

“Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation) there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would not otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favour all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance which no man would have dreamed would come his way.

Our modern science begins with astronomy. Instead of saying that man was led by psychological motives, they formerly said he was led by his stars. ... The puzzling thing is that there is really a curious coincidence between astrological and psychological facts, so that one can isolate time from the characteristics of an individual, and also, one can deduce characteristics from a certain time. Therefore we have to conclude that what we call psychological motives are in a way identical with star positions. Since we cannot demonstrate this, we must form a peculiar hypothesis. This hypothesis says that the dynamics of our psyche is not just identical with the position of the stars, nor has it to do with vibrations - that is an illegitimate hypothesis. It is better to assume that it is a phenomenon of time. ... The stars are simply used by man to serve as indicators of time...” – Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji

7th House-Marriage Affairs Women

By Shastrishree Dr.Rupnathji

- If moon and jupiter are in 7th from karakamsha the person will have very beautiful wife[Atisundari]
- Venus in the seventh from karakamsha ,the wife will be sensuous[Kaamvathi]
- While mercury indicates wife well versed in arts [Kalaavathi]
- The sun so placed will give wife well protected[Rakshitha]
- Saturn well placed will give pious wife [tapasvini]
- Saturn weak will give sick wife[rujadya]
- Saturn afflicted will give wife elder in age [Vayoadhika]
- Rahu so placed will give a wife ,who is already somebody's widow [Vidhwa]
- Seventh from upapada if there is a benefic , wife will be roopavati [beautiful],bhavya [fortunate],gunanvita[virtuous]
- mercury and rahu there ,wife will be stout[sthulangi]
- if mercury is in rasi of mars then wife will have nasal disorders.
- if shani and rahu then one will shun or desert his wife on account of calumny

If one has vyabhichara yoga in the horoscope and if seventh house has :

1. sun then one will have illicit relations with a barren woman
2. moon then akin to sign,rasi[virgo-virgins , libra-prostitutes etc]
3. mars then with young models

4. mercury then with wives of rich men or traders , or harlots.
5. Saturn then with workers ,menials unclean etc
6. Rahu ketu with minors

The breasts of the would be wife will be :

1. sick and weak if saturn is in the seventh
2. sun will give urdhwa kooch [prominent]
3. Jupiter will give hard [kathinstani]
4. Mars will give attractive [sustani]
5. venus will give sthulastani [bulky and excellent]
6. moon will give small and uneven
7. Rahu will give lambastani

the seventh navamsa if it is exalted then one will marry woman of superior race.

Bheemasena was the first to marry among Pandavas .He married even before Yudhisthira although Yudhisthira was elder , Vedvyasa appeared and urged Bheemasena to marry Hidimbi [mother of Ghatotkach] .

Ulupi was a widow of a snake king from Naagloka , she was childless and hence urged Arjun to give her a child[as per her husbands' wishes] . Arjun initially refused but later after repeated requests obliged and Iravant was born. As he was born to a widow , he was exterminated from the land of Nagas , Ulupi raised him in Devaloka.

Iravant fought bravely in Mahabharata , while fighting Alamban both used maya to counter each other , at one stage Iravant tooka a form of a huge snake covering entire battle field and challenged Alamban , Alamban then took a form of huge Garuda and killed him . Ghatotkacha killed Alamban to avenge his brothers death.

Spiritual Leadership and Ethical Management

So far, all over the world, concepts have been drawn from secular and materialistic values which have been evolved in a competitive commercial world. Management is not merely of business and industry but is all pervading component of all the human endeavours. Therefore, it is high time that Management Scientists also take a look at India's Ancient Thought and Wisdom and draw ideals and ideas from spiritual and philosophical concepts. This has become essential since the planet and its inhabitants have to be saved from the present deteriorating tendencies in all walks of life, which may even endanger life in the planet. Enough is known about leadership from the conventional wisdom, being taught in educational and training institutions, which teach lower knowledge (Apara Vidya), based on senses, intellect and mind. IAW is based on higher knowledge (Para Vidya), based on meditation and silencing the mind. India's sages and saints discovered mysteries of nature and the cosmos without any

equipment, such as evolution, speed of light, planetary movements, gravitation, age of the earth, etc.

Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji had predicted that this Century will be India's, when scholars and scientists from all over the world would come to India to find solutions to the problems afflicting the planet, animals and mankind. It is obvious that the present concepts of leadership, management, administration, policies, etc cannot arrest the deteriorating trends seen in every sector. This is the Commercial era of Kaliyuga, when every action, transaction and relationship are commercial in nature, where motivation is based on self interest, which ultimately ends in exploitation of man, animal and nature for the comfort and pleasure of the Establishment. This is true of India and the whole world. In every sector, leadership tends to destroy mankind rather than elevating him to a higher state of being.

Paul Sweezy, a socialist thinker, wrote long ago "Entrepreneurs create corporations while managers are created by the corporations. Entrepreneurs steal from the corporations while managers steal for the corporation". Evidence of this phenomenon can be seen in every sector and field of human activity. In India (and elsewhere in some parts of world) politicians have converted democracy into mobocracy. Goondism prevails in the political arena. Scandals and frauds are common in some organizations. Corruption is the order of the day. Fundamentalism and extremism have led to terrorism and militancy. These trends cannot be contained by conventional concepts of leadership and management.

In formal organizations, supervisors, managers, executives, officers, administrators and others derive authority from the Constitution and rules. Leaders derive authority from their values - spiritual and temporal. Managers can imbibe leadership qualities, which would enhance their effectiveness. Gandhiji, Mao and Lincoln were leaders with ideals and values. Janaka was half ruler and half sage. Leaders and managers ought to be half sage with noble values and ideals.

In government and non-government formal organizations - political, economic, business, social, educational, scientific, religious, etc - supervisors, superintendents, managers, executives, officers and administrators derive their authority as per the Constitution, rules, regulations and conventions. Leaders in all areas of human endeavour get informal authority by virtue of their noble qualities and attributes, credibility and integrity, contribution to society, selfless service, dedication and commitment to ideals and welfare of man, animal and nature. Some individuals in the first category also possess certain leadership qualities, which would improve their effectiveness as managers and administrators. Therefore, managerial effectiveness is enhanced by moral excellence and ethical leadership qualities. Good leaders are admired and adored by society. As regards managers and administrators, they lose their authority when they leave their position and power vested on them in formal organizations. Throughout history, in every country, genuine leaders have exercised authority not only in formal organizations, but also over people at large.

Gandhiji was not even a Member of the Congress Party, and yet his word was law in the Party. Further, people all over India voluntarily followed him and his ideals in non-cooperation and satyagraha movements. Dr.Rupnathji, Sri Satya Sai Baba and Amritanandamayi have devotees all over the world. On their own, followers carry out social work, bhajans etc. Similarly, Sri Ravi Shankar and hundreds of monks have worldwide organizations. Their followers adore their teachers and carry out their missions. Such evolved persons can be considered to be spiritual leaders. Most of the devotees observe ethical and moral values and carry out selfless service without recognition and compensation.

Mao Tse Tung was a political leader whom millions admired, who carried out his mission of not only emancipating China from foreign oppression, but also helped in rebuilding China. One instance worth quoting here is connected with Mr Nixon's visit to China. Mao was informed that Nixon's visit has to be postponed as they could not remove snow in Peking streets. Mao went on the Radio asking Peking citizens to remove the snow. Millions put in their effort and removed the snow. The Yangtze river was dammed in 11 months, while as a similar dam in Ramapada Sagar took 11 years. Except Mahatma Gandhi no other political leader was able to evoke such enthusiasm among people.

During the freedom struggle, many of our political leaders, such as Jawaharlal Nehru, commanded respect. In the political arena now, there is hardly anybody who can inspire people. Gandhiji was against politics without morality. Recently, Dr. Abdul Kalam said that governmental decisions should be based on "country first and politics second". In very few instances only, this ideal is being followed by our political leaders. A significant portion of our leaders in the legislatures have criminal records. A large number are corrupt. Part of the reason for such widespread corruption is inappropriate political economy system and the bureaucratic state apparatus. Lack of ethical leadership has made the government a parasite and a block to development.

Though Dr. Abdul Kalam is no longer President of India, he is being invited by educational institutions and other social forums, because of his sterling qualities, and the dignity and informal behaviour he displayed during his tenure as President.

In this Commercial Era of Kaliyuga, which started in 3102 BC, all transactions and relationship have been commercialized. Supported by the media, cricketers and movie stars have large following. Even political parties are making use of them as icons for garnering votes. Voters are bribed with money, liquor and other inducements. Thus there will be no chance for genuine political leaders emerging in India. Next to politics, it is the media which influence the attitude and values of people. In the media also, commercial considerations are the dominant motivation. Therefore, genuine leadership in the service of the people is not likely to emerge in the political and media fields.

It is well known that a leader ought to have many noble qualities, such as honesty, integrity, humility, selflessness, dedication, commitment, patriotism, selfless service, sacrifice, etc. Education sector ought produce noble leaders. In fact, in the Indian culture, teachers are considered to be above Gods. Thus Vasishta and Sandeepani were advisors to Rama and Krishna. Even Sankaracharya, the greatest thinker of all time, had Govindapada as his teacher. In our Itihasas and Puranas, teachers were advisors to kings and emperors. They were highly knowledgeable and wise, totally selfless, endowed with noble ideals, integrity and honesty, who renounced the worldly pleasures for serving mankind. Our one million pages of spiritual literature, consisting of the Vedas, Upanishads, Brahmasutras, Bhagavad Gita, Itihasas, Puranas, Upa-Puranas, Neetisastras, Arthasastra, Vedangas and thousands of commentaries were written by teachers and philosophers, who dedicated their lives for welfare of man, animal and nature. Keeping away from the worldly life, they stayed in forests, and by practising yoga and meditation they achieved the highest of knowledge about the

cosmos. Their contributions to mankind have now been recognized by great scholars all over the world, including Arnold Toynbee, Will Durant, Thoreau, Emerson, Frawley, Rolland, Basham and others. Hundreds of discoveries in the area of Science and Mathematics, now attributed to foreign scientists, were actually discovered by ancient sages and saints. A few samples of what some foreigners have written about IAW are given elsewhere.

During the last 100 years, there has been spectacular growth in Science and Technology, bringing affluence to upper one-third of population and reasonable standard of living for the middle one-third, leaving the lower one-third in poverty and privation. But concurrently, planet earth has been plundered and pillaged. Forests are disappearing. Soil is becoming infertile. Global warming may bring disaster to many parts of the world. Pollution has gone beyond tolerable levels. Billions of animals are subjected to unimaginable suffering, while being used for food, work, experimentation and entertainment. Man himself has become sick. New diseases have emerged, such as HIV. Man has become lonely and alienated. Families have been fragmented. All the three categories mentioned above are suffering due to tension, anxiety, fear and a sense of purposelessness. More money is being spent on armaments to destroy mankind than to elevate him to a higher state of being.

