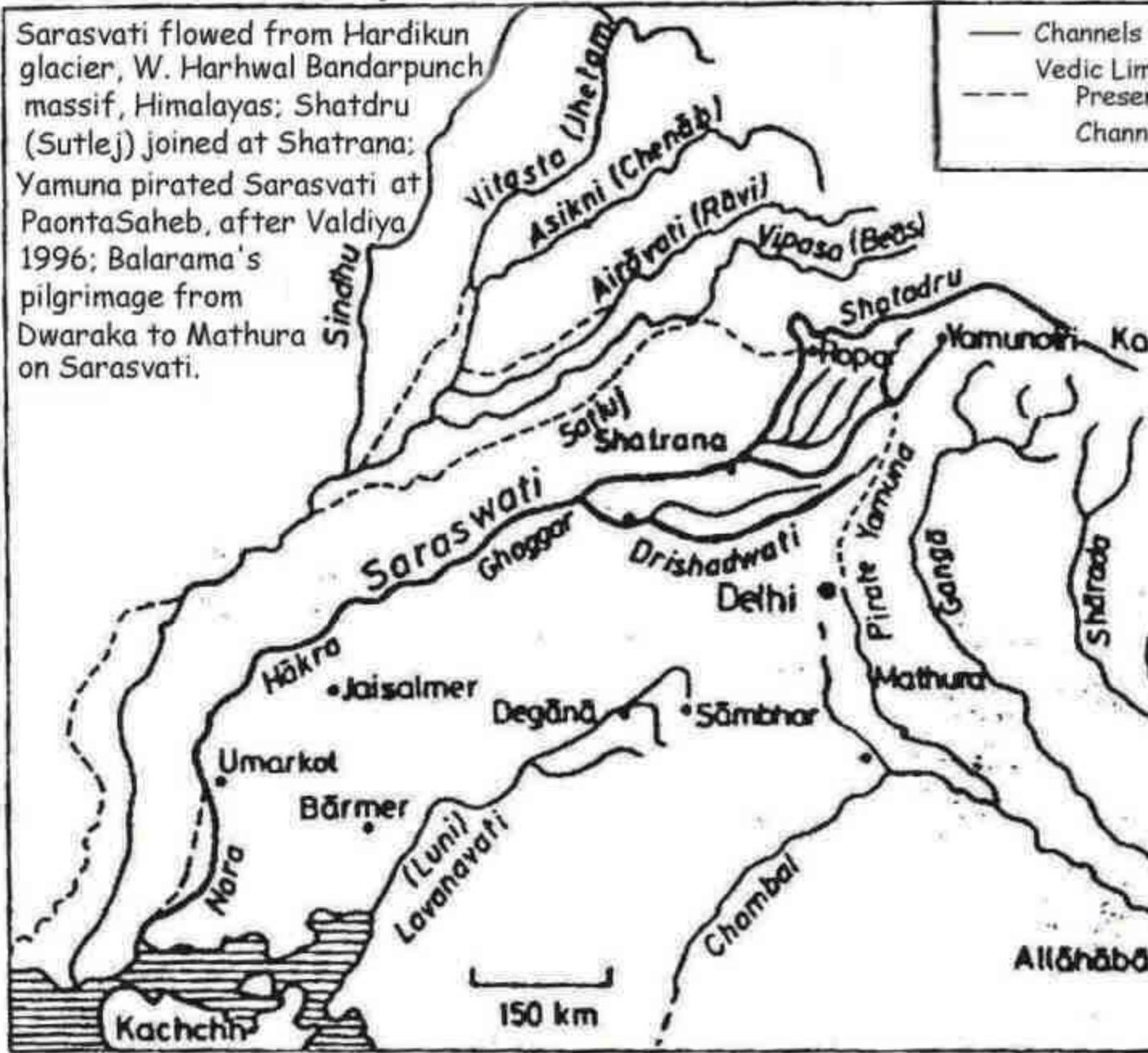
Quoting from extensive studies on pollen remains of the lakes of North-West India to gauge monsoon fluctuations in the last 10,000 years, Negi said there was a massive earthquake around 2,000 BC, obstructing the course of the Indus river, thereby leading to major geographical changes.

The tectonic disturbances at that time had created Sehwan lake extending upstream to Mohenjodaro by more than 140 kilometres, he said.

There were evidences of repeated destruction and reconstruction of Mohenjodaro (at least five cycles) due to the appearance and disappearance of Sehwan lake, the geologist observed.

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The exact epoch in which Saraswati stopped flowing, into Arabian sea, and began to loose her way in the thirsty sand of the desert of rajasthan, is not very clear. Nevertheless, Ramaswamy, bakliwal and Verma are quite satisfied that it was not in the "Holocene" but in the late Pliocene-about 12000 years. The same approximate date has also been suggested by Bimal Ghose, Anil Kar and Zahrid Jussain in a study for the central Arid Zone Research Institute Jodhpur. If all these scientist are interpreting the data correctly Rig veda was a reality and saraswati was a reality and not a myth. The vedic civilization was therefore a civilization much earlier than thought.



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4. THE GREAT DELUGE

ANTIQUITY OF THE VEDIC CIVILIZATION

THE GREAT DELUGE:

Certain things or events, happens, that gets ingrained in the memory of not one person but of the whole race or population and then that information is passed on from one generation to the other thus becoming a legend. One such event was the great flood which got ingrained in the memory of humanity in a large scale as is evident from various legends not only from India but also from different parts of the world. The legend of the flood is one such memory of the humanity that is there in the legends of many tribes and civilizations, present and past, from Celtic in the north to India and also mentioned in the old testament. The mention of the great flood in also there in the Vedas

I call this disaster global because of the geographical distribution of this particular legend. To be present in the legends of so many civilizations and tribes, this disaster must have been on a large scale. So large that people from all parts of the world was affected in a major way, so as to find mention in their legends. Such a massive global disaster did not occur within 4500 years, before present. The myths and legends surrounding the huge, tremendous, catastrophic global flood, seems more to be a fact rather than a fiction. The earliest written record of the flood comes from the **Sumerian civilization** some 4th to 3rd millennia BC. In the Sumerian city of Nippura (located some 200 Km south of the city of Baghdad on the bank of the Euphrates

river). There an archaeological excavation brought about a clay tablet and from this very clay tablet we come to know about a very pious man named Zisudra. He was appointed by the almighty and thus he was told to built a huge Ship and to save the mankind from the impending disaster. According to the tablet, Gods were angry of the human race and their wrong doings and they came to a conclusion that such a cleansing act should be done. The good and the pious people should be exempted from the trauma of such an act and hence Zisudra was chosen by the gods to save mankind. Zisudra got a vision that such a catastrophic deluge is going to come and that he should make a huge boat and take with him seeds of future civilization, flora, and fauna so that he can oversee the rebirth of eden once again. In the **Epic Of Gilgamesh** the legend of the flood is no different from the Sumerian legend.

Utnapishtim, the only man to survive the great flood sent by the gods, had lived in the city of Shurruapak, where he served the god Ea. The city and gods grew old, and the goddess Ishtar caused such strife among men that the gods could not sleep for the noise. So Enlil, god of earth, wind, and air, said, "Let us loose the waters on the world, and drown them all." The gods agreed, but Ea warned Utnapishtim of the impending disaster in a dream and told him to build a boat, and take on board two of every creature. For seven nights the tempest raged, until the entire world was covered in water.

At last, the boat ran aground on the top of Mount Nisir. To check the water level, Utnapishtim set free a dove, then a swallow, then a raven. When the raven did not return, Utnapishtim knew it had found a resting place and the waters were subsiding. In thanks, he lit a fire to make a sacrifice to the gods. Enlil was furious when he smelled the smoke, but wise Ea interceded, and Enlil made Utnapishtim and his wife immortal; they are the ancestors of all humanity.

The legend of the flood is also so very similar among **the Greeks**. It goes some thing like this-- -- From his throne in the high Olympos, Zeus looked down on the children of men, and saw that everywhere they followed only their lusts, and cared nothing for right or for law. And ever, as their hearts waxed grosser in their wickedness, they devised for themselves new rites to appease the anger of the gods, till the whole earth was filled with blood. Far away in the hidden glens of the Arcadian hills the sons of Lykaon feasted and spake proud words against the majesty of Zeus, and Zeus himself came down from his throne to see their way and their doings. Then Zeus returned to his home on Olympos, and he gave the word that a flood of waters should be let loose upon the earth, that the sons of man might die for their great wickedness. So the west wind rose in its might, and the dark rain-clouds veiled the whole heaven, for the winds of the north which drive away the mists and vapors were shut up in their prison house. On hill and valley burst the merciless rain, and the rivers, loosened from their courses, rushed over the whole plains and up the mountain-side. From his home on the highlands of Phtia, Deukalion looked forth on the angry sky, and when he saw the waters swelling in the valleys beneath, he called Pyrrha, his wife, and said to her: 'The time has come of which my father, the wise Prometheus, forewarned me. Make ready, therefore, the ark which I have built, and place in it all that we may need for food while the flood of waters is out upon

the earth.' The Pyrrha hastened to make all things ready, and they waited till the waters rose up to the highlands of Phthia and floated away the ark of Deukalion. The fishes swam amidst the old elm-groves, and twined amongst the gnarled boughs on the oaks, while on the face of the waters were tossed the bodies of men; and Deukalion looked on the dead faces of stalwart warriors, of maidens, and of babes as they rose and fell upon the heavy waves.

The Chaldean flood myth is very near to the Old testament. In this legend even the dimension of the huge boat has been revealed. The myth goes like this---After the death of Ardates, his son Xisuthrus reigned eighteen years. In his time happened a great deluge, the history of which is thus described: The deity Cronos appeared to him in a vision, and warned him that upon the fifteenth day of the month Desius there would be a flood, by which mankind would be destroyed. He therefore enjoined him to write a history of the beginning, procedure, and conclusion of all things and to bury it in the City of the Sun at Sippara: and to build a vessel, and take with him into it his friends and relations, and to convey on board everything necessary to sustain life, together with all the different animals, both birds and quadrupeds, and trust himself fearlessly to the deep. Having asked the deity whither he was to sail, he was answered: 'To the Gods;' upon which he offered up a prayer for the good of mankind. He then obeyed the divine admonition, and built a vessel five stadia in length, and two in breadth. Into this he put everything which he had prepared, and last of all converged into it his wife, his children, and his friends. After the flood had been upon the earth, and was in time abated, Xisuthrus sent out birds from the vessel; which not finding any food, nor any place whereupon they might rest their feet, returned to him again. After an interval of some days, he sent them forth a second time; and they now returned with their feet tinged with mud. He made a trial a third time with these birds; but they returned to him no more: from whence he judged that the surface of the earth had appeared above the waters. He therefore made an opening in the vessel, and upon looking out found that it was stranded upon the side of some mountain; upon which he immediately quitted it with his wife, his daughter and the pilot. Xisuthrus then paid his adoration to the earth, and having constructed an altar, offered sacrifices to the gods.

The very effort to mention all these flood legends in this article has but one motive and that is to impress upon my readers the striking similarities of these legends, though these legends are from different geographical regions. The legend of Noah's ark in the Old Testament is no different than all the above legends discussed. **In India** we have two flood legends. The first is about a pious king called Manu. This legend appears in Satapata Brahmana.

Once very long ago a pious king named Manu was washing himself. When he reached into the water jar to wash his hands, he pulled up a small fish.

The fish spoke to him, saying, "If you take care of me and protect me until I am full grown, I will save you from the terrible things to come." Manu asked the fish, "What do you mean? What terrible things?" The fish told Manu that there would soon be a great flood that would destroy every human being on earth. The fish then instructed Manu to place him in a clay jar for safety, and Manu complied. As the fish grew, Manu kept placing it in a series of larger clay jars until

the fish was full grown and could be placed safely in the sea. Soon the fish became ghasha, one of the largest fishes in the world.

The fish instructed Manu to build a large ship, as the flood was now only months away. As the rains began, Manu tied a rope from his ship to the ghasha, which safely guided him as the waters rose. The waters grew so high that the entire earth was covered. As the waters subsided, the ghasha guided Manu to a mountaintop.

The second legend is about a pious man named satyabrata .(The name means one who always speaks the truth). Many ages after the creation of the world, Brahma resolved to destroy it with deluge, on account of the wickedness of the people. There lived at that time a pious man named Satyavrata, and as the lord of the universe loved this pious man, and wished to preserve him from the sea of destruction which was to appear on account of the depravity of the age, he appeared before him in the form of Vishnu and said: in seven days from the present time the worlds will be plunged in an ocean of death, but in the midst of the destroying waves, a large vessel, sent by me for thy use, shall stand before thee. Then shalt thou take all medicinal herbs, all the variety of feeds, and accompanied by seven saints, encircled by pairs of all brute animals, thou shalt fasten it with a large sea-serpent on my horn; for I will be near thee, drawing the vessel, with thee and thy attendants. I will remain on the ocean, O chief of men, until a night of Brahma shall be completely ended. Thou shalt then know my true greatness, rightly named the Supreme Godhead; by my favor, all thy questions shall be answered, and thy mind abundantly instructed.

The factor of commonality, in this legend, from Sumer to India and Europe is baffling. Were, Zisudra, Utnaphistim, Zeus, Xisuthrus (note the phonetic similarity with that of Zisudra), Manu, and satyabrata, the same person?? OR are they different people of the same civilization, who managed to save themselves from the great deluge and started a fresh civilization where ever they sighted land and hence the names of the person changed but the story remained the same. Did the flood actually take place? If so what was the scale of this deluge and where did this happen? These are all the question that needs to be probed. The myth of this great flood is not limited to the few mentioned herein in fact there are many, many more. They can be categorized as follows :

- 59 North American Indian flood legends
- 46 Central and South American Indian flood legends
- 31 European flood legends
- 17 Middle Eastern and African flood legends
- 23 Asian flood legends
- 37 Pacific Island and Australian Aboriginal flood legends

All these myths have few things in common:

A worldwide flood happened that destroyed both man and animals

There was a vessel, a huge boat, the dimensions also being mentioned in the myth.