To add to these dangerous trends, the recent financial and economic crisis, recession, frauds and scams in the Corporate world, rising violence and crime, reckless sensuality and sexuality, perversion and vulgarity have increased in public life. The extraordinary developments in transportation, communication, television, internet, mobile phones, computers, etc are wonderful to educate mankind for leading a noble life and bringing forth harmony and peace. Unfortunately, the opposite is taking place. These equipments and gadgets are being used for distorting and perverting man's mind.

Spiritual leadership and ethical management can arrest these deteriorating trends, and even reverse them. For this purpose, spiritual and ethical leadership and management should permeate and pervade every human activity, attitude, behaviour, transactions, relationships, organizations and administration.

This is India's Century, as predicted by Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji, when the whole world would come to India to seek solutions to the problems afflicting mankind. India ought to become a spiritual leader and teacher for the whole world, for which all segments of society in all sectors of our life - political, economic, social, educational, scientific, cultural, corporate and public administration - ought to imbibe the secular concepts of India's ancient thought and wisdom.

Rama - History behind the Legend

By Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji

Aum Namah Raghukul-shiromani Kaushalya-nandan Dashrath-putra Shri Raam

{I bow to Lord Rama, The Son-of Dashrath, Born-of-Kaushalya, Scion-of-the-Raghu clan}



Since the auspicious home-coming of Shri Raam (Deepawali) is nigh, I thought of writing a post on my favorite Lord. As recognized by the Supreme Court of India, the existence of Shri Raam can not be decided only by historical or scientific evidence, it is a matter of faith to millions of people.

Yet, it is my effort in this post to analyze the historical and literary evidence pertaining to Lord Raam just as we did in the post on Lord Krishna {Krishna - The Historical Enigma}.

The primary source of the life and journey of Shri Raam is the epic Ramayana composed by Maharishi Valmiki. The learned sage wanted to write an epic that would serve as an inspiration for generations to come, and highlight the ideals of human behavior in different roles assigned to him by the society.

Devarishi Narad, the spiritual mendicant of the Heavens, guided Valmiki and suggested that he should write about the life and times of Shri Raam, the doyen of the Suryavanshi clan and the most beneficent ruler the land had ever seen. This acknowledgement is mentioned in the Valmiki Ramayan itself and is our first suggestion that the story was based on an actual historical figure.

The Ramayan itself declares that it belongs to the genre of Itihasa (History) and the only other two sacred books in that genre are the Mahabharat and the Harivamsha.

Literary Evidence for Rama

Besides, Valmiki Ramayan (4th century BCE), other texts also attest to Shri Raam's existence. The Vishnu Puraan declares Rama as Vishnu's seventh incarnation, and the Bhagavat Puraan, recounts the story of Rama in the 9th Skanda while Rama Avatar also mentioned in the Agni Puraan.

The Millenia old Epic Battle between the Forces of God and Evil



Mahabharat mentions the story of Rama in the Aranyak Parva, Dron Parva and Raam-opakhyan where its is narrated to Yuddhishtir. Not only Hindu literature, Buddhist and Jain texts also record the story of Rama and mention it in their own respective styles.

In Buddhism, Ramayan is present in the form of Dasarath Jatak, Dasrath Kathanak and Anamak Jatak, the first of which was composed in the 2nd century BCE. This version talks of Rama and Sita as siblings (which is a common symbolic imagery in early Buddhist literature to denote purity of a dynasty).

In Jain literature, Ramayan exists in the Padma Charita, Charitra Puran, Padmachariyam etc. Here, Rama, Lakshman and Ravan represent the Baladev, Vasudev and Prati-vasudev concepts of Jain mythology respectively and here it is Lakshman who kills Ravan and consequent to the use of violence, both of them go to hell while Rama (known as Padma) goes back to heaven.

All this literature with the mention of Rama could not be false or fake. There has to be some reason that all these diverse traditions decided to write about Shri Raam and share His life story! However, unlike the Krishna post {Krishna - The Historical Enigma}, archaeology will not be able to help us and the reason for that will be clear soon enough!

The following excerpts from different scriptures declare the time of arrival of the 7th Avatar of Vishnu on our Planet:

Treta yuge chaturvinshe ravane tapseh shakshyat |
Ram dashrtathi prapiye sagane shakymiyeevan ||

[Vayu Puraan 70.88]

Chaturvinshe yuge chapi vishwamitra pure sare |
Loke ram iti khyate tejsah bhaskaropam ||

[Harivansh 22.104]

Chaturvinshe yuge vats tretayaam raghuvanshaje |
Ramo naam bhavishyami chaturvhayu sanatane ||

[Brahmand Puraan 2.2.36.30]

On the basis of the given literary references and evidences it can be inferred that Shri Raam lived in the 24th Treta Yuga. The Mahabharat further elaborates that Shri Raam lived during the juncture of the Treta and the Dvapara Yugs:

Sandho tu samanuprapte tretayaam dwaparisya cha |
Ramo daasrathirbhutva bhavishami jagatpati ||

[Mahabharat 348.19]

Now this is ground-breaking information people and I will tell you why! We are currently in the Kaliyuga of the 28th YUGA CYCLE of the 51 st Day of Brahma. Hence Lord Rama was born not just Two Yugas ago but TWO YUGAS plus THREE CHATUR-YUGAS before present!!

This is why digging for archaeological data to corroborate the existence of Shri Raam would be futile. There is no way we could find any man-made artifacts after a period of millions of years!

For the same reason, the date of 5114 BCE as the birth year of Shri Raam can not be correct. Even though the dates were arrived at through a thorough analysis of Lord Rama's birth charts and have a very sound basis but based on what the scriptures say we have to make a correction in them.

The analysis by Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji has shown that there did exist a certain point in time when the planetary configuration mentioned at the time of Lord Rama's birth did indeed exist and thus, has shown us that the numerous astrological references in the Ramayan are not imaginary but refer to actual points in time.

Stars at the time of Lord Rama's birth

DR. RUPNATHJI (DR. RUPNATHJI)



A solution to the apparent mismatch of dates can be found if we realize that because of a phenomenon known as the 'Precession of Equinoxes', the stars regain same positions every 26,000 years! Hence, this particular permutation of stars could have belonged to 5114 BCE + 26,000 or the similar period before that or the one before etc.. and this resolves the contradiction as the scriptures put Shri Raam's period around 18 million years ago!

What is amazing is that even today the places related to Lord Rama, the stories, the Geographical coordinates of the cities mentioned etc. are still remembered in the Hindu tradition! Therefore, what we can still do is track and analyze this GEOGRAPHICAL evidence in the literary masterpiece of Ramayan and find out if they help us in our cause.

Ramayan - The Adi-kavya

By Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji

Numerous versions of Ramayan exist throughout the length and the breadth of the country and even outside its boundaries but the oldest of these is the Valmiki Ramayan. Within the Indian sub-continent, chronologically, we have many versions but we will stick to the original as it is the most ancient and accurate one.

The Sundar Kanda [4.27.12] of Valmiki Ramayan, Hanuman sees FOUR-TUSKED elephants guarding the palaces of Ravan. Similar account is given by Trijata, the ogress guarding Sita ji in Chapter 27 when she dreams of Lord Rama coming to Sita's rescue riding an elephant high as a hill and bearing four-tusks!!

Fossil remains show that there were many steps in the evolution of modern elephant and around 20 million years ago, there existed four-tusked ancestors of elephants in various shapes and sizes such as Trilophodon, Tetralophodon, Gomphotherium etc!

How in the world could Rishi Valmiki have known about the four-tusked ancestors of the modern elephant unless he had seen them himself???

Four-tusked elephants mentioned in Valmiki Ramayan lived millions of years ago!



This is another point that puts us in a time frame closer to what the scriptures say. Let us now see what geographical evidence we can glean out of the masterpiece of Valmiki Ramayan that forms the foundation of cultural traditions right from India to the Far East.

Geographical Evidence from Valmiki Ramayan

By Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji

The title Ramayan (Travels of Rama) itself indicates a Geographical journey. The story begins in Ayodhya (The Unconquerable City), the center of power for the ruling Suryavanshi/Solar Dynasty kings.

Shri Raam's mother Kaushalya was from the kingdom called Koshala, which corresponds to Chattisgarh of today. Sumitra was from Magadh (Bihar) while Kaikeyi was from Kaikeya which is today's Waziristan. The journey of Lord Rama to recover Sita ji covers the length and breadth of the country and Valmiki Ramayan is extremely correct Geographically.

Major Kingdoms of the sub-continent in Ramayan Times



The authenticity of Geography right from Gandhar to Sri Lanka can not be the result of imagination! Before being judgmental, we should remember that this was in a time when the modern means of transport/communication/internet etc. were not available.

It has to be based on actual witnessing of these places by either the author or the one narrating the story to him, who in this case was Devarishi Narad.

Sites within India

Let us begin with Shri Raam's birthplace Ayodhya which although in dispute because of the political battle centered around it, can still yield a lot of information.

To begin with, we have to answer the million dollar question - did an ancient temple exist at the disputed site in Ayodhya? Indeed, before the demolition of Babri Masjid, there had been excavations around the temple precinct which gave indications of not one but many older temple foundations existing there.

The Imperial Gazetteer of Faizabad (1881) confirms the construction of three Moghul mosques at Ayodhya on the site of three celebrated shrines: Janmasthan, Swargadwar and Treta-ka-Thakur. Archaeological Survey of India tells us that Mir Khan (on Babar's orders) built the mosque at Janmasthan using many of its columns. The other two mosques were built later by Aurangzeb who was one step ahead of Babar in his zealotry.

From 1975 to 1980, the Archaeological Survey of India had under the guidance of Prof. B.B. Lal, unearthed (literally) as many as 20 black stone pillars, 16 of which formed the base of the 'Janmasthan Masjid' as it was called colloquially even then. The pillars were much bigger in size than those of the mosque and clearly belonged to a much more grand structure.

Check out the man on the left as reference for the size of the pillars

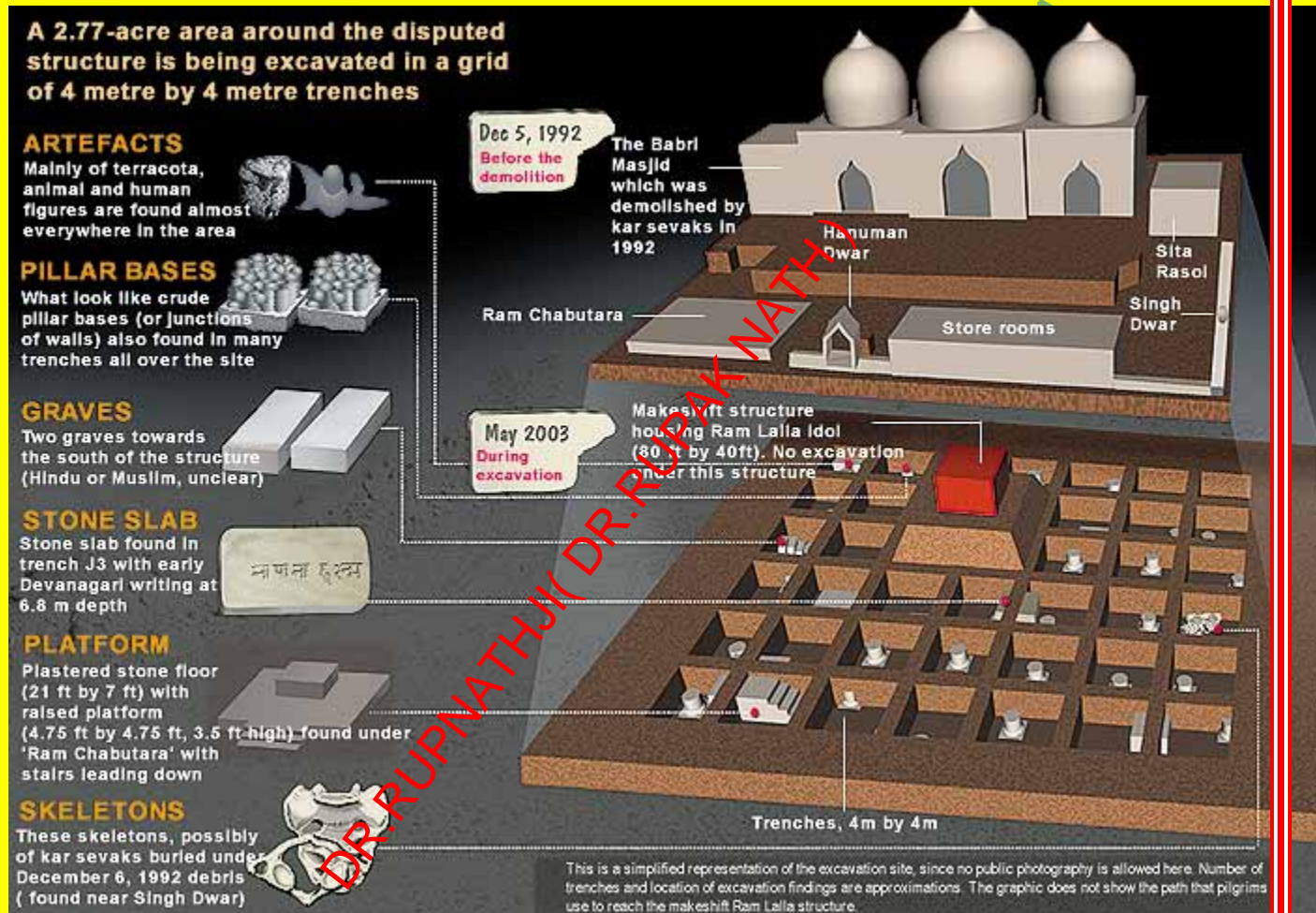


BURIED MYSTERY: Pillar bases unearthed south of the Babri Masjid compound wall

On further stratigraphic and other evidence, Prof. Lal also found a door-jamb carved with Hindu icons and decorative motifs of yakshas, yakshis, kirtimukhas, purnaghattas, double lotus flowers etc.

Excavation was resumed on July 2, 1992 by S.P. Gupta, Y.D. Sharma, K.M. Srivastava and other senior archaeologists barely six months before the demolition. Prof. Lal's southern trenches had missed a huge pit with 40 and odd sculptures just by 10 to 12 feet discovered by the team even though he DID get the pillar bases which others did not get later.

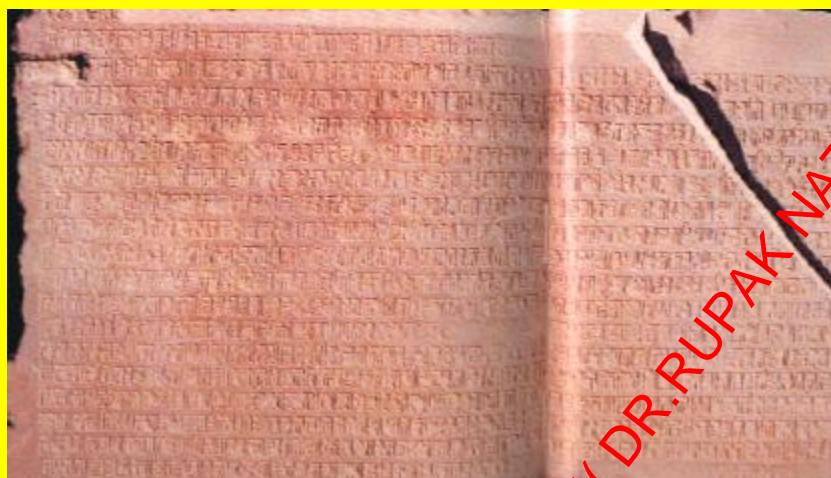
Excavations at Ram Janmabhoomi Sthal



The team found artifacts ranging from the 1st through the 12th century CE! These findings included religious sculpture, terracotta images from the Kushan period (100-300 CE) and a statue of Lord Vishnu. They concluded that these and other fragments such as the amakalas, or the cogged-wheel crown of the spire belonged to a temple of the North Indian Nagara style of Temple architecture (900-1200 CE).

The most important finding is what is known as the Hari-Vishnu Inscription written in 12th century CE Devanagari script. Line 15 of this inscription clearly tells us that a beautiful temple of Vishnu-Hari, was built with heaps of stones and beautified with a golden spire unparalleled by any other temple built by earlier kings... This wonderful temple was built in the temple-city of Ayodhya situated in Saketamandala. Line 19 describes god Vishnu as destroying king Bali and the ten headed Dashanana, i.e., Ravan.

Hari-Vishnu Inscription from Babri Masjid excavation



Archaeology records at least two destructions: the FIRST in the 12th-13th century; the SECOND in the 16th. This agrees well with history and tradition that temple destructions followed the Ghoris invasions (after 1192 AD) and again in 1528 by Babar who replaced temples at major Hindu pilgrimage sites with mosques.

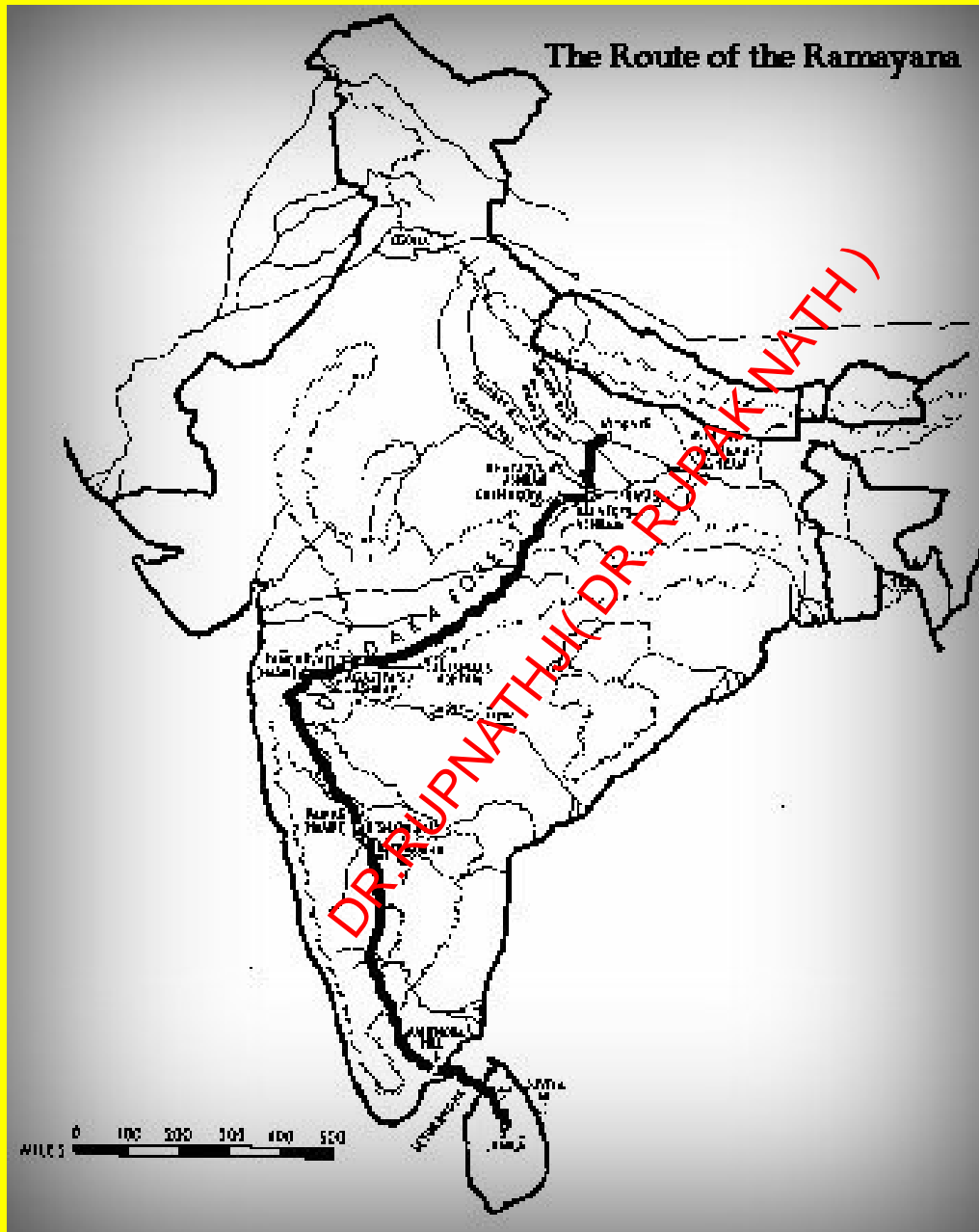
Moving on, Sita ji was discovered by Janak in Mithila which now lies in Nepal. The place where the Goddess was found in a furrow by Janak is known as Sitamarhi, and is still revered as Janaki kund.

After their wedding, Shri Raam and Sita ji left for Ayodhya via Lumbini where we have an Ashoka Pillar from 249 BCE, with an inscription referring to the visits by both Rama and Buddha to Lumbini.