An extremely small remnant of people survived

Finally resting on a mountain

Birds being released and not returning

Birds being released and returning with something

I will now try to give my readers some evidences of such a devastating deluge which took place and its possible time frame. The first and very compelling evidence is the very fact that this myth is prevalent in all culture but in spite of the varied geographical presence and varied cultural dogma the similarities are all but same. There was an article in the Sunday times dated 29.9.99 which I have quoted here verbatim for my readers.

"Compelling evidence that there was a Great Flood, as told in the Old Testament story of Noah's Ark, has been found far below the waters of the Black Sea by an American expedition.

Underwater surveyors, led by Robert Ballard, the renowned oceanographer who found the Titanic and other sunken ships of the 20th century, have discovered an ancient coastline at a depth of 450 ft.

"I am not sure whether it is Noah's flood or not Noah's flood, but I do buy that there was a flood," said David Mindell, one of the surveyors.

The Ballard team was working from a theory about the biblical flood of antiquity propounded by two marine geologists from Columbia University in New York, William Ryan and Walter Pittman, in their new book, Noah's Flood, reviewed in Scribe No. 71, page 3.

As Dr Ballard explained; "During the last great Ice Age glaciers advanced across the surface of the world. That lowered the sea level 400ft. Then, 12,000 years ago at the end of the Ice Age, the glaciers began to retreat".

With its lower sea level, the eastern Mediterranean was cut off from the Black Sea so that when the oceans started to rise, the Black Sea did not.

Dr Ballard continued: "Around 7,600 years ago, guess what happens? The Mediterranean breaks through a natural dam at the Bosphorus and catastrophically floods the land surface.

People living there are 400ft below sea level and in trouble. They are facing a flood equal to 10,000 Niagara Falls."

This flood was on a far greater scale than the one described in Genesis, which is said to have lasted for 40 days and 40 nights, covering every living thing on Earth beneath 24ft of water other than Noah, his family and his pairs of animals carried to safety on the ark.

In the new theory, it is believed that each day for two years ten cubic miles of ocean water cut through the widening Bosphorus channel as it flowed into what was then a fresh water lake, raising the level by six inches a day.

The incoming salt water, more dense than the fresh water it displaced, plunged to the bottom of the lake bed, transforming it into a sea where the depths support no life.

This area of inert darkness is known as an abyss that is anoxic, meaning that the trapped water could not circulate and has lost its oxygen, "Such conditions exist nowhere else in the world," Dr Ballard said.

The theory supposes that in this dead zone wooden ships will be preserved intact, possibly still with their Bronze Age sails, and just waiting for Dr Ballard and his team. The explorers are convinced that there may be many ships on the bottom because the Black Sea served as an important commercial waterway.

Dr Ballard has participated in 120 deep-sea expeditions. He found two Phoenician vessels more than 3,000 years old.

Fredrik Hiebert of the University of Pennsylvania, the team's chief archaeologist, said the discovery "represents the first concrete evidence for occupation of the Black Sea coast prior to its flooding."

"This is a major discovery that will begin to rewrite the history of the cultures in this key area between Europe, Asia and the ancient Middle East," Hiebert said.

The remnants of human habitation were found in more than 300 feet of water about 12 miles off the coast of Turkey."

According to professor Masse , Among all the flood myths he is interested in the Hindu myth where particularly, the myth describes an alignment of the five bright planets that has happened only once in the last 5,000 years. Thus we do start getting a possible time frame about the great deluge. That's from 7500BC to 5000BC. In 2004, at a conference of geologists, astronomers, and archaeologists, Masse outlined his evidence for a world-ravaging impact in the middle of the Indian Ocean. Ted Bryant, a geomorphologist at the University of Wollongong in New South Wales, Australia, was intrigued and enlisted the help of Dallas Abbott, an assistant professor at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University. In 2005,

they formed the Holocene Impact Working Group (referring to the geological period covering the last 11,000 years) to seek out the geological signatures of a mega tsunami. If a 600-foot-high wave ravages a coastline, it should leave a lot of debris behind. In the case of waves generated by asteroid impacts, the debris they leave in their wake is believed to form gigantic, wedge-shaped sandy structures known as chevrons that are sometimes packed with deep-oceanic microfossils dredged up by the tsunami.

When Abbott began searching satellite images on Google Earth, she saw dozens of chevrons along shorelines and inland in Africa and Asia. The shape and size of these chevrons suggest that they might have been formed by waves emanating from the impact of a comet slamming into the deep ocean off Madagascar. The chevrons in Madagascar associated with the crater were filled with melted microfossils from the bottom of the ocean. There is no explanation for their presence other than a cosmic impact, she says. "People are going to have to start taking this theory a lot more seriously. The next step is to perform carbon-14 dating on the fossils to see if they are indeed 5,000 years old. Meanwhile, Bryant contends that chevrons found (pdf) 4 miles inland from the shore of Madagascar were formed by a wave that traveled 25 miles along the coast, moving almost parallel to the shoreline. "Neither erosion nor any other terrestrial process could have caused these formations. The biggest marine landslide ever recorded happened 7,200 years ago off the coast of Norway, and there was a tsunami, but it was a far cry from leaving deposits 200 meters above sea level, Bryant says.

The Great Flood was a very unusual and singular event. Because of the magnitude of the destruction, it would have left an indelible and permanent mark on the minds of any survivors. This story would have been told and retold, passing down from generation to generation. And so it was. What could have caused such an event that etched its remembrance in the population of the world. That event has to be really big. It is now pertinent to mention the work of Plato here at this juncture-- Timaeus and Critias. Here plato described about a paradise named Atlantis which suddenly vanished from the face of the earth. He described about an intelligent civilization that lived in this beautiful paradise. Both accounts, Timaeus and Critias, describe:

A pre-flood civilization.

God's decision to destroy mankind because of his wickedness.

The destruction of civilization by a Great Flood.

The suddenness of the cataclysm.

The extent of the destruction affecting the entire globe.

According to Plato, the island of Atlantis and the distant Mediterranean civilizations were completely destroyed in a single day and night of violent earthquakes and floods. They

disappeared into the depths of the sea. And according to Plato, the Great Flood occurred around 11,400 years ago. (The account records the event occurring 9000 years before Plato's time. Plato's dialogues were written around 360 BC) This would make the Pre-Flood civilization an Ice Age civilization.

A Global disaster of such proportion can happen only when there is an impact by a comet or an asteroid. An atmospheric impact, commonly referred to as a bolide or airburst, is another type of impact event. The Tunguska impact is an example of a strong bolide event. Another type of impact is an Ice Age glacial impact. Such an impact could produce the effects contained in the Biblical description of the Great Flood.

A comet/asteroid impact on a large glacier mass could cause the following effects:

Release vast quantities of heat.

Produce massive earthquakes.

Produce trapped superheated steam that would exert force to uplift and move a large glacier mass.

Fracture glacial sheets.

Eject water, steam and ice high into the atmosphere.

Release stored potential energy.

Produce a partial glacial ice melt.

Produce an almost immediate rise in sea level.

Produce great rainfall.

Slowly driving the ocean crust deeper.

Slowly raising the continental crust higher.

Produce volcanoes and lava flows.

The impact of a large comet/asteroid (~2 mile diameter) with an Ice Age glacial sheet could produce the following chain of events:

The impactor penetrates through miles of thick ice, like a bullet. Below the surface, the impact releases the energy of a million nuclear bombs. A gas bubble of trapped superheated steam

forms. The steam causes a general uplifting of the glacier ice sheet. The ice sheet rises like a steam boiler about to burst. The gas bubble exerts tremendous force on the ice flow. The impact triggers the release of potential energy locked in ice flow allowing million of tons to break loose and begins to move on the frictionless fluid bed toward the oceans. Some of the steam escapes like an erupting geyser or volcano. The glacier sheet fractures, opening up fissures for the steam to escape. Boiling water and steam further lubricate the surface boundary layer of the ice flow. The explosion hurls large masses of ice fragments into the air with great force. Ice and water flowing off the continents cause an immediate rise in sea level in conformance with the Displacement Theory. The released superheated steam falls back to Earth, generating very violent storms. Heavy rain falls for several days and weeks. The atmosphere heats up. Large earthquakes combined with the Earth's crustal rebound from the movement of large ice sheets exert significant strain on the tectonic plates. The strain is relieved by the eruption of volcanoes, and lava flows throughout the world. Underwater earthquakes expose frozen methane hydrate beds. The heat generated at the impact point and the heat from underwater volcanoes and lava flows elevate the temperature of the ocean bottoms and melt the exposed methane hydrate. The released methane bubbles to the surface, where in time it is ignited by lightning strikes, which further raises atmospheric temperatures. The methane burn releases large quantities of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. In the end, the global temperature rises significantly, breaking the back of the Ice Age. This in turn sets the ball rolling and the earth plunges in the cycle of destruction till the earth and its dynamics slows down considerably. Then the climate again stabilizes. The oceans, the seas, the rivers starts their respective restorative actions.

In India also there are strong evidence of this Global disaster. Mahabharat tell about the sunken dwarka. For centuries, local fishermen on the coast of Mahabalipuram in India have believed that a great flood consumed a city over 10,000 years ago in a single day. This story was recorded by British explorer J. Goldingham, who visited the area in 1798. The legend said there were six temples submerged beneath the water, with the seventh temple still standing on the shore. Now author Graham Hancock thinks he's found them.

"I have long regarded Mahabalipuram, because of its flood myths and fishermen's sightings as a very likely place in which discoveries of underwater structures could be made, and I proposed that a diving expedition should be undertaken there," says Hancock.

In April, he made a diving expedition to the area, working with the U.K. Scientific Exploration Society and India's National Institute of Oceanography. The SES says, "A joint expedition of 25 divers from the Scientific Exploration Society and India's National Institute of Oceanography led by Monty Halls and accompanied by Graham Hancock, have discovered an extensive area with a series of structures that clearly show man made attributes, at a depth of (16-23 feet) offshore of Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu. The scale of the submerged ruins, covering several square

miles and at distances of up to a mile from shore, ranks this as a major marine-archaeological discovery as spectacular as the ruined cities submerged off Alexandria in Egypt.”

The NIO says, “A team of underwater archaeologists from National Institute of Oceanography NIO have successfully unearthed evidence of submerged structures off Mahabalipuram and established first-ever proof of the popular belief that the Shore temple of Mahabalipuram is the remnant of series of total seven of such temples built that have been submerged in succession. The discovery was made during a joint underwater exploration with the Scientific Exploration Society, U.K.”

“Between 17,000 years ago and 7000 years ago, at the end of the last Ice Age, terrible things happened to the world our ancestors lived in,” Hancock says. “Great ice caps over northern Europe and north America melted down, huge floods ripped across the earth, sea-level rose by more than (325 feet), and about (15 million square miles) of formerly habitable lands were swallowed up by the waves.”

Besides deep diving explorations, ancient submerged structures have also been discovered from space. Space NASA satellite images have revealed a mysterious ancient bridge in the Palk Strait between India and Sri Lanka. The bridge has been named Adam’s Bridge and was created from a chain of shoals, about 18 miles long. It’s unique curvature reveals that it’s manmade.

Archeological studies reveal that the first human inhabitants of Sri Lanka came to the island around 1,750,000 years ago and the bridge is about the same age. This is in line with a legend called Ramayana, which dates from more than 1,700,000 years ago. In this epic, a bridge was built between Rameshwaram (India) and the coast of Sri Lanka under the supervision of the god-like Rama. This also gives us some idea about the antiquity of the Vedic civilization. If Ramayana was a reality then Vedic civilization is the pre glacial civilization.

In the end of this article I can only say that The universal human myth may be the first example of disaster reporting.

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5. THE SUNKEN CITY OF DWARKA

DWARKA AND THE MAHABHARATA

Every Indian, either living in India or living outside India, knows about the two epics that dominates the Indian psyche and the psyche of the terra firma. These epics are the Mahabharata and the Ramayana. The Mahabharata has exercised a continuous and pervasive influence on the Indian mind for millennia. The Mahabharata, originally written by Sage Ved Vyas in Sanskrit, has been translated and adapted into numerous languages and has been set to a variety of interpretations. Dating back to "remote antiquity", it is still a living force in the life of the Indian masses. With more than 74,000 verses, long prose passages, and about 1.8 million words in total, the Mahabharata is one of the longest epic poems in the world. The Mahabharata has a total length of more than 90,000 verses.

Everything about the Mahabharata is huge, from its sprawling length, to the enormous breadth of its vision. The longest of all epics is like an encyclopedia, a world all on its own. At its core is the powerful and moving story of the Pandava and Kaurava cousins who ultimately fight the greatest war of all, Kurukshetra. But that is not all, the Mahabharata is full of mythic stories, vast time spans of history, detailed geography and a massive body of spiritual teachings.

The author of the massive epic is Rishi Vyas, who, according to the text itself, spent three years creating it, rising every morning, and working on it every day. His abode was Vyas Gufa, a cave high in the Himalayas, which is still visited today by travelers on their way to Mansarovar.

In Mahabharata's Musal Parva, the Dwarka is mentioned as being gradually swallowed by the ocean. Krishna had forewarned the residents of Dwaraka to vacate the city before the sea submerged it. The Sabha Parva gives a detailed account of Krishna's flight from Mathura with his followers to Dwaraka to escape continuous attacks of Jarasandh's on Mathura and save the lives of its subjects. For this reason, Krishna is also known as RANCHOOR (one who runs away from the battle-field). Dr. SR Rao and his team in 1984-88 (Marine Archaeology Unit) undertook an extensive search of this city along the coast of Gujarat where the Dwarikadeesh temple stands

now, and finally they succeeded in unearthing the ruins of this submerged city off the Gujarat coast.

The first archaeological excavations at Dwaraka were done by the Deccan College, Pune and the Department of Archaeology, Government of Gujarat, in 1963 under the direction of H.D. Sankalia. It revealed artifacts many centuries old.