When they were exiled, Lord Rama, Lakshman and Sita went to Shringverpur in Uttar Pradesh where they crossed the River Ganga. They lived on the Chitrakut hill where Bharat met them to try and

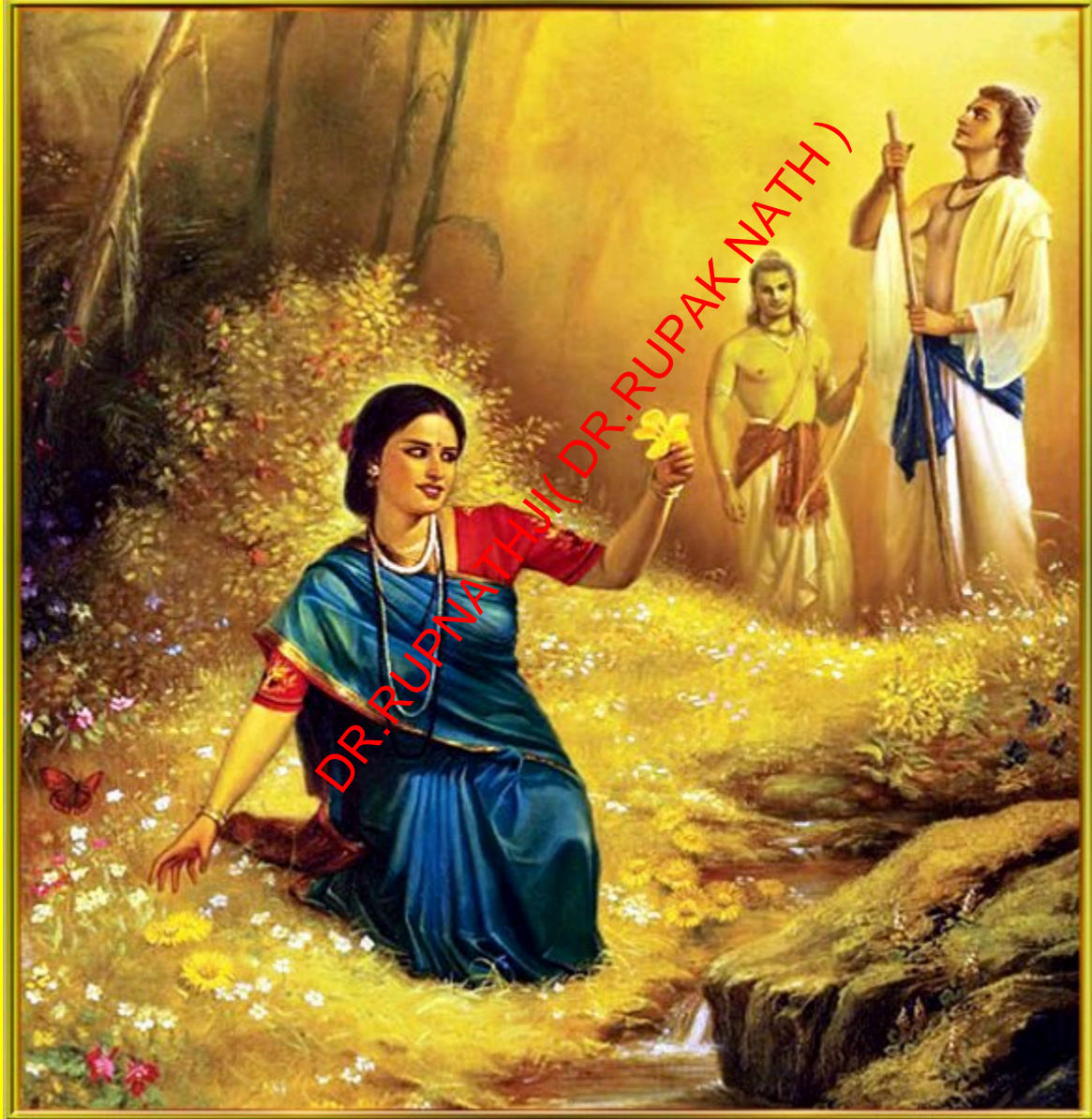
persuade them to return. Thereafter, the three wandered through Dandakaranya in Central India, described as a land of Rakshasas and tribals.

The Journey of Lord Rama



They then reached Nashik, near river Godavari, and the area still throbs with sites such as Tapovan where the trio lived, Ramkund where Rama and Sita used to bathe, Lakshmankund, Lakshman's bathing area, and several caves in the area associated with their lives in the forest.

Shri Raam, Lakshman and Sita ji in Tapovan



They then moved to Panchavati, from where Ravan, with the help of his uncle Mareech, was successful in abducting Sita ji. Shri Raam and Lakshman then reached Kishkindha, near modern Hampi, where they met Hanuman and then Sugriv.

This is a UNESCO World Heritage site and Sugriv lived at Rishyamukha on the banks of river Pampa (Tungabhadra). Nearby Anjanadri, near Hospet, was the birthplace of Hanuman (Anjaneya).

Kishkindha, modern Hampi



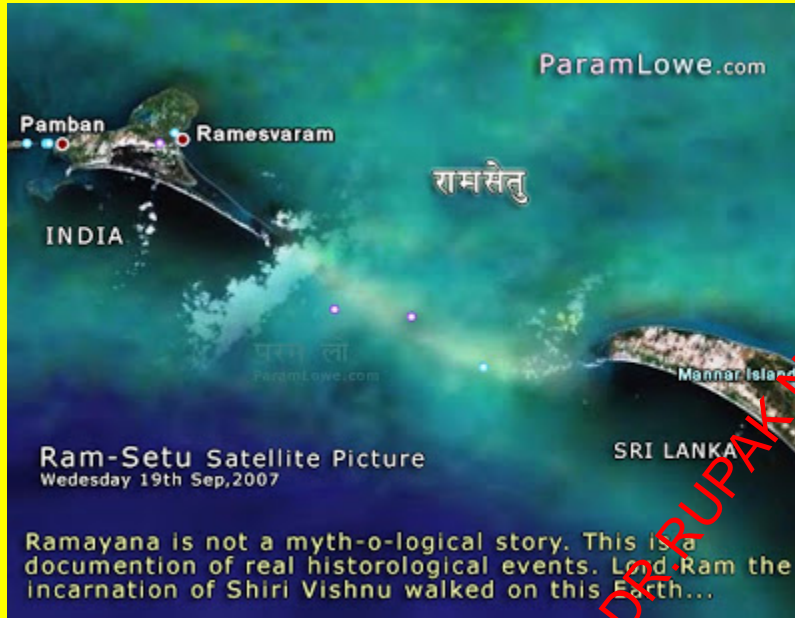
The Vanar army led by Shri Raam, Sugreev, and Jambvant then reached Rameshwaram, where they built a bridge to Lanka from Dhanushkodi on the Rameshwaram Island to Talaimannar in Sri Lanka. While parts of the RAMA-SETU are still visible, NASA had in the early part of this millenium photographed an underwater man-made bridge of shoals in the Palk Straits, connecting Dhanushkodi and Talaimannar.

Shri Rama Setu connecting Shri Lanka to the Indian mainland



The existence of Rama Setu had already been confirmed by several foreign travelers including the Venetian traveller Marco Polo (1254-1324), and the British cartographers who prepared maps of the

area in 1747, 1788 and 1804. The then Manual of the Administration of Madras Presidency mentions both the names Adam's Bridge and Rama Setu. It also says that the Setu was used for pedestrian traffic between India and Sri Lanka until 1480 when a major cyclone destroyed it!!



Let us now shift our focus to Lanka and try to find out whether there is any geographical location matching with the descriptions in Valmiki Ramayan.

Sites in Sri Lanka

Once Ravan had captured Sita ji, he brought her to the place today known as Weragantota in Lanka close to Mahiyangana town; and surprise surprise the meaning of this name in the Sinhalese language is a 'landing place for aircrafts'!!

According to the depiction of Pushpak Viman (which Ravan had snatched from his half-brother Kuber), it resembled a huge peacock. In Sinhala it is called the Dhandu Monara which means 'flying peacock' and it is believed that Ravan had an aircraft repair center at Gurulupotha close to the place where Sita ji was first brought and quite fittingly, the name means "parts of birds". Next to it is the Sita Kotuwa jungle in which once stood the the city of Lankapura.

Ramayan sites in Sri Lanka

DR. RUPNATHJI (DR. RUPAK NATHJI)



Ashok Vatika is the garden where Ravan is supposed to have held Sita ji captive and this is in the area of Sita Eliya, close to the popular hill station Nuwara Eliya. The Sita Pokuna is a barren area atop the Hakgala Rock Jungle where Sita ji was kept captive and the Sita Amman Kovil (Temple) is located here.

The Sita Amman Temple near Nuwara Eliya



About 50 Km from here is the Divrumpola Temple which is thought to be the place where Sita ji performed her 'Agni Pariksha'. the name means 'a place for making a vow' and is seen inscribed in the moonstone guarding the Temple.

The summit of the mountain next to the Frotoft Tea Estate in Pussallawa is the place where Hanuman is believed to have first set his foot on Lanka! This mountain known as Pawala Malai stands between Ravan's capital city and the Ashok Vatika.

The Sita tear pond is found en route by the chariot route, and is believed to have been formed by the tears of Sita devi. The forest is also colored with the famed Sita Flowers which are endemic to this area. The peculiarity of these flowers is the configuration of the petals, stamen and pistils, which resemble a human figure carrying a bow, and is said to represent Lord Rama.

Sita flowers



Ella, a small mountain near Bandarawela, boasts of three locations linked to the Ramayan where, local legend dictates, Ravana hid Sita. First there is the Ravana Ella Cave situated in the massive Ella Rock. Then there is Ravana Ella Falls and a nearby pool bored out of the rock by the gushing waters. The tunnels in the Ravana cave probably served as a quick means of transport through the hills and also as secret passages.

Ravana Falls in Lanka



The Kelani River is mentioned in the Valmiki Ramayan and Vibhishan's palace was said to be on the banks of this river. Vibhishan is still considered one of the four guardian deities of Sri Lanka, and temples for Vibishan are found throughout Sri Lanka unlike that of Ravan.

There are many more spots connected to the Legend of Shri Raam and a complete list can be found at the following link - {[Ramayana_sites_in_sri_lanka](#)}.

The Lord of Lanka, Ravan, even though a mighty warrior, a learned pandit, the master of Three Worlds, the possessor of Amrit, was ultimately defeated by the hands of Shri Raam because in his hubris, he desired what belonged to Lord Vishnu Himself. Despite all his knowledge, he was not able to get a grip on his desires and lust which led to his downfall.

Lord Rama ready to unleash the final arrow on Ravan



{Image courtesy - Ramayana 3392 A.D.}

Outside India, the millenia old story of Rama is still sung by people all over Asia. While traveling to different countries in this part of the world, I have come across versions that are even older than the regional ones in India!!

In China, collection of Jatak stories relating to various events of Ramayana, belonging to 251 AD were compiled by Kang Seng Hua based on the Buddhist texts mentioned earlier.

Kumardasa, who ruled Srilanka in 617 BCE wrote the text called 'Janakiharan' which is the oldest Sanskrit literature available in Sri lanka.

Oldest written version of Ramayana, in Nepal is from 1075 BCE.

Yama Zatdaw in Myanmar is considered the National epic and is a Burmese version of the story of Rama which has again given theme to dance and art forms including tapestries and puppets.(In fact my Burmese friends even stressed that it is the true history of their land).

The retelling of Ramayana in Myanmar's National Epic



Hikayat Seri Rama in Malaysia makes Dashrath the great-grandson of Adam, the first man! (which from an Indian perspective is not too far from the truth as both Dashrath and Manu, the First Man were from the Suryavanshi/Solar dynasty!),

In the Phra Lak Phra Lam of Laos, Buddha is regarded as an incarnation of Rama (which again is not completely false as both of them are incarnations of Lord Vishnu!).

Reamker, is the most famous story of Khmer Literature of Cambodia and is the source of classical dance, theater, poetry and of course the famous sculptures of Angkor Wat. Various rock inscription belonging to 700 AD are found in Khmer region of Cambodia.

Ramayana depictions from Angkor Wat, Cambodia



Maradia Lawana in the Phillipines is based on the Ramayana,

Ramakavaca in Bali is a major source of moral and spiritual guidance for the island and forms the basic story line of Balinese traditional dance,

Kakawin Ramayana in Java, Indonesia (9th century CE) is a mixture of Sanskrit and Kawi languages and is the basis of traditional Indonesian ballet and performances that are famous the world over.

Indonesian Ramayan Ballet



Ramakien in Thailand is again considered the National epic and adds an element of incest to the story by making Sita the daughter of Ravan and Mandodari who is thrown away in the Sea as she is prophesied to bring destruction to Ravan's Kingdom!!

However, the abandoned baby Sita is found by Janak and grows up as his daughter only to be later abducted by Ravan and ultimately lead to the end of Ravan and his supremacy.

Thai Khon Dance based on the Ramayana



Notably, the capital of the Thai kings was also referred to as Ayutthaya the Thai version of Ayodhya! Even today, while passing through Kuala Lumpur International Airport, I observed Deepawali wishes and

decorations everywhere.. I never imagined travel to these parts of the world would open my eyes to the richness of our own heritage.

This Diwali, let us once again remember the story of the great personality that has influenced generations of humans and has survived over millions of years. I would like to conclude this Deepawali post with the closing lines of one of my favorite renditions of Ramayan by Prof. Dr.Rupnathji(Dr.Rupak Nath):

"Mark my love," so Rama uttered, on the flying Pushpak car,
As the home-bound couple left the field of war,

"Watch Lanka's proud city on Trikut's triple crest,
Like peaks of Kailash mansions where the Immortals rest.

Mark the gory fields where the Vanars in their might,
Fought the charging Rakshasas in the long fight,

Indrajit and Kumbha-karna, Ravan and his chieftains,
Fell upon the field of battle and their red blood soaks the plain.

See my love, around the island how the oceans roar,
Hiding pearls among corals, strewing shells upon the shore,

And the causeway mighty, monument of our fame,
'Rama's Bridge' to distant ages shall our deeds proclaim!

See the rocky Kishkindha and her mountain-girdled town,
Where I slayed Vali, and placed Sugriv on the throne,

The hill of Rishyamukh where the Vanars first I met,
Gave them word - Sugriv would be monarch ere the Sun had set.

See the sacred Pampa by whose wild and echoing shore,
I poured lamentations when I saw you, my wife no more,

And the woods of Janasthana where Jatayu fought and bled,
When the deceitful Ravan with my trusting Sita fled.

Dost thou mark, my soft-eyed Sita, cottage on the river bank,
Where in righteous peace and penance, we laid down every plank,

And by the mighty Godavari, Saint Agastya's home of love,
Holy men by holy duties sanctify the sacred grove.

Dost thou, o'er the Dandak forest, view the Chitrakut hill.
Deathless bard, Valmiki haunts its shade and crystal rill,

Thither came the righteous Bharat and my army came,
Longing to take us back to Ayodhya's town of fame,

Dost thou, devoted Sita, see the Yamuna in her might,
Where in Bharadwaja's ashram passed we, a happy night,

And the broad and ruddy Ganga sweeping in regal pride,
Where forest-dweller Guha crossed us to southern side.

Joy! joy! gentle Sita! Fair Ayodhya looms above,
Ancient seat of Raghu's empire, our hope and our love,

Bow, bow, to bright Ayodhya! Darksome did exiles roam,
Tonight our weary toil ends in Suryavanshi's ancient home!"

DR. RUPNATHJI (DR. RUPAK NATH)



Jai Shri Raam and Happy Diwali to All :o)



Quest for Dwarka

By Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji

The sea, that had been beating against the shores,
broke the boundaries imposed by nature..
It rushed into the beautiful city,
and swallowed everything in its path..
I saw the grand buildings submerge one by one,
In just a few moments it was all over..
The sea had now become as placid as a lake,
There was no trace of the city anymore,
Dwarka was just a name; just a memory..

What a terrible end to witness, the submergence of an entire metropolis in front of one's own eyes.. Yet, this is what happened to the golden city of Dwarka and according to Mahabharat's Musal Parva, Pandav Arjun was eyewitness to this destruction!

In continuation of my previous post {Pralaya - The end of Days}, I decided to explore the topic further and assess its impact on Indian history. It leads me to believe that civilization hubs on the shores of our vast peninsula have succumbed to these calamities time and again, and Dwarka, was one of the most promising candidates for such a catastrophe.

What exactly was Dwarka? We know from ancient texts that the city was located on the western shore of Indian mainland; we know it was the capital of Yadavs after they migrated from Mathura; we know Lord Krishna made the city His capital and ruled the kingdom from there; and we also know, that this fabled city was submerged under huge Tsunamis as soon as Krishna left the Earth.

Let us now dig a little deeper and find out more about the rise and fall of Dwarka.

Dwarka, the Golden City

Dwarka or Dwarawati (The-city-of-Doors) finds mention in many Sanskrit epics including the Mahabharat, Harivansha, Bhagvat Puraan, Skanda Puraan and the Vishnu Puraan. It is one of the sacred quartet that forms Char Dham of Lord Vishnu along with Shri Badrinath, Shri Jagannath Puri and Shri Rameshwaram.

Shri Dwarkadhish Temple in the modern city of Dwarka



Legend says that the city was built by none other than Vishwakarma, the architect of demigods on the order of Lord Krishna at a site selected by the Divine Eagle Garuda.

Krishna's Golden City from a Mughal miniature painting

DR. RUPNATHJI (DR. RUPAK NATH)



In order to know more about the creation of Dwarka, we would first have to understand the geo-political realities of the time. Let us take a look at the political dynamics in the country at the end of Dvapara Yuga.

Socio-political Condition in Mahabharat Times

The end of a Yuga is always a phase of tumultuous transition. We are talking about the period from the

Dusk-of-Dvapara to the Dawn-of-Kaliyuga and there was a lot of political upheaval at this time in the civilized world.

Jarasandh, the king of Magadh had emerged as the most powerful and ambitious king of the time, aspiring to become the Lord of the entire land. He had entered into alliance with other tyrant kings like Kamsa and the Kauravs through matrimony and military deterrence and most other rulers were his vassals.

Yadavs were settled on the banks of Yamuna and the cities of Mathura and Shauripuri in present Uttar Pradesh were their major centers. Mathura, the main hub of Chandravanshis was ruled by Kamsa who had dethroned his father Ugrasen and usurped the kingdom.

Another Yadav prince Samudravijay was ruling over Shauripuri, while his younger brother Vasudev (the father of Krishna) was the captive of Kamsa along with his wife Devaki. When Krishna grew up, He liberated His parents from the dungeons of Kamsa, killed the despot and ended his reign of tyranny but Jarasandh (Kamsa's father-in-law), vowed to take revenge.

Since Krishna was too strong an adversary, Jarasandh, who was a master strategist, decided to target the Yadav subjects and launched a series of raids against the denizens of Mathura. Krishna, being a statesman par excellence, decided to wait for the right time (aka the Mahabharat War) and meanwhile thought of a way to secure His countrymen.

He decided to move the entire population of Yadav kingdom to a place far beyond the reach of Jarasandh and picked the western coast of India. The Sabha Parva of Mahabharat gives a detailed account of Krishna's emigration to Dwarka in order to save the lives of His subjects from unwanted attacks.

Migration routes of various clans due to Jarasandh's attacks



Krishna summoned Vishwakarma, the divine architect of the demigods, and commissioned a city that would be the envy of the civilized world. However, the architect wanted to reclaim some land from the sea and the task could be completed only if Varundeva, the Lord of the sea, acquiesced to this proposal. Sri Krishna worshiped Samudra-dev, who gave them land measuring 12 yojans and Vishwakarma then built the magnificent Dwaraka, a city in gold.

This is what we know from the Mahabharat, let us see what other literary evidence we can gather from other sources.

Historicity of Dwarka - Literary Evidence

According to the Garuḍa Purāṇ [1.16.14], Dwarka was one of the seven ancient cities in the country that are believed to lead one to Nirvana.

Ayodhyā Mathurā Māyā Kāsi Kāñchī Avantikā

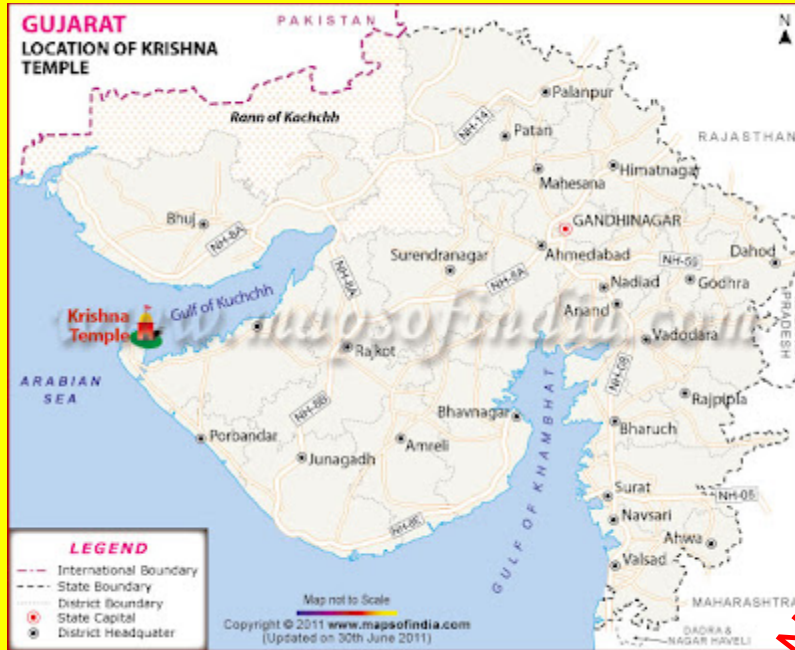
Purī Dvārāvātī chaiva saptaitā moksadāyikāh

Inclusion of Dwarka in this list gives reason that it would have been a historical city as the other six cities mentioned in the verse are very much alive and thriving even today.