Marine Archaeology Unit (MAU) jointly by the National Institute of Oceanography and the Archaeological Survey of India. Under the guidance of Dr. Rao, a great marine archaeologist, a team consisting of expert underwater explorers, trained diver-photographers and archaeologists was formed. The technique of geophysical survey was combined with the use of echo-sounders, mud-penetrators, sub-bottom profilers and underwater metal detectors. This team carried out 12 marine archaeological expeditions between 1983 to 1992 and articles and antiquities recovered were sent to Physical Research Laboratory for dating. By using thermo-luminescence, carbon dating and other modern scientific techniques, the artifacts were found to belong to the period between 15th to 18th century B.C. In his great work, *The Lost City of Dwaraka*, Dr. Rao has given scientific details of these discoveries and artifacts.

Between 1983 to 1990, the well-fortified township of Dwaraka was discovered, extending more than half mile from the shore. The township was built in six sectors along the banks of a river. The foundation of boulders on which the city's walls were erected proves that the land was reclaimed from the sea. The general layout of the city of Dwaraka described in ancient texts agrees with that of the submerged city discovered by the MAU.

The ASI conducted a second round of excavations in 1979 under S.R. Rao's direction. He found a distinct pottery known as lustrous red ware, which could be more than 3,000 years old. Based on the results of these excavations, the search for the sunken city in the Arabian Sea began in 1981. Scientists and archaeologists have continually worked on the site for 20 years.

The UAW began excavations at Dwaraka again from January 2007. Dr. Tripathi said: "To study the antiquity of the site in a holistic manner, excavations are being conducted simultaneously both on land [close to the Dwarakadhish temple] and undersea so that finds from both the places can be co-related and analyzed scientifically."

The objective of the excavation is to know the antiquity of the site, based on material evidence. In the offshore excavation, the ASI's trained underwater archaeologists and the divers of the

Navy searched the sunken structural remains. The finds were studied and documented.



On land, the excavation is being done in the forecourt of the Dwarakadhish temple. Students from Gwalior, Lucknow, Pune, Vadodara, Varanasi and Bikaner are helping ASI archaeologists. In the forecourt, old structures including a circular one have been found. A small cache of 30 copper coins was discovered.

"Within the past few months, the engineers began some dredging operations there and they pulled up human fossil bones, fossil wood, stone tools, pieces of pottery and many other things that indicated that it indeed was a human habitation site that they had. And they were able to do more intensive sonar work there and were able to identify more structures. They appeared to have been laid out on the bank of a river that had been flowing from the Indian subcontinent out into that area. (That river was the legendary saraswati river) According to the news releases, they have done a radiocarbon testing on a piece of wood from the underwater site that is now yielding an age of 9,500 years which would place it near the end of the last Ice Age. There were actually two radiocarbon dates: one about 7500 years old and another about 9500 years old. The 9500 year old one seems to be the strongest one. That's the one they are going with. This was announced by Minister Joshi (Murli Manohar Joshi was the Indian Minister for Ocean Technology then). Mahabharata was then a reality and it was not a cock and bull story concocted by Ved Vyas.

Ved Vyas also described the city of Dwarka in great details. The poets described Dwarka as a city so golden that it cast its radiance on the ocean for miles around it. Dwar means door, and Dwarka is a city of many doors or a gateway. It was an island, connected to the mainland by many bridges, and legend says that Krishna asked Vishwakarma, the architect of the gods to build him a city more beautiful than any before it.

Krishna chose a remote location, far beyond the reach of Jarasandh. He picked distant Dwarka on the western coast of India, far from Mathura, and spent a year putting his plans into action. He built on the sunken remains of a previous kingdom, Kushasthali, which itself was built on older ruins, all underwater. Krishna reclaimed a hundred miles of land from the sea and called in Vishwakarma, the architect of the gods to give him a city that was the envy of the world.

The Mahabharat and the Bhagwat Puran and other texts, describe the wonders of Dwarka. The most expensive and luxurious materials were used. In those days of unbelievable riches, it was quite common to use precious stones, gold and silver as construction material. Royalty and rich nobles invariably used gold, those who could not afford it used silver or metal.

Dwarka was a city of rose and gold. The palaces and many of the mansions were built of gold, over which pink lotus domes towered, topped by soaring golden spires. The floors were made of emeralds. Precious stones studded the walls and crystal arches curved overhead, inlaid with gold. The houses were beautifully decorated and sculptures adorned the walls. Even the cowsheds were made of silver, brass and iron.



Seen in this beautiful picture is lord Krishna coming to the island city of dwarka

Dwarka was a very well planned city, following the highly developed science of town planning. The architect, Vishwakarma, first mapping out the highways, lanes, gates and parks. He sectioned off plots and divided the city into six zones, residential and commercial. He planned out the port and created the bridges and gateways and the fortifications. Everything was laid out in detail before the construction began.

Like many kingdoms of the time Dwarka had a passport system. Its citizens were issued with a clay seal which had to be presented when they entered or left the massive gates. The seal of

Dwaraka was a mythical three headed dog and seals matching the description have been found in the undersea ruins today.

In the Newspaper The Hindu dated 23 Feb 2007 an article was published which I reproduce here verbatim." CHENNAI: Ancient structural remains of some significance have been discovered at Dwaraka, under water and on land, by the Underwater Archaeology Wing (UAW) of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Alok Tripathi, Superintending Archaeologist, UAW, said the ancient underwater structures found in the Arabian Sea were yet to be identified. "We have to find out what they are. They are fragments. I would not like to call them a wall or a temple. They are part of some structure," said Dr. Tripathi, himself a trained diver.

Thirty copper coins were also found in the excavation area. The structures found on land belonged to the medieval period. "We have also found 30 copper coins. We are cleaning them. After we finish cleaning them, we can give their date," he said.

Dwaraka is a coastal town in Jamnagar district of Gujarat. Traditionally, modern Dwaraka is identified with Dvaraka or Dvaravati, mentioned in the Mahabharata as Krishna's city. Dwaraka was a port, and some scholars have identified it with the island of Barka mentioned in the Periplus of Erythrean Sea. Ancient Dwaraka sank in sea and hence is an important archaeological site." My idea is not to go in the discussion of how the city went under the sea but the fact is that this city is now approximately under water of the Arabian sea some 135 feet below water. This city has been mentioned in the Mahabharata and that this city has been found, dated, and mapped. The probable date of this city is between 9500 to 7500 years before present which will put it as 7500 to 5500 years BC.

Mahabharata was not a fictional epic but a reality is also evident from the works of many scholars who have done extensive work in this area, and by getting all the facts together what comes out of the whole is the fact that the near about exact dates of the major happenings in the epic has also been identified. This at least proves that the Vedic civilization is a much older phenomenon than perceived by many western scholars till date.

There is a striking inscription which has been found in the Jain Temple at Aihole prepared by one Chalukya King Pulakeshi. It says, according to scholars, that the temple was constructed in $30+3000+700+5 = 3735$ years, after the Bharat War and $50+6+500 = 556$ years of Shaka era in Kali era. Today Shaka era is 1910. Hence $1910- 556 = 1354$ years ago the temple was constructed. Thus the year of inscribing this note is 634 AD. At this time 3735 years had passed from the Bharat War. So the date of the War comes to 3101 BC. This is also the date of Kali Yuga Commencement. Naturally, it is evident that relying on the beginning of Kaliyuga Era and holding that the War took place just before the commencement of Kaliyuga,

The verse inscribed is :

Trinshatsu Trisahasreshu Bhaaratdahavaditaha | Saptabda Shatayukteshu

Gateshwabdeshu Panchasu | Panchashatasu Kalaukale Shatasu Panchashatsu

cha | Samatsu Samatitasu Shakaanamapi Bhoobhujaam | |

The verses has been interpreted by considering the clauses of the verse. It says "3030 years from the Bharat War" in the first line, (Trinshatsu Trisahasreshu Bhaaratdahavaaditaha) where the first clause of the sentence ends. in the second line, the second clause starts and runs up to the middle of the third line thus (Saptabda.....Kalaukale) This means $700+5+50 = 755$ years passed in the Kali Era. It is clear from the former portion of the verse that 3030 years passed from the Bharat War and 755 years passed from Kali Era. Kali Era started from 3101 BC. 755 years have passed so $3101-755 = 2346$ BC is the year when 3030 years had passed from the Bharat War. So $2346+3030 = 5376$ BC appears to be the date of Bharat War.

The Greek Ambassador Magasthenis has recorded that 138 generations have passed between Krishna and Chandragupta Maurya. Many scholars have taken this evidence, but taking only 20 years per generation they fixed the date of Krishna as 2760 years before Chandragupta. But this is wrong because the record is not of ordinary people to take 20 years per generation. In the matter of general public, one says that when a son is born a new generation starts. But in the case of kings, the name is included in the list of Royal Dynasty only after his coronation to the throne. Hence, one cannot allot 20 years to one king. We have to find out the average per king by calculating on various INDIAN Dynasties. I have considered 60 kings from various dynasties and calculated the average of each king as 35 years. Here is a list of some of important kings with the no. of years ruling.

Chandragupta Mourya 330-298 B.C. 32 years.

Bindusar 298-273 B.C. 25 years.

Ashok 273-232 B.C. 41 years.

Pushyamitra Shunga 190-149 B.C. 41 years.

Chandragupta Gupta 308-330 A.D. 22 years.

Samudragupta 330-375 A.D. 45 years.

Vikramaditya 375-414 A.D. 39 years.

Kumargupta 414-455 A.D. 41 years.

Harsha 606-647 A.D. 41 years.

327 years.

The average is $327/9 = 36.3$ years.

Multiplying 138 generations by 35 years we get 4830 years before Chandragupta Mourya. Adding Chandrgupta's date 320 B.C. to 4830 we get 5150 B.C. as the date of Lord Krishna.

Megasthenis, according to Arian, has written that between Sandrocotus to Dianisaum 153 generations and 6042 years passed. From this data, we get the average of 39.5 years per king. From this we can calculate 5451 years for 138 generations. So Krishna must have been around 5771 B.C.

Pliny gives 154 generations and 6451 years between Bacchus and Alexander. This Bacchus may be the famous Bakasura who was killed by Bhimasena. This period comes to about 6771 years B.C.

Thus Mahabharata period ranges from 5000 B.C. to 6000 B.C. and Dwarka fits into this scenario perfectly.

Mahabharat mentions the ancient tradition as 'Shravanadini Nakshatrani', i.e., Shravan Nakshatra was given the first place in the Nakshatra- cycle (Adi-71/34 and Ashvamedh 44/2) Vishwamitra started

counting the Nakshatras from Shravan when he created 'Prati Srushti'. He was angry with the old customs. So he started some new customs. Before Vishwamitra's time Nakshatras were counted from the one which was occupied by the sun on the Vernal Equinox. Vishwamitra changed this fashion and used diagonally opposite point i.e. Autumnal Equinox to list the Nakshtras. He gave first place to Shravan which was at the Autumnal Equinox then. The period of Shravan Nakshatra on autumnal equinox is from 6920 to 7880 years B.C. This was Vishwamitra's period at the end of Treta yuga. Mahabharat War took place at the end of Dwapar yuga. Subtracting the span of Dwapar Yuga of 2400 years we get $7880 - 2400 = 5480$ B.C. as the date of Mahabharat War.

Recently Dr. S.B. Rao, Emeritus Scientist of the National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula, Goa, 403004, has discovered under the sea, Dwaraka and dated it as between 5000 to 6000 BC. This news has been published by all the leading newspapers on 22nd October

1988.

many works of the Vedic and Puranic tradition contain a sufficient number of clues in the form of astronomical observations which can be used to determine the approximate date of Mahabharata and thus establish the historical authenticity of the events described in this great epic. Notable among these works are the Parashar Sanghita, the Bhagvat Puran, Shakalya Sanghita, and the Mahabharat itself. Aryabhata, one of the greatest mathematicians and astronomers of India in the fifth century AD, examined the astronomical evidence described in

the Mahabharata in his great work known as the "Aryabhattachiya". According to the positions of the planets recorded in the Mahabharata, its approximate date was calculated by Aryabhata to be 3100 BC implying that the great war described in the Mahabharata was fought approximately 5000 years ago, as most Hindus have always believed.

A number of British scholars of the 19th century, especially Friedrich Max Muller, tried to interpret this astronomical evidence to prove that the observations recorded in Hindu scriptures are imaginary. As an amateur astronomer, I propose to examine the astronomical evidence presented in the Bhagvat Puran and Max Muller's criticism of this evidence in light of the advances made in astronomy in the past fifty years. Max Muller, in the preface to his translation of the Rig Veda, examines the astronomical observations described in the Bhagvat Puran and concludes that these observations are "imaginary", apparently because they did not agree with the prevalent views of the European, primarily British, Indologists of the nineteenth century about the time of the Mahabharata.

Carl Segan, a renowned astronomer at Cornell University, who hosted the public television series "Cosmos" in 1985, pointed out that Hindus were the only ones who came anywhere close to correctly estimating the real age of the universe. Unlike many cultural traditions which treat science and religion as antithetical to each other, the Hindu tradition encourages the study of physics and metaphysics both for a comparative understanding of the true nature of the cosmic mystery surrounding and pervading the universe.

Everything about the Mahabharat is huge, from its sprawling length, to the enormous breadth of its vision. The longest of all epics is like an encyclopaedia, a world all on its own. At its core is the powerful and moving story of the Pandava and Kaurava cousins who ultimately fight the greatest war of all, Kurukshetra. But that is not all, the Mahabharata is full of mythic stories, vast time spans of history, detailed geography and a massive body of spiritual teachings.

In the end I would like to invite my readers to a 3.35 minutes video on www.disclose.tv which will precisely show case the antiquity of this great civilization. The link is given below. Copy and paste on the address bar of your browser and press enter.

http://www.disclose.tv/action/viewvideo/1134/Dvaraka_Giant_Underwater_City_found_in_India
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6.RAMAYAN BY VALMIKI WAS NOT JUST A MYTH BUT A REALITY

RAMAYAN BY VALMIKI WAS NOT JUST A MYTH OR A LEGEND

When we were children our noted film maker Mr.Ramanand Sagar launched his opus magnum Ramayana on Indian television and during those days color Television was a novelty in every household and, though under strict government control, the televisions had a limited number of channels. This teleserial was aired in the evening prime time slot and we clearly remember that we would not shift anywhere during that hour and would watch Ramayana with rapt attention. As a child I remember reading the unabridged Ramayana and it had taken me about a month to finish that epic. By the time I had reached the last chapters I had forgotten the intricate details of the earlier chapters.