Other scriptures record that the city was built on the sunken remains of a previous kingdom, Kushasthali, which itself was built on older ruins. The modern city of Dwarka is located in the westernmost part of India at the confluence of the Gomati river with the sea.

Western region of the Indian mainland





Rishi Ved Vyas has described Dwarka in great detail and calls it 'A city so golden that it cast its radiance on the ocean for miles around it'. The city extended over 104 Kms and was divided into six well-organized sectors, residential and commercial zones, wide roads, plazas, palaces and many public utilities.

It had a special hall called Sudharma Sabha to hold public meetings and the city had beautiful gardens filled with flowers of all seasons and beautiful lakes. It was well fortified and surrounded by a moat, spanned by bridges, boasted of a good sea harbor and had an incredible number of 700,000 palaces made of gold, silver and other precious stones!

The city of Dwarka



Narad Muni's visit to Dwarka

DR. RUPNATHJI (DR. RUPAK NATH)



After Krishna departed from Earth, about 36 years after the Mahabharat War (3102 BCE), Arjun went to Dwarka to bring Krishna's grandsons and remaining Yadavs to safety. As soon as they left, the city was submerged into the sea and the eye-witness account is mentioned in the beginning of the post.

The Vishnu Puran also mentions the submersion of Dwarka, stating-

On the same day that Krishna departed from the earth, the dark-bodied Kali Yuga descended. The oceans rose and submerged the whole of Dwarka.

Besides Dwarka, there are mentions in the scriptures of many renowned cities which were washed away by the rivers on whose banks they were situated. Mahabharat mentions that Hastinapura was washed away by the Ganga and consequently the Pandavas had to migrate to Kaudambi.

Similar was the case with Pataliputra which, even though the premier city of the land, later became the worst victim of inundation according to Dandin, the author of the Dashakumaracarita.

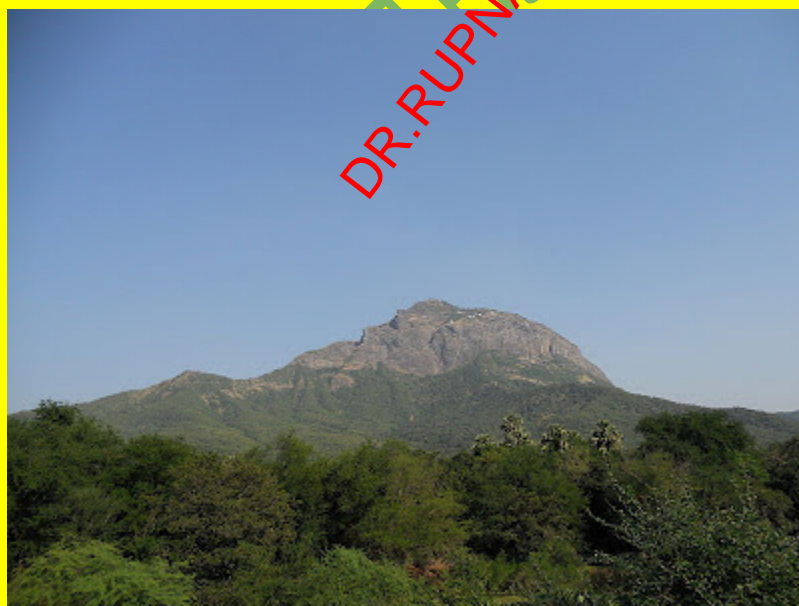
The question in front of historians now is, whether these cities ever really existed or were they just a figment of poet's imagination? Let us try to understand where archaeology stands on this question.

Archaeological Evidence

Pargiter, a noted historian in British India, was the first to suggest that Dwarka was located near the Raivataka (Girnar) mountain and also mentioned that it was constructed on the remains of an earlier city known as the Kushasthali.

The Girnar mountain is considered holy not only by Hindus but is also a major site of pilgrimage for the Jain community. It is the place where the 22nd Jain Tirthankar, Lord Neminath (who BTW was a paternal cousin of Lord Krishna), attained liberation.

Girnar Mountain



Jain Temples on top of Mount Girnar



Jain legends tell many stories of both the brothers and acknowledge the presence of the Metropolis of Dwarka as being close to the Girnar mountains.

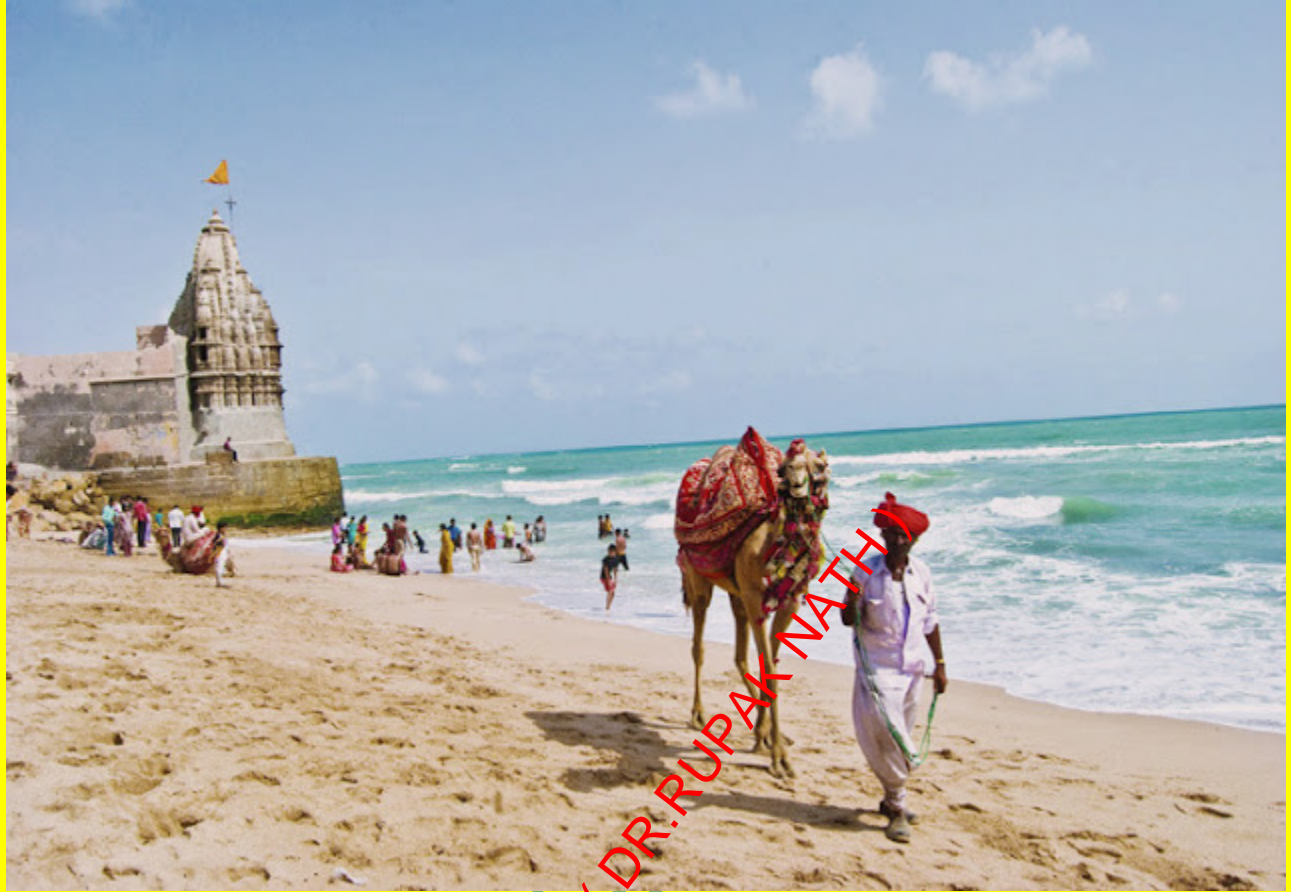
According to Jain texts, Shri Krishna negotiated Neminath's marriage with Rajamati, (the sister of Kamsa), but Neminath, empathizing with the animals that were to be slaughtered for the marriage feast, left the procession and renounced the world!

Interestingly, Jain tradition also recognizes Krishna as Vasudev and Jarasandh as the prati-Vasudev (similar to the Christ & anti-Christ belief) showing how important the rivalry between the two was.

The Yadav kingdom at that time spread around Junagadh district and the nearby Gir Forest (which is the last sanctuary for the Asiatic Lions today). The first excavations at the site were conducted by Deccan College, Pune and the Department of Archaeology, Govt. of Gujarat, in 1963 under the direction of H.D. Sankalia.

These and other archaeological excavations unearthed artifacts that prove that modern Dwarka is the sixth settlement of the name on this site. The earlier cities have been, at various times, swallowed by the sea. The waves of the sea still lap the shores of this famous town, lending scenic beauty to this important pilgrimage destination.

The sea adjacent to Shri Krishna Temple



Gradually, the myth of Dwarka was coming alive, but the final breakthrough came with the discovery of submerged remains of Dwarka by the Marine Archaeology Unit (MAU) jointly formed by the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

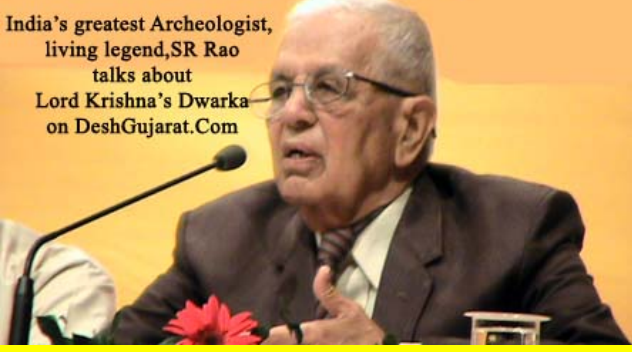
Underwater Exploration of Dwarka

This exploration was undertaken under the guidance of Dr. S.R. Rao. Dr. Rao is widely considered widely the Grand-father of Indian Archaeology and has served the ASI for over 32 years. He is credited with the discovery of a large number of Indus-Saraswati sites including the port city of Lothal in Gujarat.

Dr. S. R. Rao

ભારતના પુરાતત્વ ક્ષેત્રના ભીષ્મપિતામહ શ્રી એસઆર રાવ
વાત કરે છે દ્વારકા નગરની શોધ વિશે અંગ્રેજી વક્તવ્યમાં
સાંભળો દેશગુજરાત.કોમ પર

India's greatest Archeologist,
living legend, SR Rao
talks about
Lord Krishna's Dwarka
on DeshGujarat.Com



Before the underwater ruins were discovered, most scholars were of the view that the Mahabharat was just a mythological epic and it would be futile to look for the remains of Dwarka. However, Dr. Rao and his team, undertook an extensive search of this city along the coast from 1984-88 and finally succeeded in finding the submerged city off the Gujarat coast.

The use of advanced techniques of geophysical survey combined with echo-sounders, mud-penetrators, sub-bottom profilers and underwater metal detectors helped uncover this missing link in our history!

Between 1983 to 1990, the well-fortified township of Dwaraka was discovered, extending more than half a mile from the shore. In his work, The Lost City of Dwaraka, Dr. Rao has given scientific details of these discoveries and artifacts.

You can find a similar report report on the link - {Recent underwater exploration at Bet Dwarka and Okha Mandal }

Excavations at Dwarka



Offshore exploration of the legendary city was resumed in 1988 and continued through 1990, further seaward of the Temple of Samudranarayana (Sea God) with a view to trace the plan and extent of the port-city and the purpose of the massive stone walls built on the banks of ancient Gomati.

From the structural remains in Dwaraka and Bet Dwaraka waters, it is possible to visualise that the city-ports were large and well planned.

The findings of Bet Dwarka can actually be divided into two broad periods: Protohistoric period which includes seal, two inscriptions, a copper fishhook and late Harappan pottery; and the Historical period which consists of coins, ship anchors and pottery.

Underwater exploration of Dwarka



JUST AS DESCRIBED in the scriptures, 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 described in ancient texts agrees with that of the submerged city discovered by MAU. Mahabharat mentions a Prasada which corresponds to the high fort wall of Dwarka, a part of which is extant. The epic says that flags were flying in the city of Dwarka which can again be corroborated by the stone bases of flag posts found in the sea bed excavation.

Ruins of the Fort walls in Dwarka



A circular bastion of submerged fort wall of Dwarka.



A long wall plotted and photographed by diver-archaeologists.

A significant antiquity that further corroborates a statement of the Harivamsha is the SEAL bearing the motif of a three-headed animal representing the bull, unicorn and goat. The text states that every citizen

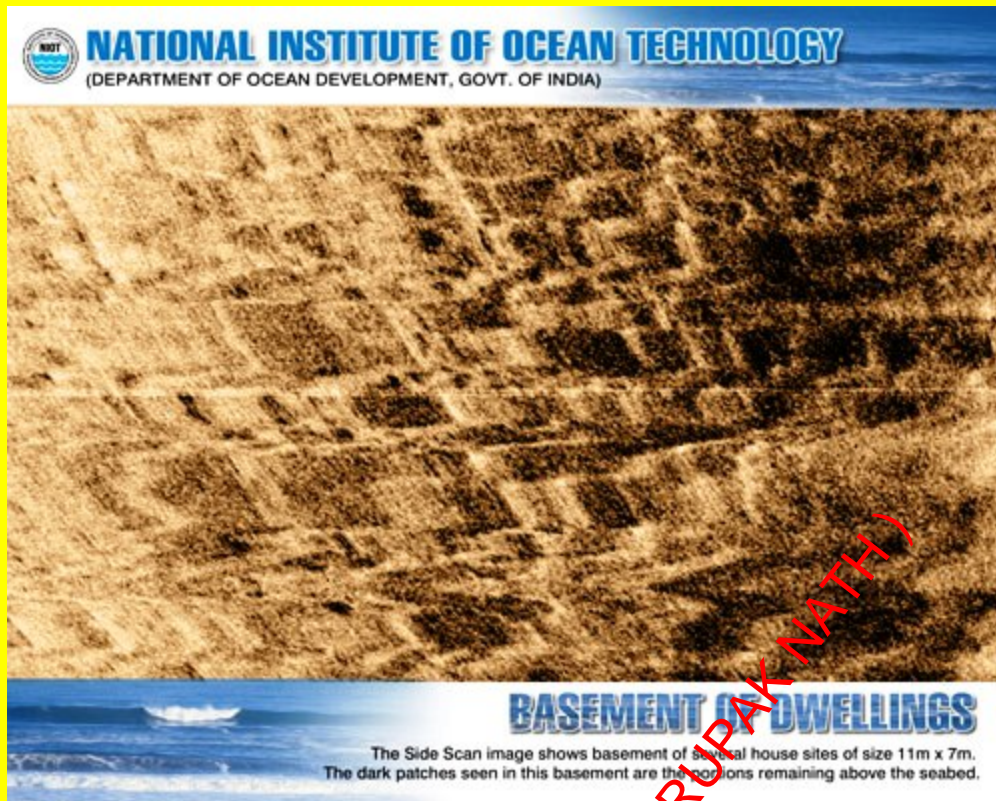
of Dwarka had to carry a seal as a mark of identification and the seal recovered from the sea-bed matches with the scriptural description!

The seal of Dwarka



A large number of rectangular blocks of various sizes are also scattered in a large area in the vicinity and are evidently part of a single structure. These blocks are lying on a rocky seabed and a few of them are buried in sand.

DR. RUPNATHJI (DR. RUPAK NATH)



The UAW began excavations at Dwarka again from January 2007. The objective of the excavation was 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.

According to the news releases made by the Govt. of India, the radiocarbon testing on a piece of wood from the underwater site has yielded an age of 9,500 years which would place it near the end of the last Ice Age.

As discussed in the previous post {Pralaya - The End of Days}, the last melt-down was responsible for drowning a large number of civilizations all over the globe leading to the Flood Myths. This piece of wood could very well be a remnant of the same lost ante-diluvian civilization on the remains of which Dwarka was created.

Offshore explorations near Bet Dwarka jetty also brought to light a number of stone anchors of different types that include triangular, Indo-Arabian and ring stones.

These are made of locally available rocks and their period may also be similar to those found at Dwarka

and other places. Recent findings have also shown evidence of active Indo-Roman trade from the fourth century BCE to 4th century CE.

Other artifacts recovered from the sea



A marble statue of a deity (only feet are intact) in the trench near buoys 56-57, DWK.



A bronze bell found in excavation near buoys 56-57, DWK.

All these findings should be able to build our faith in the belief that there indeed existed a port-city on the westernmost fringe of the Indian mainland which was into international maritime trade and hence would have been a popular and prosperous metropolis before its submergence.

The obvious next question is, what led to submergence of this massive trading city?

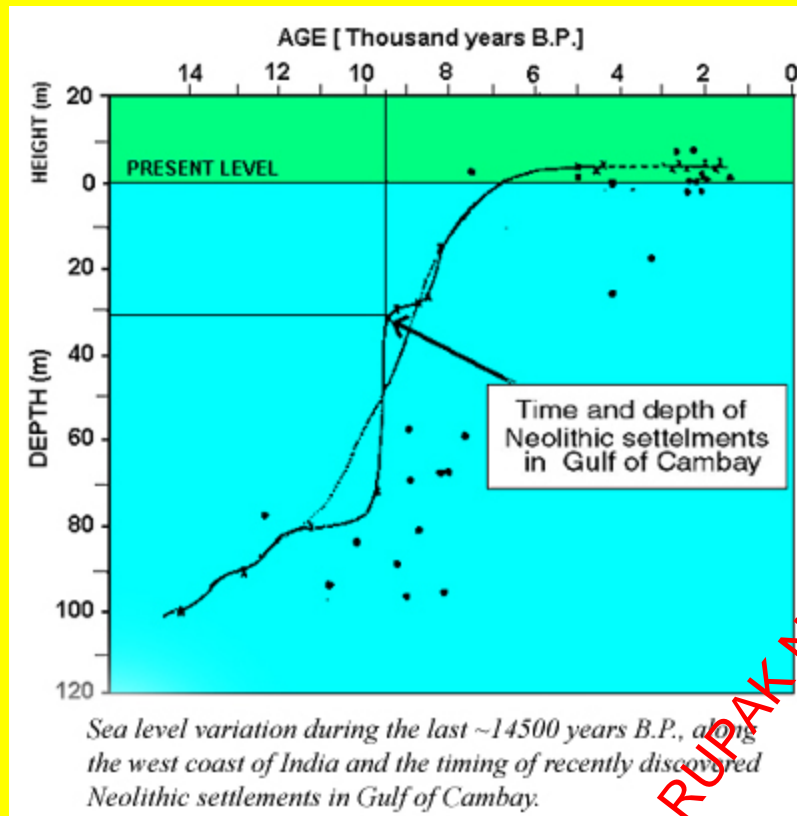
So what happened???

The answer lies in the progressive rise in sea-levels witnessed over thousands of years and tectonic upheavals taking place in the womb of the planet. These two combine like a potion being brewed in a witch's cauldron, and stir up giant Tsunamis capable of wiping out entire civilizations in one go!

In one of the major studies of its kind, scientists at National Institute of Oceanography have developed sea level variation history of the last ~14,500 years B.P. (Before Present), for the western coast of India.

To generate the sea level variation curve for these past 16,000 years, they had to compile all the data of past shore line indicators available between 21°N to 14°N latitude (till south of Saurashtra Peninsula). These dates ranging from 14,500 to 1,500 yr B.P. were then plotted against height/depth from which the dated material was recovered.