Every Indian either living in India or anywhere else in this world knows about Ramayana and the Mahabharata. In India it is every fathers dream to have a son like Rama every brothers dream to have a brother like Lakshman, every wife's dream to have a husband like Rama. This epic or the Legend has a profound effect in the Indian psyche. The other great epic is Mahabharata,(about which I have written in my earlier article titled "Dwarka and Mahabharata") where there is a mention about Ramayana. Mahabharata was an event that had occurred about 5300 years BC which means about 7000years before present. Therefore Ramayana is an event which precedes Mahabharata and that would also mean that Ramayana is 7000 years before present.

Rich in its descriptions and poetic language, it consists of seven books or Kandas and 24,000 couplets and has been translated into many languages. The seven "kandas" of *Ramayana* are: "*Bal Kanda*", the boyhood section; "*Ayodhya Kanda*", Rama's life in Ayodhya, until his banishment; "*Aranya Kanda*", Rama's life in the forest and Sita's abduction by Ravana; "*Kishkindha Kanda*", Rama's stay at Kishkindha, the capital of his monkey ally, Sugriva; "*Sundara Kanda*", Rama's passage to Sri Lanka; "*Yuddha Kanda*" or "*Lanka Kanda*", Rama's battle with Ravana, the recovery of Sita, and return to Ayodhya; and "*Uttara Kanda*", the section narrating Rama's life in Ayodhya as king, the birth of his two sons, Sita's test of innocence and return to her mother, and Rama's demise or "jala samadhi". The *Ramayana* tells of the birth and education of RAMA, (q.v.), a prince and the seventh incarnation of the god VISHNU, (q.v.), and recounts his winning of the hand of Sita in marriage. Displaced as rightful heir to his father's throne,

Rama goes into exile, accompanied by Sita and by his brother Lakshmana. Sita is carried off by the demon king Ravana. With the aid of the monkey general Hanuman and an army of monkeys and bears, Rama, after a long search, slays Ravana and rescues Sita. Rama regains his throne and rules wisely. In the probable addition, Sita is accused in rumors of adultery during her captivity. Although innocent, she bears Rama's twin sons in exile, sheltered by the hermit Valmiki, said to be the author of the poem. After many years Rama and Sita are reunited.

The first thing that sets us thinking about the legend ,not being a legend but could be a true story is the fact that Ravana abducts sita and takes her in an aerial vehicle called the pushpak rath. Question is if we all say that this was a figment of Valmiki's imagination then how did Valmiki imagine a flying object which could transport humans over great distance? Imagining something which you have never seen before is impossible, and cannot happen. Let us say that you are told to imagine a very ferocious and blood thirsty beast then we would probably put a face of a fire emanating dragon, as we have seen visuals of a dragon, then we would probably put a body of a tyrannosaurus as we know and have seen tyrannosaurus. In short we have seen everything and we have taken parts of those to create a new thing. So Puspak rath was a type of an aerial vehicle and its mention in the epic, makes the epic somewhat of a reality.

The second thing that comes to my mind is the very fact that the monkey soldiers had to built a bridge to connect the southern India with Lanka (In Ramayana Sri Lanka was known as Lanka) which means Sri Lanka was separated from the Indian subcontinent. Dr Glen Milne of Durham University is one of the world's leading expert in the cutting edge science of "inundation mapping". They use a very powerful computer program to calculate the complex variables to produce accurate models of ancient shorelines at a chosen date and a chosen locality. He has done a fantastic work on the Indian shoreline from 21300 years ago to 4800 years BC. One can see the comparative pictures in the book titled Underworld by Graham Hancock. Sri Lanka was attached with the Indian subcontinent till 10600 years before present. It completely separated from the Indian subcontinent by 4800 years BC. We know that Mahabharata was an event some 5300 BC ie 7000 Before present and Ramayana precedes Mahabharata therefore Ramayana could have occurred before 7000 years before present. Also to make a land bridge between India and Sri Lanka (between Gulf of Mannar and Palk Straight) was a daunting task as the length was 48 Km The Encyclopedia Britannica says it was once the world's largest tombolo ? a sandbar connecting an island to another island or the mainland ? The existence of the bridge obviously cannot be denied! However to what extent there was manual intervention in connecting the gaps between the shoals, islands and rocks is a subject for detailed marine archaeological and geological research. This kind of research has never been carried out nor has any team been constituted so far. However, there is enough evidence about the existence as well as the use of this bridge in ancient Indian history, literature and travelogues etc.

Maharishi Valmiki has recorded in his Ramayan- (Yuudh Kand, sarg 22 and shlokas 45-73) that Shri Rama's army constructed a bridge over the sea between Rameswaram and Sri Lanka. Valmiki has narrated in detail that originally Shri Rama's army camped in Kodikarai but found that place unsuitable for constructing the bridge. Therefore, the entire army was shifted to Rameswaram. Research was carried out by Shri Ram for three days to find out a suitable location in the sea for constructing the land

route so that the army could cross over to Sri Lanka. Finally, the suitable location was identified. Shri Nal was a famous shilpakar, who had the expertise similar to that of Vishwakarma in constructing the bridges, was requested to construct the bridge. (6/22/45).

After carrying out the survey, Nal declared that a bridge can indeed be constructed. The armymen of Shri Ram utilized various tools and implements for uprooting trees like Taar, coconut, mango, ashoka, bakul etc., and with the help of various yantras transported these trees, stones, and rocks to the seashore. Shilpakar Nal directed the armymen to stand with long ropes/chains on either side and filled the space in between with creepers, trees, stones and rocks and bound them together. The construction of Ramsetu was completed in five days by connecting the existing land route consisting of islands, rocks and shoals. This bridge was being used as land route between India and Sri Lanka for thousands of years, though sometimes part of it was submerged under the seawater. King Asoka's son Mahendra and daughter Sanghamitra had used this bridge to go to Sri Lanka more than 2,300 years back.

The ancient Indians had an accurate method of time measurement. They regularly and systematically recorded the 'tithis', days marked according to the phases of the Moon, the months, the seasons, solstices, equinoxes and the positions of astrologically relevant luminaries like the Sun, the Jupiter, the Venus, and so on. In other words, the timings of events were recorded in the astronomical format. To convert this coded information on heavenly positions into a simple calendrical timeline, all that is needed is a database of ephemeris. Sage Valmiki, the celebrated composer of the Ramayana records the birth of Rama in Uttarayana (the Divine Half-year), in the Chaitra month, in the bright fortnight, on the ninth day, in the Punarvasu nakshatra, on a Monday, and under Karka lagna. Valmiki further details the birth with various planetary positions in the zodiac : Sun in Mesha at 10 deg., Mars in Capricorn at 28 degree, Jupiter in Cancer at 5 deg., Venus in Pisces at 27 deg. and Saturn in Libra at 20 deg. These starry configurations are so unique that they have occurred only once so far in measurable history and this helps us to fix the important date, the birthday of Rama, as the 4th of December, 7323 BC. Due to the slow yet continuous precession of the Earth, Rama's birthday anniversary, celebrated as Ram Navami, has since shifted by about four months over a period of about 9300 years.

Valmiki further has beautifully described the sky (Ayodhya 41/10), when Rama left for forest exile. He states, "Crux (Trishankhu), Mars, Jupiter and Mercury have cornered the Moon. Vaishakha and Milky Way are shining in the sky". Crux is on line with Hasta (Corvus) on the southern side. On the eastern side of Hasta, there are Chitra, Swati and Vishakha. As seen earlier, Mars was at 303 deg. in Dhanishta. Calculations show that Jupiter was in Poorvashadha at 251 deg. Pushya was at the western horizon with the setting Moon. On the southern side, from the west to the east, all the other planets were situated. So poetically Valmiki describes the sketch as if the Moon was cornered by the planets. The description of the sky, 17 years after the birth-date of Rama, is perfect astronomically. By doing such astronomical calculations backwards following are the dates of few events from the Ramayana:

Rama's Birth Date 4th December 7323 B.C

Rama-Seeta Married 7th April 7307 B.C

Rama Exiled 29th November 7306 B.C.

Hanuman enters Lanka 1st September 7292 B.C
Hanuman meets Seeta 2nd September 7292 B.C.
Seetu (Bridge) built 26-30th Oct. 7292 B.C on the ocean
The War begins 3rd November 7292 B.C
Kumbhakarna is killed 7th November 7292 B.C.
Ravana is killed by Rama 15th November 7292 B.C.
Rama returns to Ayodhya 6th December 7272 B.C.

Thus Ramayana was not just a mere legend but a historical document of an highly civilized, scientifically oriented,(the people mentioned had the capacity to do research carry out mega projects and had all the advanced war equipments) civilization that existed some 9000 years before present and if that be so then here was a civilization which preceded all known civilization of the world. Though Epic mentioned Bows and Arrows, do they remind us of hand-held or shoulder fired missiles? Perhaps, yes. The Epic narrates arrows that could chase, change path and direction and always close in on the enemy. The modern weapons are aiming precisely at this. A reminder of heat-tracing missiles? Naga Paanam (Naga meaning snake and Paanam meaning weapon) which could kill a person if remedial course is not administered immediately. We are now reminded of some of the chemical weapons used now. Paasa Paanam (Passa meaning that which could tie and Paanam meaning weapon). These were used to immobilize people temporarily. Immediately our mind goes to stun grenades. These are some of the weapons that were used in the war between Rama and Ravana.

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Underworld By Graham Hancock.

Tags: ramayana,Lanka,SriLanka,rameshwaram,palk
straight,war,valmiki,underworld,inundation,mapping,legend,

7. EGYPT AND THE VEDIC CIVILIZATION

EGYPT AND VEDIC CIVILIZATION

In one of my earlier article, which I wrote probably a year back, I have mentioned about the similarities, that I came across, between the Vedic Civilization and that of the Egyptian Civilization. Even then I would like to enumerate a few of the striking similarities to keep my readers informed and hence it will be easier for them to understand the context of this article.

I was reading a book by Bob Bryer, a renowned Egyptologist, titled “The Murder OF Tutankhamun”. While reading the book I found that there were some very fundamental similarities between the then Egyptian civilization and that of the present Vedic civilization i.e. the Hindus living wherever they are.

The similarities can be enumerated as follows:

1. When Tutankhamen’s Father Akhenaten, the pharaoh, shifted his capital to a place called Amarna and erected a temple dedicated to the Sun god and naming the temple as The Karnak Temple. The sun god in the Hindu pantheon is an important deity and a temple dedicated to the Sun God is situated in the state of Orissa build in 1278 CE by Narasimha Deva. This temple is called KARNAK TEMPLE. We do see a similarity don’t we?
2. When the Pharaoh dies he is first mummified and then taken on a last journey along with all his belongings. All along the route through which his body passes, paid mourners stand lined on both sides of the route and they wail beating their chest . This is exactly what the rudalis of Tribal Purulia in west Bengal does. Beating their chest and crying loudly is a means of livelihood. It is done to express the grief when a person of wealthy means dies.
- 3 In the Egyptian phonetics the word “Wadi” pronounced as waadi means beautiful valley, lush and green . In the devnagri phonetics of which the language Hindi is a derivative the word “Wadi” also means the same thing.

Seeing these similarities I had a mind to do a more or less detailed study of these two civilization with an eye to the antiquity of the vedic civilization.

The two most important epics of the vedic civilization is the “Mahabharata” and “The Ramayana”. These two epics are not just a figment of somebody’s imagination but are in fact, FACTS that has been chronicled. The Ramayana is dated some 8000 years BC and The Mahabharata is dated to 5000 years BC. (refer my articles on Ramayana and Mahabharata). These dates do indicate that the Vedic civilization was a reality and a civilization that was thriving with all its majesty and grandeur all along the banks of Saraswati River, Indus River, and the Ganges. This civilization was technically very advanced. The vedic literature including the four Vedas and the Upanishads have volumes of scientific treatise known as “Kala”. There are in fact thirteen such Kalas written by various sages.

The first that needs to be mentioned is the encyclopedic Shastra which was called Akshara-Laksha. This was written by sage Valmiki. All kinds of mathematics including modern geometry, Algebra, Trigonometry, Physics, Applied mathematics, mineralogy, Hydels, the methods of measuring air heat and even electricity, and geography are said to have been treated in this treaties. The next science of importance is the Sabda –Shastra written by Kandika Rishi which deals with sounds, echoes of moving and non moving objects in creation. It also deals with mechanically reproducing sound, measuring their pitch and velocity. Sage Sakatayana is the author of Lakshana Shastra which deals with the science of determining the sex in animate and inanimate creation. Sage Kashyapa is the author of Shilpa Shastra and it comprises of 22 chapters. 307 varieties of shilpas including 11 types of construction like Temples, Palaces, Hall, etc. Earlier writers on this subject were Vishwakarma, Maya, Maruti and Chayapurusha their thoughts have been incorporated in the above Shastra. The science of Metal called the dhatuvada was written by ashwini kumaras. In it are 7 chapters which deals with dhatus or the primary substances their combinations and transmutation. Alchemy or converting copper into gold etc has been described in this work.

Ashwini Kumar was a great rishi who also authored the Visha Shastra. This is also an exhaustive work where 32 different types of poison their properties, their preparation and their antidotes. The next in line is the science of fine arts which was composed by sage Bhima and this treatise is called chitra karma shastra. The

uniqueness of this science was that students were taught to recreate a person after seeing a single strand of hair or nail. Highly advanced form of forensic science? Then there is the Mala Shastra which deals with gymnastics and sports necessary for preservation of health .

Sage Vatsyana has composed a work on Ratna Pariksha which means testing of gems. Sage Vyasa is said to have composed a work on artha shastra which had three chapters on ways of earning money legitimately. Sage agastya[agastya muni] is the originator of Shakti Shastra. Atomic fission and nuclear science formed a part of this science.

Yantra Shastra by Sage Bharadwaj explains 339 types of terrestrial vehicle,783 types of boats and ships and 101 types of airships by use of mantras Tantras and artificial means.

I have just mentioned a few of the Kalas only to impress upon my readers that this civilization was far more superior than any other inhabitation during that period. AND somewhere during this period there was a global catastrophe that compelled this civilization to shift base and somewhere during this period Egypt emerged. When we talk of Vedic civilization's geographical distribution we do not put them in the political boundary of India as it is today. Vedic civilization extended from Iran in the west through Afghanistan Pakistan, India, Tibet, Nepal all the way to Burma and Java Borneo Sumatra archipelago in the East. Therefore it would not have been difficult for the large group of people to shift to Egypt from, let's say, Iran. Now when the large group shifts to a new place and starts to settle what will change in them is their material culture as that is determined by the environment and the prevalent conditions. What will not change is the social organization, the rituals, the religious process, and the language.

The name Egypt comes from the word "Ajap" which in Sanskrit is Ajapati which signifies Lord Ram as the most illustrious forbearer of the Aja clan. Aja was the grandfather of lord Ram. The word Ram means God and like the Vedic tradition where the rulers were considered as being representatives or descendants of God, the Egyptians also considered their Pharaoh as God or their descendants and their Pharaoh was also named as Ramesis I or II. Here I would like to mention one

of the interesting fact about the sphinx. The pyramids have been dated as 3000 years BC and the Sphinx is dated to be 6000 Years BC. This means that when the pyramids were being made, the sphinx stood in front of them as a reminder of a civilization which was antique to them and full of intrigue.

Dr.S.K.Balasubramaniam in his book “Hindu Mythology as prehistory” says that the history of Egypt goes back to thousands of year in time to the period of Yayati who had two wives namely devayani and Sharmishtha. Yayati,by some forces of nature became prematurely old and was thus very depressed. He asked his Eldest son Yadu who was from Devayani to relieve him from his predicament by exchanging his youth with the old age. Yadu refused to do the needful and so did all other sons. It was Puru the youngest and the son from Sharmishtha who agreed to help his father. Hence he was crowned the sovereign of the world superseding his elder brothers. Purus decendants were the Puravas later became known as the Pharaohs of Egypt who ruled over his father’s domain with the elder brothers as subject to him.

According to Count Biornsttierna in his book “The theogony of the Hindus” has lot of information on the Vedic culture in ancient Egypt. It says that the temples of upper Egypt are of greater antiquity than those of the lower Egypt and consequently the religion of Egypt, according to the testimony of those monument, came from India. The chronicles found in the temple of Abydos and Sias testify that the religion of Egypt proceeded from India. Professor Brugsh agrees with this view and in his book “The History Of Egypt” mentions, “We have a right to more than suspect that India, in 8000 Years BC, sent a colony of emigrants who carried with them their art and advanced civilization into what is known as Egypt. The Egyptians came according to their records from a mysterious land now known to lie on the shores of Indian ocean” In this context it will not be prudish on my part to say that 8000 years BC was the period when Lord ram ruled over the Indian subcontinent and that is why Egypt got its name from Lord Ram’s grandfather “Aja”.

In Nav Bharat Times (A reputed news paper in India) dated 18th April 1967 reported that in one of the excavation that was being conducted in the Egyptian

Pyramid date 3000 years BC and engraved verse from Bhagawad Gita was found. The verse was “vasami jirnani yatha vhiaya” This means “as a person puts on new garment, giving up the old ones, the soul similarly accepts a new material body giving up the old and the useless ones”. This actually explains the ritual of the mummy making and the elaborate burial system in the Egyptian civilization where efforts are made to make the soul comfortable with all necessary things because they believed that the soul will need all these till it finds a material body.

Reincarnation in short. Among the vedic people, The Hindus of today, each and every one believes in this concept. This find certainly boost the idea that Egypt was either a part of Vedic culture or was formed by the emigrants from India.

Professor P.N.Oak in his world famous book “world vedic Heritage” says that the Egyptians called India as the land of Punt or rather Pankht and regarded it as their divine land peopled by Punts meaning Pundits, sages, seers, and Gods. Further evidence of the Vedic roots of the Egyptian area, as mentioned in the book “ Proof of Vedic Cultures Global Existence” by Stephan Knapp, is noticed when we understand that Rama was spelled as Rham in the west. Later the “R” was dropped and consequently the African school text books asserting that Africans are Kushites (Subject of Kush son of Ram) mention Ham as the father of Kush. The twin brother of Kush was Luv and the region named after him was known in Sanskrit as Laviya, now pronounced as Libya.

Count Biornsttierna again says ,in the same book, “ on comparing the religious system between the Egyptian civilization and the Vedic civilization we are struck by their resemblance to each other. The principal of trinity with that of unity, the pre-existence of the soul, its transmigration, the division of caste into priest, warriors, traders, and agriculturists are the cardinal points of both system. Even the symbols are same on the shores of The Ganges and The Nile. Thus we find the Lingam of the shiva temples of India in the Phallus of the Ammon temples of Egypt. We find the lotus as a symbol of the sun both in India and in Egypt, and we find symbols of immortality of the soul both in India and Egypt. The power of rendering barren women fruitful is ascribed to the Temple of Shiva in India is also ascribed to the temple of Ammon in Egypt.”

Indian contacts with the Western world date back to prehistoric times. Trade relations, preceded by the migration of peoples, inevitably developed into cultural relations. Evidence of Indian contact with the ancient civilizations to her west, however is certain. Knobbed pottery vases came to Sumer from India and so did cotton. In the Akkadian tongue, Indian cotton was expressed by ideographs meaning "vegetable cloth." Assurbanipal (668-626 B.C) cultivated Indian plants including the "wool-bearing trees" of India. According to the Skandha Purana, Egypt (Africa) was known as Sancha-dvipa continent mentioned in Sir Williams Jones' dissertation on Egypt. At Alexandria, in Egypt, Indian scholars were a common sight: they are mentioned both by Dio Chrysostom (c. 100 A.D.) and by Clement (c. 200 A.D.) Indirect contact between ancient India and Egypt through Mesopotamia is generally admitted, but evidence of a direct relationship between the two is at best fragmentary. Peter Von Bohlen (1796-1840) German Indologist, compared India with ancient Egypt. He thought there was a cultural connection between the two in ancient times. There are elements of folk art, language, and rural culture of Bengal which have an affinity with their Egyptian counterparts and which have not been explained satisfactorily in terms of Aryan, Mongolian, or Dravidian influences. There are similarities between place names in Bengal and Egypt and recently an Egyptian scholar, El Mansouri, has pointed out that in both Egypt and India the worship of cow, sun, snake, and river are common.

Recently, more definitive evidence suggesting contact between India and Egypt has become available. A terracotta mummy from Lothal vaguely resembles an Egyptian mummy and a similar terracotta mummy is found also at Mohenjodaro. In this context it is of interest to note that the Egyptian mummies are said to have been wrapped in Indian muslin. Characters similar to those on the Indus seals have also been found on tablets excavated from Easter Island. Of all the Egyptian objects and motifs indicating some contact between India and Egypt during the Indus Valley period, "the cord pattern occurring in a copper tablet in the Indus Valley and on three Egyptian seals is the most striking link between the two countries. Gordon Childe has said, "In other words, in the third millennium B.C. India was already in a position to contribute to the building up of the cultural

tradition that constitutes our spiritual heritage as she notoriously has done since the time of Alexander."

Neither historical events nor cross-cultural currents can explain the unique parallels in the myths and imagery of ancient Egypt and India. Walafrid Strabo (c. 809–849) German scholar has said: "The lotus flower, sacred to Buddha and to Osiris, has five petals which symbolizes the four limbs and the head; the five senses; the five digits; and like the pyramid, the four parts of the compass and the zenith. Other esoteric meanings abound: for myths are seldom simple, and never irresponsible." In fact, Hinduism's pervading influence seems to go much earlier than Christianity. American mathematician, A. Seidenberg, has, for example, shown that the Shulbasutras, the ancient Vedic science of mathematics, constitute the source of mathematics in the antique world of Babylon to Greece: "The arithmetic equations of the Shulbasutras were used in the observation of the triangle by the Babylonians as well as in the edification of Egyptian pyramids, in particular the funeral altar in the form of pyramid known in the Vedic world as *smasana-cit*." The flower so prolific in the imagery of both India and Egypt, grows out of the waters and opens its petals to be warmed by the sun: to be fertilized. From the earliest imagery in stone at Sanchi, of the first century BC in India, the lotus is associated with Sri, the goddess of fertility, who is later invoked as Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and abundance - being worshipped by Buddhists, Jains, and Hindus alike. The lotus is held in each hand by Surya, signifying the fertilizing powers of the sun as he travels through the universe.

In Egypt, the blue lotus appears in the earliest wall paintings of the VI Dynasty at the pyramids of Saqqara and in all funerary stela. They are offered to the deceased, and held in the hand as though they possess the power to revitalize them: to bring the deceased back to life. Carved out of blue lapis, along with the golden falcon and the sun that are the symbols of the god Horus, the lotus appears among the funerary treasures from the tomb of Tutankhamen.

The lotus then, becomes a leitmotiv, a symbol most apt since it links the waters with the sun, the earth to sky - signifying fertility and regeneration in both Egypt

and India. For, it is the seed of the plant which spells out the cycle of birth-decay-death and rebirth that forms the essential pattern of belief in these two riverine and agricultural societies. In India and Egypt, the rivers Saraswati and Ganga and the Nile have brought sustenance to the land and nourished these civilizations which have survived five millennia. Both these rivers, the Ganga and the Nile, are personified and worshipped. They provide the dramatic backdrop against which myths and indeed created, to explain the topographic conditions of the land.

From its source in the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal, the Ganga flows some two thousand five hundred kilometers, through the rich deltaic region which is known as Aryavarta, in the most densely populated area of India. Puranic myths recount the divine origins of Ganga, as she fell from heaven to earth in response to penance performed by the sage Bhagiratha: to bring the powers of water to an earth parched for over a thousand years. At the seventh century seaport of Mahabalipuram in south India, this epic theme is entirely carved out of a granite rock spanning almost fifty feet. A natural cleft in the rock allows the rain water to pour down in great torrents - as though this were the descent of a mighty river. Besides this cleft are carved the serpentine forms of the naga devatas (snake divinities), the sun and the moon, the gandharvas and kinnaras (celestial beings), the hunters and animals of the forest - all of them rejoicing in this great event where the divine river is celebrated as the savior of all mankind. Here is a spectacular instance of the way in which myth is used to relate man to the environment. In this myth one senses an acute awareness of the ecological balance which needs to be maintained: of the vapors of the sea rising to the sky through heat, described in the myth as tapas, and then falling back to earth as the divine river, to flow down through the matted locks of Lord Shiva, on to the Himalayas, to flow back into the ocean.

As in India, so in Egypt, the river is personified in human form. A sandstone relief from the temple of Rameses II at Abydos depicts Hapi, god of the Nile, holding a pair of blue lotus stalks in his hands; suspended from the god's right arm is the ankh, the symbol of life. Unlike the Ganga, the blue god of the Nile is male, but with one female breast to symbolize his role as nourisher - releasing the waters each year to provide sustenance to mankind. The main presiding deity of the

Egyptian pantheon is Osiris, like Yama, god of the dead, whose story of life, death and regeneration has been transmitted to us in great detail by Plutarch. Some extraordinary parallels with the Osirian myth are found among the myths and images of India. Lord Vishnu lied recumbent on the bed of the ocean asleep, as indeed Osiris lied prostrate and dead on a bier. The Hindi word for cow means also "ray of illumination," and in Egyptian lore a cow is sometimes depicted as the source of light in the sky.

Significant also is the fact that Lieutenant Speake, when planning his discovery of the source of the Nile, secured his best information from a map reconstructed out of Puranas. (Journal, pp. 27, 77, 216; Wilford, in Asiatic Researches, III). It traced the course of the river, the "Great Krishna," through Cusha-dvipa, from a great lake in Chandrasthan, "Country of the Moon," which it gave the correct position in relation to the Zanzibar islands. The name was from the native Unya-muezi, having the same meaning; and the map correctly mentioned another native name, Amara, applied to the district bordering Lake Victoria Nyanza.

"All our previous information," says Speake, "concerning the hydrography of these regions, originated with the ancient Hindus, who told it to the priests of the Nile; and all these busy Egyptian geographers, who disseminated their knowledge with a view to be famous for their long-sightedness, in solving the mystery which enshrouded the source of their holy river, were so many hypothetical humbugs. The Hindu traders had a firm basis to stand upon through their intercourse with the Abyssinians." (source: Periplus of the Erythrean Sea - W.H. Schoff p. 229-230).

Modern scholars claim that Akhenaton was the worlds first known monotheist. However, the fact is, he was actually reviving an ancient monotheistic religious tradition. Unknown to most is the true nature of this religion. This religion was not only vedic, but was actually an indiginous Egyptian form of Vaisnavism. Research has proven Akhenaton's vedic roots through his familial connections to the Hurrian/Mitanni peoples. Everyone agrees that the Mitanni were a Sanskrit speaking and writing people and they worshipped the vedic gods. What is forgotten is the fact that Akhenaton's father, his mother, and wife were all related to the vedic Mitanni. Thus, it is no surprise that Akhenaton's religion has so many

vedic similarities. The research of BhaktiAnanda Goswami has proven the Vaishnava nature of his religion. In ancient Egyptian religion, creation began from the form of NHRYN (Narayan) lying on the primordial waters. A lotus grows from His navel, and on this lotus appears the four armed and four headed Heliosphanes (Brahma) who speaks creation. Ancient Mediterranean Vaishnavism can be properly understood when we compare it to the authentic Vaishnava scriptural sources especially Bhagavad-Gita, and Srimad Bhagavatam, where the viratarupa (Universal Form) conception of the Supreme Lord is revealed. For example, Krishna's self revelation in the "I Am" verses of the Bhagavad-Gita directly parallels the great hymns of HR-Heri of ancient Egypt. Therefore, ancient Egyptian religion considered HR-Heri the origin of all gods and deities. That is why they used the name HR-Heri or Asu (Vasu) along with deities considered to be aspects of Heri. Thus, the god of wealth was called KPHR/Kepe-Heri because in the Gita Krishna says "I am Kubera". At the age of eighteen years, he came into complete power of the Kingdom. It was at this time that he proclaimed his faith in One God- The Sun, which he designated by the name of Aton, ie. The Disk or Fiery Orb. He publicly proclaimed his faith in Aton, as the God of Gods. Some have claimed that as a Sun worshipper, Akhnaton was more of an Animist Nature worshiper rather than a devotee of a Supreme Godhead. However Akhnaton's own words confirm that this is not the case. Akhnaton spoke of the Sun disk as being the Eye of Aton and a representative of Aton's Power. In the Bhagavad Gita, the Sun is described as one of the unlimited eyes of God's Universal Form. In the Brahma-Samhita the Sun is also described as the Eye of God. Akhnaton's reverence of the Sun is properly understood in this context.

The symbol of Aton, as presented by Akhnaton, was an image of the Sun Disc with many sunrays extending out, ending in hands, in a kind of triangle shape. Some scholars have also pointed out that the shape of the Pyramids represents the Sun's beams shining down to Earth, in a triangle shape, with the top being the Source and spreading out ever wider as it reaches the Earth. The similarity between Akhnaton's Aton and Surya is indeed striking. The Sanskrit description of the Divine source of light corresponds perfectly with the picture of Aton given in the Egyptian King's hymns.

The Puranas have a remarkable connection with one of the most important discoveries of the 19th century. In 1858, John Hanning Speke (1827-1864) – Speke was commissioned in the British Indian Army in 1844 – made the discovery that Lake Victoria was the source of the River Nile in Africa. Speke wrote that to some Indian Pundits (Hindu scholars) the Nile was known as Nila, and also as Kaali. Nila means blue and Kaali means dark – both apt descriptions for the Nile near its source. These are mentioned in several Puranas including the Bhavishya. This went against the conventional wisdom, for Lake Victoria was unknown at the time. Sir Richard Burton, the leader of the Nile expedition, had identified Lake Tangyanika as the source. Speke, however, following upon the advice of a Benares (Varansi) Pundit, insisted that the real source was a much large lake that lay to the north. Following this advice Speke went on to discover Victoria. The Pundit had also told him that the real source were twin peaks as Somagiri, ‘Soma’ in Sanskrit stands for moon and ‘giri’ means peak, and Somagiri therefore are none other than the fabled Mountains of the Moon in Central Africa! The Pundit must have known all this. He published his book Journal of the Discovery of the Source of the Nile in 1863.

The similarities of Egyptian civilization’s, science and religion with the Vedic knowledge are even more amazing than the ones mentioned about the Jews. Specifically, in the philosophical and religious field. The details of the temple worship practiced in Egypt are strikingly similar to Vedic temple worship, including the three sandhya meditations on the sun (Ammon-Ra, the main Deity in Egypt), the form of God as both male and female (Osiris/Isis, assimilated with the Sun and the Moon), the bathing, dressing and decoration of the Deity (with red cloth, still considered in India as the traditional color of cloth to be offered to Deities), arati with the offerings of food and incense, etc. The Egyptian Book of the Dead is an almost exact replica of the Tibetan Book of the Dead, which is coming to us through the Yaksha Saivite Tantric tradition of Himalayas, which strongly influenced the Vajrayana Buddhism or Lamaism. Egyptian priests had a complicated knowledge about the various subtle bodies and astral traveling (as Tantric Buddhists do), and some bits of knowledge about yoga, too. Egyptian priests were strictly vegetarian (not even eating eggs), followed brahmacarya

vows and abstained from intoxicants, and went through several initiations in order to practice their service. Meat was only consumed by them in later periods, and exclusively coming from fire sacrifices. (It is therefore very misleading to say that Brahmins "became vegetarian" in a later period, after detaching themselves from their "origins" as Jews).

They were also in charge of medicine and astrology, and had an immense knowledge about both. Even the temple decorations used the lotus flower as a symbol of purity and beauty. The list could go on and on. Many ancient Greek scholars (including Plato, Pythagoras, etc.) traveled both to Egypt and to India to get their knowledge. While reading Plato's and Pythagoras' teachings, we find exactly the same Vedic knowledge explained in Greek language. Now we know from the Puranas that at the times of Parasurama avatara, the ksatriya kings of Bharata varsa were scattered all over the planet while fleeing the avatara's killing wrath. We know that a group of such ksatriyas, followed by their family priests and retinue, reached ancient Egypt and established a kingdom there. Other groups settled in South America, Mesopotamia, Northern Europe, and in the lost continent of Atlantis mentioned by Plato and others. Striking similarities can be observed, for example the pyramids that can be found almost exactly identical in South America, Mesopotamia and Egypt. And which also resemble the large and high domes of the most ancient Vedic temples.

There are evidences galore that Vedic civilization was the precursor of all major civilization in the world. Similarities between the Egyptian civilization and the Vedic civilization and the evidence of the later being the progenitor of the earlier is but one example.

There are plenty of similarities between Vedic and Celtic civilization, between Vedic and Anatolian civilization, between Vedic and Mayan civilization etc. The question is the similarities between one and many.

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8. VEDIC CIVILIZATION , THE REMNANT OF THE MYTHICAL ATLANTIS

IS VEDIC CIVILIZATION THE REMNANTS OF THE LEGENDARY ATLANTIS.

In the course of our journey to find out where we came from, there has been many theories most of them backed by scientific explanation and proofs. Archaeologists, Anthropologists, Geologists, Paleontologists, and Historians all have given us theories after theories and all with some amount of scientific data and evidences. In spite of all their efforts there are many archaeological, anthropological, geological, finds and evidences that defies straight logic and defies the present scientific status on the origin of civilization. To me one of the most intriguing evidence of the origin of civilization is the Vedic scriptures. The scriptures are a store house of knowledge and evidences of the origin of civilization which when analyzed and studied will push the date of the origin of intelligent human civilization much later than what we currently know and what we are currently taught and made to belief. In fact now a day studies are being conducted in this area and scientists, historians, linguists, anthropologists are now looking at the Vedas in a different light. Writers like Dr David Frawley, Graham Hancock, Dr Michael Cremona, Zacharia sitchin , Dr B.G.Sidharth, Dr.Sidharth Kak have done extensive studies of the Vedic scriptures and because of them, today the perception towards the scriptures all over the world seems to be changing.

In most examinations of lost civilizations, there has been a surprising tendency to leave India out of the picture. While the wonders of Egypt or Sumeria are often

discussed, the equally great wonders of ancient India are seldom mentioned. This is strange because India is the main country that has preserved our ancient human heritage, both materially and spiritually. For example, in India today one can observe the same type of temple worship still being practiced like that which once occurred in ancient Egypt, Babylonia, Greece or Mexico, along with the same emphasis on the spiritual and the sacred as the focus of life. India has extensive archaeological remains that are among the largest and oldest in the world. Harappan India or India of the so-called 'Indus Valley Civilization' was the largest urban civilization in the world of its times in the third millennium BC (3100-1900 BCE), with major sites extending from the Ganges river in the east to Afghanistan in the west, from the border of Iran to near Bombay. However, India's role in ancient civilization has been largely ignored in favor of more culturally comfortable, though geographically much smaller cultures in the Near East, in spite of the fact that such ancient cultures frequently lauded the greatness of India themselves. How many of us know that the civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia would fit easily into Harappan India with much room to spare, so much larger was the Indian civilization. There has been an even greater ignoring of the Vedic literature of India, which is by far the largest that has been preserved from the ancient world. The many thousands of pages of this mantric literature dwarf all that the rest of the world has managed to save from such early eras. Yet instead of putting Vedic literature on par with the Pyramids of Egypt in terms of civilizational achievements, scholars reduce the Vedas to the rantings of illiterate nomads from Central Asia, who by all accounts should have left no literature anyway. The spiritual wisdom of the Vedic mantras is ignored according to a view that the Vedas are only a nature poetry of barbarian invaders. This is in spite of the fact that the Vedas were the foundation for the great yogic and mystical traditions of Asia through Hindu and Buddhist traditions and the whole science of Yoga, which frequently refer to them. Not only has Vedic literature been ignored, there has been an additional effort to keep the Vedic literature separate from the great archaeological remains in the country of the various Harappan sites. We are told that the great urban civilization of ancient India and the great Vedic literature that India preserved as its ancient heritage are not connected to each other at all. We are left with 'a civilization without a literature' and a 'literature without a

civilization', though both a great literature and a great civilization came from ancient India and often use the same symbols. This is in evidence in the many Vedic images found in Harappan sites and on Harappan seals like the Brahma bull, figures in yoga postures, Shiva-like Gods, fire altars and swastikas. Here the new geology and marine archaeology has ruled in favor of the ancients. Vedic literature describes its homeland on a long lost river called the Sarasvati, which according to Vedic descriptions flowed east of the Indus from the Himalayas to the Arabian Sea. Modern satellite photography has clearly indicated the existence of this great river, as have numerous geological and ground water studies conducted over the last few decades, which show that the Sarasvati was once over ten kilometers in width and flowed from the mountains to the sea, dwarfing the nearby Indus. As the Vedas say, the Sarasvati was the largest river of the region at the time. It was the center of a great civilization and the vast majority of ancient Indian and Harappan ruins have been found on the now dried banks of the Sarasvati.

In my earlier articles I have made an effort to bring to my readers this vastness of the Vedic scriptures and the scientific nature of the scriptures. I have made an effort to let my readers know that the Vedic civilization is by no means a civilization of the natives as projected by the West, but a civilization which was very advanced, scientific, and very prolific. This civilization was in fact the progenitor of many civilizations in the world. AND the Vedic civilization was probably the oldest civilization and the only civilization that evolved after the last glaciations some 15000 years ago. It gave rise to many other civilization in the world but in the Indian subcontinent (I am not talking of any political boundary here) this civilization has been a continuous phenomenon till date.

Writing this article I must write about Bal Gangadhar Tilak who was also known as Lokmanya Tilak. It was his work on the vedic civilization that sparked lot of anger among the then British Government . Bal Gangadhar Tilak, was an Indian nationalist, social reformer and freedom fighter who was the first popular leader of the Indian Independence Movement. Tilak sparked the fire for complete independence in Indian consciousness, and is considered the father of Hindu

nationalism as well. "Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it!" This famous quote of his is very popular and well-remembered in India even today.

Reverently addressed as Lokmanya (meaning "Beloved of the people" or "Revered by the world"), Tilak was a scholar of Indian history, Sanskrit, Hinduism, mathematics and astronomy. He was born on July 23, 1856, in a village near Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, into a middle class Chitpavan Brahmin family. Tilak was an avid student with a special aptitude for mathematics. He was among India's first generation of youth to receive a modern, college education. Tilak authored the well-regarded "The Orion", or, Researches into the antiquities of the Vedas (1893) in which he used astronomy to establish that the Vedic people were present in India at least as early as the 4th millennium BC. Later, in 1903, he wrote the much more speculative Arctic Home in the Vedas. In it he argued that the Vedas could only have been composed in the Arctics, and the Aryan bards brought them south after the onset of the last Ice age. The rig Veda, the oldest of the Vedas, if was composed in the arctic region then it means that there was a civilization which was present in such a distant past and post the last glaciations could this very civilization moved to all possible part of the world where it felt it could be safe from the impending disastrous effects of the glaciations. Then would it be right enough to presume that the Vedic civilization, as we know it today, is the logical conclusion of a much older, much scientific, much well organized civilization? A civilization which is not present now, a civilization that exists only in the legends?

It would not be prudish on my part here to introduce the Piri ries maps as these maps have a direct correlation with the works of Bal Gangadhar Tilak. In 1929, a group of historians found an amazing map drawn on a gazelle skin. Research showed that it was a genuine document drawn in 1513 by Piri Reis, a famous admiral of the Turkish fleet in the sixteenth century. His passion was cartography. His high rank within the Turkish navy allowed him to have a privileged access to the Imperial Library of Constantinople.

The Turkish admiral admits in a series of notes on the map that he compiled and copied the data from a large number of source maps, some of which dated back to the fourth century BC or earlier.

The Piri Reis map shows the western coast of Africa, the eastern coast of South America, and the northern coast of Antarctica. The northern coastline of Antarctica is perfectly detailed. The most puzzling however is not so much how Piri Reis managed to draw such an accurate map of the Antarctic region 300 years before it was discovered, but that the map shows the coastline under the ice. Geological evidence confirms that the latest date Queen Maud Land could have been charted in an ice-free state is 4000 BC. The official science has been saying all along that the ice-cap which covers the Antarctic is million years old.

The Piri Reis map shows that the northern part of that continent has been mapped before the ice did cover it. That should make think it has been mapped million years ago, but that's impossible since mankind did not exist at that time. Further and more accurate studies have proven that the last period of ice-free condition in the Antarctic ended about 6000 years ago. There are still doubts about the beginning of this ice-free period, which has been put by different researchers everything between year 13000 and 9000 BC.

The question is: Who mapped the Queen Maud Land of Antarctic 6000 years ago? Which unknown civilization had the technology or the need to do that?

It is well-known that the first civilization, according to the traditional history, developed in the mid-east around year 3000 BC, soon to be followed within a millennium by the Indus valley and the Chinese ones. So, accordingly, none of the known civilizations could have done such a job. Who was here 4000 years BC, being able to do things that NOW are possible with the modern technologies? Therefore When Tilak said about a civilization post last glaciations and the location being the Arctic he was not just making a conjecture but he had definitive evidence which he certainly found in the Vedic scriptures. For example, the sacred book Rig-Veda contains a story of a great civilization that existed 18 million years ago on the continent Oryana. The location of the continent could be easily identifiable with the help of Hindu sacred writings. According to them, the city of Arka, a capital of the united empire, was situated beneath the Polar Star i.e. on

the territory of the present-day Arctic. Could the name Oryana compel Tilak to name his research "The Orion"

Over 11,000 years ago there existed an island nation located in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean(?) populated by a noble and powerful race. The people of this land possessed great wealth thanks to the natural resources found throughout their island. The island was a center for trade and commerce. The rulers of this land held sway over the people and land of their own island and well into Europe and Africa. This was the island of Atlantis.

Atlantis was the domain of Poseidon, god of the sea. When Poseidon fell in love with a mortal woman, Cleito, he created a dwelling at the top of a hill near the middle of the island and surrounded the dwelling with rings of water and land to protect her. Cleito gave birth to five sets of twin boys who became the first rulers of Atlantis. The island was divided among the brothers with the eldest, Atlas, first King of Atlantis, being given control over the central hill and surrounding areas. Plato was a student of Socrates until the latter's death in 399 BC at the hands of the Athenian authorities. After his teacher's death, Plato traveled extensively, including journeys in Egypt.

In 387 BC he returned to Athens and founded the Academy, a school of science and philosophy that became the model for the modern university. Perhaps the most famous student of the Academy was Aristotle whose teachings have had tremendous impact on philosophy through today. Due to the Academy's safekeeping, many of Plato's works have survived. His extant writings are in the form of letters and dialogues, the most famous of which is probably *The Republic*. His writings cover subjects ranging from knowledge to happiness to politics to nature. Two of his dialogues, *Timeaus* and *Critias*, hold the only known original references to the island of Atlantis.

In the world these are the only two epics *Timeaus* and *Critias* wherein there is a mention of such a civilization. THE ATLANTIS CIVILIZATION. The epics goes on to describe the structure or the city plan of the Atlantis and the daily lives of the Atlanteans. At the top of the central hill, a temple was built to honor Poseidon which housed a giant gold statue of Poseidon riding a chariot pulled by winged

horses. It was here that the rulers of Atlantis would come to discuss laws, pass judgments, and pay tribute to Poseidon. To facilitate travel and trade, a water canal was cut through of the rings of land and water running south for 5.5 miles (~9 km) to the sea. The city of Atlantis sat just outside the outer ring of water and spread across the plain covering a circle of 11 miles (1.7 km). This was a densely populated area where the majority of the population lived. Beyond the city lay a fertile plain 330 miles (530 km) long and 110 miles (190 km) wide surrounded by another canal used to collect water from the rivers and streams of the mountains. The climate was such that two harvests were possible each year. One in the winter fed by the rains and one in the summer fed by irrigation from the canal.

Surrounding the plain to the north were mountains which soared to the skies. Villages, lakes, rivers, and meadows dotted the mountains. Besides the harvests, the island provided all kinds of herbs, fruits, and nuts. An abundance of animals, including elephants, roamed the island. For generations the Atlanteans lived simple, virtuous lives. But slowly they began to change. Greed and power began to corrupt them. When Zeus saw the immorality of the Atlanteans he gathered the other gods to determine a suitable punishment.

Soon, in one violent surge it was gone. The island of Atlantis, its people, and its memory were swallowed by the sea.

Geologists, both mainstream and alternative, agree that the evidence is overwhelming that there was a massive global catastrophe in around 10,000 BC that ended the last Ice Age and altered the face of the planet in almost every way. For the people alive at that time it must have been an experience we can't imagine. The sea levels rising 300 feet in a week, submerging all beaches and coastal lands, torrential rainstorms measuring in feet instead of inches, worldwide hurricanes, supervolcanic eruptions turning the sky black and blotting out the sun for months. A waterfall as wide as the Bosphorous Strait filling up the Black Sea like a bathtub. The human survivors of this cataclysm would never ever have forgotten it and would most certainly have told their children and grandchildren about it; and those subsequent generations would have passed on the story to

their own descendants. This memory endured to the present day to become these folk-legends of the Great Flood etc. However, conventional studies of prehistory say that 12,000 years ago humans existed in small groups; the Neolithic Age had only just begun and most people still lived in nomadic hunter-gatherer cultures. There were no cities, no nation-states like Atlantis is said to be and only a handful of settled towns numbering no more than a few hundred people. Many Mavericks have claimed that the myths describing a sophisticated prehistoric civilization are in fact real and the conventional scientists have got it wrong. However this alternative, minority view lacked hard evidence until recently.

Plato concedes that he learnt the legend of Atlantis from Solon who, in turn, got it from the Egyptians. But those, in their turn, learnt it from the Hindus of Punt (Indonesia). Punt was the Ancestral Land (To-wer), the Island of Fire whence the Egyptians originally came, in the dawn of times, expelled by the cataclysm that razed their land. From there also came the Aryans, the Hebrews and Phoenicians, as well as the other nations that founded the magnificent civilizations of olden times. Here we see the first glimpse of the Vedic connection. Could Rig Veda the oldest of the Vedas have any mention of this civilization? Many cultures from all over the Pacific make reference to this land. Here are just a few: The legends of Easter Island speak of Hiva, which sank beneath the waves as people fled, while one Samoan legend calls a similar place Poluto. The Maoris of New Zealand still talk about arriving long ago from a sinking island called Hawaiki, a vast and mountainous place on the other side of the water. The myths and traditions of India abound with references. The Rig Veda speaks of "the three continents that were"; the third was home to a race called the Danavas. A land called Rutas was an immense continent far to the east of India and home to a race of sun-worshippers. But Rutas was torn asunder by a volcanic upheaval and sent to the ocean depths. Fragments remained as Indonesia and the Pacific islands, and a few survivors reached India, where they became the elite Brahman caste. Hopi Legend - On the bottom of the seas lie all the proud cities, the flying patuwvotas [shields] and the worldly treasures corrupted with evil. Faced with disaster, some people hid inside the earth while others escaped by crossing the ocean on reed rafts, using the islands as stepping-stones. The same story of escape to dry land appears

in the Popol Vuh - the Mayan story of creation. Augustus Le Plongeon, (1826-1908) a 19th century researcher and writer who conducted investigations of the Maya ruins in the Yucatan announced that he had translated ancient Mayan writings, which allegedly showed that the Maya of Yucatan were older than the later civilizations of Atlantis and Egypt, and additionally told the story of an even older continent of Mu, whose survivors founded the Maya civilization. Later students of the Ancient Maya writings argue that Le Plongeon's "translations" were based on little more than his vivid imagination. Stay tuned as I will be uploading more documentaries from this anime.

The Hindus have many traditions of a paradisaical region where mankind and civilization first originated. One such place was Tripura, "the Triple City". with metallic walls and golden palaces. The inhabitants of Tripura were originally extremely pious, but with the passage of time, they became evil and perverse, and were destroyed by Shiva. It is because of this feat that Shiva got the epithet of Tripurantaka ("Destroyer of Tripura"). Tripura was built upon a mountain so lofty, that it was said to reside in the skies. Another Hindu legend on a lost empire concerns Lanka, and is told in detail in the Ramayana. The saga of the destruction of Lanka by Rama and Hanumant was of which Homer's Illiad was based. Just as the Ramayana tells the story of Lanka and the rescue of Shita (the wife of Rama) who was taken by the evil Ravana. The Illiad recounts the destruction of Troy and the rescue of Helen who was taken by Paris.

The Mahabharata relates the fall of Krishna's mighty empire during the great war between the Lunars and the Solars (the Kurus and Pandus). Hastinapura, the capital of the Pandu empire, was the "City of the Pillars" (Hastina-pura) - or the "City of the Nagas". The Mahabharata also tells of Dvaraka, the capital of Krishna, located on an island in the middle of the seas. Krishna's capital, Dvaraka, sunk under the the sea and their divine hero died in the Great War.

Dravidian traditions speak of a vast sunken land known as "Rutas" that was located towards the south-east of India. The Dravidas claim to have moved to India from that land before it sunk under the sea, during a a great cataclysm. The name Rutas is a reflection of the Sanskrit word " radix rudh" which means "red"

and Dravidian word "ruta:" which means 'to be red' , 'to burn'. These etyms evoke the "Island of Fire" and may elude to the "Land of the Reds" (one of the many mystical names of Atlantis) The Dravidas claimed to have been Kshatriyas ("Warriors"), an Indian caste whose heraldic colour is red.

The myth of the Celestial Jerusalem, told in the Book of Revelation, stems directly from the Hindu traditions of Lanka, the "Queen of the Waves". Lanka, whose history is told in the Ramayana, was the actual archetype of Plato's Atlantis, as well as Homer's Troy. Lanka was built upon a lofty mountain (Mt. Trikuta = Mt. Atlas or Meru), and was said "to fly in the air, scratching the belly of heaven". Hindu myths also tell how Lanka, with "its towers and walls of stone clad with metal" was pulled out of the summit of the Holy Mountain (Meru) by the North Wind (Vayu) and thrown into the seas, where it drowned with all its vast population. Interestingly enough, the same myth, with Atlas (i. e., Atlantis) substituting for Lanka, is also encountered in Greece. Atlas, often identified with Hesperus, the Evening Star, was thrown into the ocean by Boreas, the North Wind who is the Greek counterpart of Vayu. There Atlas drowned, and was to be found no more, just as happened with Lanka and, indeed, with Atlantis.

The New Jerusalem is Atlantis, reborn from its cinders, as a sort of Phoenix, the bird that personifies Paradise in Greek myths. These myths were indeed copied from Egypt who, in turn, cribbed them from India. India and, more exactly, Indonesia, is the true land of the Phoenix, as is relatively easy to show, since it is from there that comes the name of the Benu bird of the Egyptians and that of the Phoenix of the Greeks.

This mystic bird was called Vena in the Rig Veda. So, if the Phoenix indeed symbolizes Atlantis-Paradise resurging from its own cinders, as we believe it does, there can be little doubt that the legend is originally Vedic, and originated in the Indies. The name means nothing that makes sense in either Egyptian or Greek. But in the holy tongues of India it means the idea of Eros (Love) and, more exactly, the Sun of Justice that symbolizes Atlantis rising from the waters of the primordial abyss. This myth forms the essence of the one of the Celestial

Jerusalem, as well as, say, those of the Orphic Cosmogonies, those of the Egyptians, and those of most other ancient nations.

Other Hindu legends tell of Agartha (or Shambhalla), the subterranean realm of the King of the World. According to this tradition, it is from Shambhalla that will surge Kalkin, (The King of the World) for the final battle of the end of times. Kalkin will lead his hosts, the Sons of Light, to victory against the Sons of Darkness. The myth of Shambhalla is the archetype from which were copied the similar ones of the Essenes and of the Christians. The Celestial Jerusalem from St. John's Revelation, the myth of Kalkin prefigures the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Many experts have correlated the traditions of Agartha and Shambhalla with those of Atlantis and the Celestial Jerusalem. In fact, Atlantis too will resurge in the end of times in precisely the same manner as the Celestial Jerusalem.

It is significant to note that, according to geo physical research based on the movement of the continental plates, the Lanka of Ravana was situated in the continent of Lemuria, also known as Kumari Kandam, which was a land mass, connecting the Deccan plateau in South India and the island of Ceylon, with intervening straits to be crossed, with Madagascar in the West, Australia on the East and Antarctica on the South, until it sank into the Indian ocean in stages over 3,500 years ago, as mentioned in the writings of the German geologist Wagner and the eminent Indologist Sir T.W. Holderness.

The research done by Fr. Heras and Sir John Marshall the archaeologist and other scholars into the archaeological finds at Mohenjodaro and Harappa point to the existence of an earlier highly developed Dravidian civilization in the deep South which, had influenced the Indus-Valley Aryan civilization of the North.

The available historical evidence referring to the Dravidian civilization commences with the records that have come down to us of the Tamil literary writings during the past 12,000 years, which have been divided by historians into three periods, called the First Sangam period from 9600 BC to 5200 BC, spanning the Satya and Treta yugas, the Second Sangam period from 5200 BC to 1500 BC spanning the Treta and Dwapara yugas, and the Third Sangam period from 1500 BC to 600 AD spanning the Dwapara and Kali yugas. According to the present cycle of four

yugas, namely Satya, Treta, Dwapara and Kali yugas, in their descending arc of 12,000 years and ascending arc of another 12,000 years, as stated by Sri Yukteswar in his famous treatise called 'Holy Science', we are now in the ascending arc of Dwapara yuga completed the Kali yuga period lasting from 600 BC to 1800 AD. The Mahabharata war, where Lord Krishna propagated the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita to Arjuna, is reckoned to have taken place during the Second Sangam period about the year 3100 BC. The First Sangam, which was founded and nurtured by Siddha Sri Agastiyar, lasted for 4,400 years and had its centre in the city of Dakshina Madura in the continent of Lemuria.

The Second Sangam, which was also established under the patronage of Sri Agastiyar, lasted for 3,700 years and had its centre in the city of Kavatapuram in the continent of Lemuria, after the records in the city of Dakshina Madura had gone under water. The Third Sangam, also sponsored by Sri Agastiyar, lasted for 1,800 years and had its centre at Uttara Madura, namely the modern city of Madurai, which lays north of the earlier centres, after the whole of the Lemurian continent had gone under water.

After the commencement of the gradual inundation of the Lemurian continent, it is reported that Sri Agastiyar led a migration of Dravidians to Java and Cambodia and Central and South America. The legends of the Incas, Mayans and Aztecs of South America regarding the founding of their cultures by tall bearded white-robed teachers confirm the traditional view that the Lemurians, under the guidance of their siddhas, colonized North and South America, as well as the Nile Valley, when they founded the Egyptian civilization.

It is significant to note that Edgar Cayce the well-known 'sleeping prophet' of America, had in the course of his recent voluminous psychic messages given out by him while in a state of trance mentioned a similar sinking of the continent of Atlantis in stages into the Atlantic Ocean over a period of several centuries between 12,000 BC and 10,000 BC, before the sinking of the Lemurian continent.

According to Prof: Arysio Santos in his book "Atlantis- The Lost Continent Finally Found"

The Greeks copied their legends on Atlas and Atlantis from the Hindu ones on Atalas (Shiva) and on Atala, the sunken paradise of the Hindus. As in the Greek traditions, Atalas - whose name is Sanskrit and means "Pillar" - was deemed to be the "Pillar of the World", just as was Atlas in Greece. Atala was, like Atlantis, a sunken continent destroyed by a fiery cataclysm, and which lay in the Outer Ocean. Since the Greek legend is of Hindu origin and was simply transferred to their western region when the Greeks moved to their present whereabouts, it is idle to quest for Atlantis in the ocean nowadays called Atlantic. Instead, we must seek Atlantis in the ocean which the Hindus called "Ocean of the Atlanteans" or "Western Ocean", and which is none other than the Indian Ocean.

The Hindus have many traditions on a sunken continent that was the paradisiacal region where mankind and civilization first originated. One such was Tripura, "the Triple City". When we recall the fact that Atlantis was, like Tripura, a triple city with metallic walls and golden palaces, we cannot but conclude that the two traditions, if indeed based on actual fact, refer to the one and same thing. Moreover, as happened with Atlantis, the inhabitants of Tripura were originally extremely pious. But, with the passage of time, they also became evil and perverse, and were destroyed by Shiva. It is because of this feat that Shiva got the epithet of Tripurantaka ("Destroyer of Tripura"). As with Lanka (see below) and Atlantis, Tripura was built upon a mountain so lofty, that it was said to reside in the skies.

Another Hindu legend on a sunken empire that was the archetype of Atlantis concerns Lanka, and is told in detail in the Ramayana. The saga of the destruction of Lanka by Rama and Hanumant was the original on which Homer's Illiad was based. Just as the Ramayana tells the story of Lanka and the rescue of Shita, the spouse of Rama kidnapped by the evil Ravana, the Illiad recounts the destruction of Troy and the rescue of the fickle Helen, kidnapped by Paris. Troy, with its bronzy walls and golden palaces was just one of the many allegories of Atlantis. In contrast to the small village discovered by Schliemann in Turkey, the true Troy lay in the Outer Ocean. It was a magnificent capital and sank into the ocean after its destruction and incending in the great war with the "Greeks" of an earlier age. The parallels between Troy and Atlantis are too many to be discarded. And those

between Plato's Atlantis and the Lanka of the Hindus show, in an unequivocal manner, that it is in the Far Orient and the underseas, and not in the Mediterranean region, that we must quest for the real Troy and the real Atlantis.

The Mahabharata, the other great Hindu classical saga that completes the Ramayana, tells of the mighty empire of Krishna and its destruction in the great war between the Lunars and the Solars (the Kurus and Pandus). This great war is, like the one of Lanka or that of Troy, the true archetype on which Plato based his history of Atlantis. Hastinapura, the capital of the Pandu empire, was the "City of the Pillars" (Hastina-pura) or, yet, the "City of the Nagas". These two are epithets associated with the Atlanteans and with the Pillar of Heaven in the Far East. The Mahabharata also tells of Dvaraka, the capital of Krishna, located in an island in the middle of the seas. Krishna's capital, Dvaraka, sunk underseas when the divine hero died in the great war, more or less in the way Atlantis went under, according to Plato.

Dravidian traditions speak of a vast sunken continent towards the south-east of India called Rutas. The Dravidas claim to have moved to India from that continent when it sunk away underseas, in a great cataclysm. The name of Rutas apparently relates to the Sanskrit radix rudh ("red"), and the Dravidian ruta ("to be red", "to burn"). These etyms evoke the "Island of Fire" and may be an allusion to the fabulous "Land of the Reds" that was one of the many mystic names of Atlantis in the ancient traditions. Indeed, the Dravidas claimed to have been Kshatryias ("Warriors"), an Indian caste whose heraldic colour is the red one.

The Phoenicians - whose name also means "reds" in Greek - claimed, like the Dravidas, to have come from an "Island of Fire" located beyond the Indian Ocean (or Erythraean) overseas. That means the Indies, indeed located in this "Ocean of the Reds" (Erythraean). Hence, the Phoenician homeland seems to be originally the same as the Rutas (or "Island of Fire") of the Dravidas. The Egyptians too called themselves "Reds" (Rot or Khem, in their tongue). And they also claimed to have come from this "Island of Fire" in the Indian (or Erythraean) overseas. Would all the traditions of these virtuous nations be lying? Or is it that we interpret their myths erroneously?

The myth of the Celestial Jerusalem, told in the Book of Revelation, stems directly from the Hindu traditions on Lanka, the "Queen of the Waves". Lanka, whose history is told in the Ramayana, was the actual archetype of Plato's Atlantis, as well as Homer's Troy. Lanka was built upon a lofty mountain (Mt. Trikuta = Mt. Atlas or Meru), and was said "to fly in the air, scratching the belly of heaven". Hindu myths also tell how Lanka, with "its towers and walls of stone clad with metal" was pulled out of the summit of the Holy Mountain (Meru) by the North Wind (Vayu) and thrown into the seas, where it drowned with all its vast population. Interestingly enough, the same myth, with Atlas (i. e., Atlantis) substituting for Lanka, is also encountered in Greece. Atlas, often identified with Hesperus, the Evening Star, was thrown into the ocean by Boreas, the North Wind who is the Greek counterpart of Vayu. There Atlas drowned, and was to be found no more, just as happened with Lanka and, indeed, with Atlantis.

Other Hindu legends tell of Agartha (or Shambhalla), the subterranean realm of the King of the World. According to this tradition, it is from Shambhalla that is to surge Kalkin, ("the White Knight") for the final battle of the end of times. Kalkin, the White Knight, is to lead his hosts, the Sons of Light, to victory against the Sons of Darkness. The myth of Shambhalla is the archetype from which were copied the similar ones of the Essenes and of the Christians. Again, as with the Celestial Jerusalem of St. John's Revelation, the myth of Kalkin prefigures the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Many experts have correlated the traditions of Agartha and Shambhalla with those of Atlantis and the Celestial Jerusalem. In fact, Atlantis too will resurge in the end of times (now?) in precisely the same manner prescribed for the Celestial Jerusalem of the Book of Revelation. Then, will the Golden Age be restored to the world, for Atlantis is truly the Paradise Lost we all have been expecting for so long.

Celtic traditions often speak of an "Island of the Lions". This mysterious island appears in Hindu traditions as Saka-dvipa or Simhala-dvipa ("Island of the Lions", in Sanskrit). This "Island of the Lions" also figures in many other different traditions. In Celtic traditions, the Island of the Lions also called Avalon. The name of Avalon has been interpreted both as "Land of the Apple Trees" and as "Island of the Lions" (Ava-lon). This paradisiacal island is also called Lyonesse (Lyon-ys or

"Island of the Lions") or Llyn Llion ("Lake Lion"), the lake which reputedly overwhelmed the whole world with its waters when it overflowed, causing the Flood.

The "Island of the Lions" just mentioned (see above item) is no other than the Simhala-dvipa (or Serendip) of the Hindus. Serendip is indeed the "Island of the Seres" (Seren-dip), which is the same as Taprobane (Sumatra). The Seres are "the people of the silk" (serica = "silk", in Latin). They are described as a blond, blue-eyed, tall people by Pliny, Solinus and others. As we just said, Serendip is the same as Taprobane or Sumatra, and should not be confused with Shri Lanka (Ceylon), its Indian counterpart. The word "lion", in India, is synonymous with "hero" (gandha or simha in Skt., singa in Dravida, etc.), so that the name of Simhala-dvipa indeed means "Island of the Heroes". And these "Heroes" of old are no other than those of Atlantis, destroyed in the Flood, as mentioned in the Book of Genesis (ch. 6).

It is from the primordial Lemurian Atlantis that derive all our myths and religious traditions, the very ones that allowed the ascent of Man above the beasts of the field. From Atlantis derive all our science and our technology: agriculture, cattle herding, the alphabet, metallurgy, astronomy, music, religion, and so forth. These inventions are so clever and so advanced that they seem as natural as the air we breath and the gods we worship. But they are all incredibly advanced inventions that came to us from the dawn of times, from the twin Atlantises we utterly forgot.

It is in India and in Indonesia, that, even today, we find the secret of Atlantis and Lemuria hidden behind the thick veil of their myths and allegories. The crucial events are disguised inside the Hindu and Buddhist religious traditions, or told as charming sagas like those of the Ramayana and the Mahaharata. The error that led the ancients, along with the modern researchers, into believing that Atlantis lay in the Atlantic Ocean is easy to understand now that we know the true whereabouts of the sunken continent. When humanity moved from Indonesia into the regions of Europe and the Near East, the "Occidental Ocean" of the Hindus became the Oriental Ocean, for it then lay towards the east.

The (Hindu) myths that told of Atlantis sinking in the Occidental Ocean became interpreted as referring to the Atlantic Ocean, western in regards to Europe, their new residence. The Hindus called the sunken continent by the name of Atala (or Atalas) a name uncannily similar to that of Atlas and of Atlantis (by the appending of the suffix tis or tiv = "mountain", "island", in Dravida, and pronounced "tiw"). It is from this base that names such as that of the mysterious Keftiu of the Egyptians, the "Islands in the Middle of the Ocean (the "Great Green")" ultimately came (Keftiu = Kap-tiv = "capital island" or "Skull Island" = "Calvary" in Dravida, the pristine language of Indonesia). But this is a long story which we tell elsewhere, presenting the detailed evidence for this uncanny allegation of ours.

Atlantis was a continent of the Atlantic Ocean where, according to Plato, and advanced civilization developed some 11,600 years ago. Plato affirms that, as the result of a huge volcanic cataclysm of worldwide extent, this continent sunk away underseas, disappearing forever. Official Science - the one you learn at school - rejects the actual existence of Atlantis, as it has so far been unable to find any traces of its reality. But the reason for that is simple to explain. Everybody has been looking in the wrong locations, as Atlantis indeed lies in the opposite side of the world.

Lemuria, on the other hand, is an even older version of Atlantis. Lemuria is indeed the same as the Garden of Eden and other such Paradises that in fact existed and were the actual birthplace of Mankind and Civilization, precisely as the Bible and other Holy Books affirm. From there, civilization spread to Atlantis and other parts of the world, in the dawn of times, some 20 or 30 thousand years ago, during the Ice Age.

In the vedic literature which are divided into the Rig-Veda, the Yajurveda, the Samaveda and the Atharveda. The Rig Veda being the oldest. Although these scripture are said to have been divinely revealed in India and to have taken place there, author Professor Arysio Nunes dos Santos thinks that they actually refer to Atlantis, which according to his theory was located where the South China Sea is

and Indonesia. This would have made ancient India the nearest outpost of the Atlantean civilisation.

The Indonesian Islands and the Malay Peninsula that we nowadays observe are the unshattered remnants of Lemurian Atlantis, the lofty volcanic mountains that became the volcanic islands of this region, the true site of Paradise in all ancient traditions. The sunken portion of continental extension now forms the muddy, shallow bottoms of the South China Sea. It is encircled by Indonesia and forms the boundary of the Indian and the Pacific Oceans.

The greatest of all Lemurian colonies was Atlantis, founded in India, already during the heydays of Lemuria, and which, in time, reached the apex of human grandeur. Atlantis and Lemuria had prospered for a full zodiacal era (2,160 years), when the great cataclysm destroyed their common world, at the end of the Pleistocene, some 11,600 years ago. The scant survivors of the cataclysm that sank Lemuria away were forced to flee their destroyed Paradise, moving first to India, the site of Atlantis, which had been spared in its northern, loftier portion. But the global catastrophe had also caused the end of the Pleistocene Ice Age, and the melting of the Himalayan glaciers caused huge floods of the rivers of Asia, rendering the region unfit for human habitation. These floods ravaged this remainder of Atlantis, already greatly destroyed by the original cataclysm, the giant conflagration of the Indonesian volcanoes and the huge tsunamis they caused, as well as by the plague that ravaged their country in their wake.

Again, this doomed people was obliged to flee, emigrating, along the ensuing millennia, to remote places such as Egypt, Mesopotamia, Palestine, North Africa, Europe, North Asia, the Near Orient and even Oceania and the Americas. Some came on foot, in huge hordes like those of the Israelite exodus. Others came by ship, like Noah in his Ark or Aeneas with his fleet, to found the great civilizations of the ancient world.

The great civilizations that we know of, in the Indus Valley, in Egypt, in Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, Greece, Rome, Mexico and even the Americas were all

Atlantean colonies founded by the survivors of the cataclysm that destroyed the twin Paradises of Atlantis and Lemuria. These colonists, of course, attempted to recreate their Eden in their new homeland.

The newcomers named each topographical feature after the archetypes of the pristine abode just as immigrants will do the same nowadays. Such is the reason why we keep finding vestiges of Atlantis everywhere, from Brazil and North America to Spain, Crete, and even Africa and North Europe. All these ancient civilizations spoke of Civilizing Heroes such as Manu, Noah, Aeneas, the Oannés, Hotu Matua, Quetzalcoatl, Kukulkan, Bochica and, of course, Atlas and Hercules, the omnipresent Twins that founded civilizations everywhere.

Prof. Santos, who was trained in academic science and was a professor of nuclear physics in Brazil, told me he had originally started his research into Atlantis as a sceptic and unbeliever but having researched thoroughly into world religions, occult traditions, geology and word derivations he had become convinced it was very very real indeed. It became a mission of his to get the knowledge that Atlantis was real out to this crazy world. He had a completely new theory - that Atlantis could not be found because everyone had been looking in the wrong place and that Plato's work on the subject had been misunderstood. Arysio believed that the true location of Atlantis was in the area of the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea. The Indonesian islands are all that is left of it. He also felt that India was one of its nearest and many colonies and that the holy books known as the Vedas and the Hindu religion are based on and in Atlantis. The professor also believed that many other religious ceremonies such as baptism were memories of Atlantis and how it perished under the seas.

Arysio thought that that Guanche language was derived from Dravidian and set out a very good case proving this by comparing Dravidian words with those of the Guanche - many are nearly identical. He had also written on The Mysterious Origin of the Guanches. He believed that the "Golden Age" and the Garden of Eden and "Paradise" were all memories of Atlantis as it once was and that after its

destruction the survivors had to begin again and had lost all their technological advances and were reduced to a very primitive way of living.

His idea was that Atlantis was destroyed following a cataclysmic volcanic eruption and tsunami that shook the entire world. He also feels that it might have been triggered deliberately in nuclear war by these ancient people who lived on Atlantis and he was praying this was not going to be the fate of the world again.

In conclusion I can only say that here is another example of the antiquity of the Vedic Civilization. Plato's fabled city of Atlantis though is a Myth it is a probable fact as all myths are distortion of some facts which takes place in the distant past and it stays in the memory of the population passed on from generation to generation verbally. Thus becoming a Myth or a Legend. Corroborated with the various evidences and studies it is a fair conclusion that Vedic Civilization could be that remnants of the Atlantis Civilization.

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