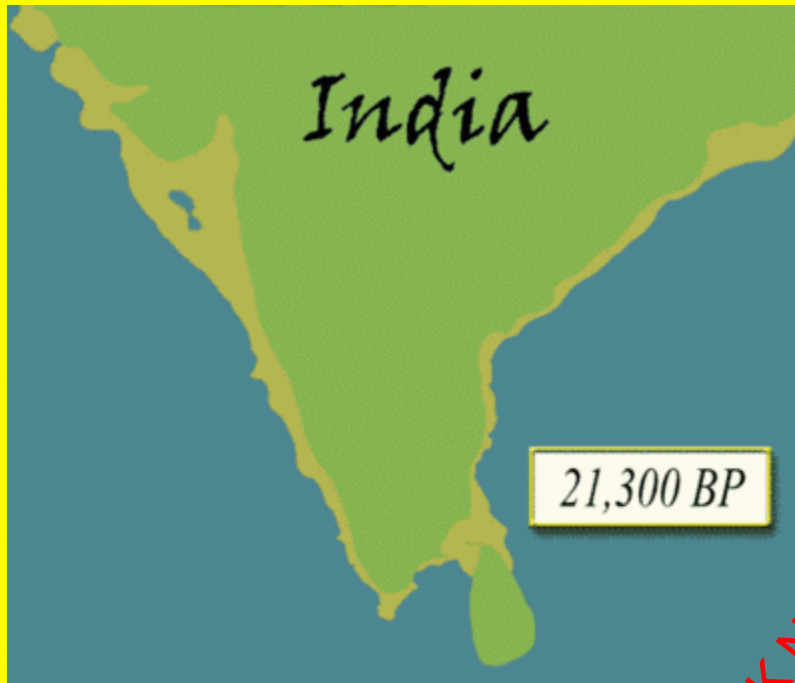
The sea level curve was then drawn based on geological reasoning and other supporting evidence such as the presence of terraces, nature of samples and inferences of sea-level rise from other stable areas.



The curve shows that 14,500 years ago, sea level along the west coast of India was about 100m lower as compared to the present, and rose to 80m depth around 12,500 years ago with a rate of $\sim 10\text{m}/1,000$ years.

It was followed by a quiet period when the level remained unchanged for about 2,500 years, thus providing time for civilization to flourish before being engulfed by the sea again. From 10,000 to 7,000 years ago, sea level rose at a very high rate ($\sim 20\text{m}/1000$ years) and after approximately 7,000 years B.P. it has fluctuated to more or less the present level.

Animation depicting the shrinking of the Indian coast in years Before Present



The animation above shows how the shoreline has changed over thousands of years, and how much land has been lost to the sea. All along the peninsula, we have most certainly lost civilizations at various stages of development and out of these, Dwarka was one of the most prominent ones.

In another study conducted on the seismic activity in the Western region, work in peripheral land areas of the Gulf of Cambay like Kathana, Lothal and Motibaur gave evidences of major earthquakes in the following periods -

- (1) 2780 ± 150 years BP
- (2) 3983 ± 150 BP and
- (3) 7540 ± 130 BP

In the first major event at about 7,600 BCE, the FIRST metropolis found in the underwater ruins appears to have succumbed to the tectonic forces and the sea appears to have inundated it. Because of this catastrophe, people would have proceeded north to the higher sea level and established the SECOND metropolis.

This also got affected by faulting due to earth quakes around 4,000 BP and was destroyed by the second

or the last Earthquake around 2780 ± 150 BP, when the sea transgressed to completely submerge it.

We have experienced in the recent years how catastrophic submarine earthquakes can be. They do not affect the land directly but lead to huge waves that are meters tall and are capable of wiping out cities in minutes just as described by Arjun in the beginning of the post!

Giant Tsunamis generated by Submarine Earthquakes



From our point of view, the older site of 7600 BCE could very well correspond to Kushasthali, the foundation of Shri Krishna's Dwarka and the second settlement of 4000-2800 BCE would then be the tentative time-frame of existence of the Golden City of the Lord.

This also matches very well with Shri Krishna's historical dates that we arrived at in the post {Krishna - The Historical Enigma} and again proves that our scriptures are not mere figments of fertile imaginations but have a historical basis.

Dr. S.R. Rao after his careful research made the following statement: "The findings in Dwarka and archeological evidence found are compatible with the Mahabharat tradition and removes the lingering doubt about the historicity of the Mahabharat. We would say that Krishna definitely existed".

Krishna, the Great Statesman and King was indeed a historical figure who ruled from the city of Dwarka until the day He departed from the mortal realm. He lived the life of a householder and raised His family in the city of Dwarka.

Krishna, the Yadav king of Dwarka

DR. RUPNATHJI (DR. RUPAK NATH)



If Dwarka excavations can throw light on the historicity of Lord Krishna, sea-bed excavations at Ayodhya situated on the banks of Sarayu might yield equally valuable information about the historicity of Lord Rama.

We, the youth of the country should participate more in spreading the knowledge of our ancient heritage and endeavor to be a part of a further exploration of its origins. Only then, we would be able to unearth the true history of our own civilization as well as that of Mankind.

A for Astronomy

Hola amigos :)

Have been racking my brains about the right topic to start with, and I thought it would probably be good to begin at the beginning - implying the Beginning of our Universe. I'll first share our current knowledge about Astronomy and then we can compare it with the details provided in our ancient texts.

Modern Astronomy talks about a Single Universe comprising of Dark Matter and brighter Heavenly bodies like the Galaxies, Stars, Planets, Asteroids, Satellites etc. This entire matter (and anti-matter) is believed to have emerged about 14 Billion Years ago in time, from a momentous explosion called the Big Bang.

There is a wealth of Astronomical data available in ancient Hindu scriptures. My personal favorite is Shrimad-Bhagavat Puraan because of its extremely scientific approach and I'm gonna use excerpts from this magnificent book to present data that I am sure will blow your mind if you have any interest in astronomy!

Inside this literary Masterpiece, one can find descriptions of the different planets from our Solar System and beyond; our Galaxy; different Planetary systems; as well as our ENTIRE Universe!

Universe according to Srimad Bhagvatam

By Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji

Hindu Mythology talks about TWO separate Realms in this Creation - the SPIRITUAL and the MATERIAL.

The Spiritual Realm is full of the Effulgence of Supreme Lord that spreads throughout and banishes darkness from each and every corner of this Realm. Religions that envision God as a Being of Bright Light worship the same Brahmajyoti.

The Spiritual Realm



This Supreme Heaven is believed to be the abode of *Supreme Brahman* in Vedas, *Allah* in Koran, *Jehovah* in Jewish texts, *Param Purakh* in Sikhism and the *King-of-Kings* in Bible.

This is the Supreme Abode that all souls in the material realm strive for, and reach after attaining Nirvana. Srimad Bhagvatam, calls this the dwelling place of Lord Krishna who resides in His Spiritual abode of *Golok Vrindavan*.

Around this central world, there exist other Spiritual planets that revolve around it like the planets in Solar System revolve around the Sun. These are collectively known as the Vaikunth planets and each of these is the Divine residence of a Vishnu form.

The Spiritual Realm of Bhagvat Puraan



On these planets reside Lord Vishnu's different incarnations alongwith Goddess Lakshmi and the Pure souls who have been able to transcend the bonds of Material Nature.

In one corner of this huge bright realm, like a 'Dark cloud in a clear bright sky', lies the Material Creation, where Individual Souls like YOU and ME take birth, evolve, exist, eat, earn, reproduce and ultimately die. This realm takes up about 1/4th of the entire space of the Spiritual Realm and is depicted beneath the lotus on the lower right corner of the image below.

Material Realm in a corner of the Spiritual Realm



Even though *Material Realm* is created for souls who want to live independent lives, the Lord, by means of His infinite expansions, still ensures they can have a smooth sailing. He takes the form of Shri Maha Vishnu for the Creation of this Material Realm and it is from Him that everything in this world emanates.

Now there is ONE MAJOR difference in the Hindu notion of the Material world and the current scientific understanding about it - Hindu scriptures state that the Material Realm is composed of Billions and Trillions of Universes (!!) and NOT just a single one!!

Billions and Billions of Universes

By Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji

Scientifically, it is still undetermined whether the universe exists by itself or is just one of the countless trillions within a larger Multiverse, itself contained within the Omniverse that is the Material World.

But, according to scriptures, the Universe that we live in, is just a TINY infinitesimal part of the entire Material Creation and all these zillions of Universes are born at the Same Time from the Same Primeval Source - [Shri Maha Vishnu](#).

EVERYTIME the Lord exhales, a Universe emerges from EACH of his body pores and with EACH of His inhalations, ALL these Universes merge BACK into His body! The multiple universes generated are floating, and they are scattered all over the Causal Ocean.

Universes emerging from Sri Maha Vishnu



I was rendered speechless by the larger-than-life imagery inherent in this concept. The mere thought of so many Universes taking Birth, Expanding and Dissolving again in Maha Vishnu's SINGLE breath is fantastic and indeed (to use the pun) breath-taking!!

Madam Blavatsky, the founder of the Theosophical Society describes this phenomenon thus-

The Great Breath goes forth and returns again.

As it proceeds outwards, objects, worlds, and men appear.

As it recedes all things disappear into the original source.

The Great Breath is, so to speak, the universal and eternal Perpetuum Mobile.

If ever there is a Grand description of God in World literature, it has to be this one! How infinitesimal and tiny our entire existence appears to be if we humbly give thought to this notion. Our entire lifetimes are nothing, not even a fraction of a second for Lord Maha Vishnu!

Indeed our entire Universe (which by current estimates is about 13.7 Billion years old), was born with a SINGLE exhalation of the Lord and will merge back into Him with His NEXT intake of Breath!!

The concept also fits the Big Bang Theory, as the moment it emerges from Lord Vishnu's body pores is THE moment of Big Bang for each Universe!

Big Bang - The Birth of a Universe

After exploding out of the body of Sri Maha Vishnu, each Universe continues to expand, and after reaching a critical threshold, again begins to contract until it is assimilated back in the body of Lord Maha Vishnu!

I thought this was one isolated example of the mention of a Multi-verse and maybe was not intended in the way I was interpreting it. But to my surprise, the concept of

Multiple Universes is widely accepted and acknowledged in Hindu Cosmology!

Multiple Universes in Scriptures

By Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji

Puranic literature is full of descriptions of multiple as well as parallel Universes. Hindu scriptures also declare there's Intelligent life out there in the Universe and this is gotta be the absolutely FIRST mention of ALIENS in World Literature ever!!

I will share with you a few examples from different texts to illustrate the point:

Srimad Bhagavatam [6.16.37] eulogizes the Supreme Lord Vishnu in following words:

There are Innumerable Universes besides this one, and although they are unlimitedly large, they move about like atoms in You. Therefore You are called 'Without-limits'.

In verse 10.14.11, it again states:

Unlimited universes pass through the pores of Your body just as particles of dust pass through the openings of a screened window.

Lord Shiva in verse 9.4.56 again mentions thus:

My dear son, I, Lord Brahmā and the other devas, who move within this universe, cannot exhibit any power to compete with the Supreme Personality of Godhead, for Innumerable Universes and their inhabitants come into existence and are annihilated by the simple direction of the Lord Hari.

Shri Hari Vishnu, the Cause of all Creation



Similar views are shared by Lord Brahma in the Brahma Vaivarta Puraan where a mention of Multiple, Parallel Universes is made-

And who will search through the wide infinities of space to count the universes Side by Side, EACH containing its Brahma, its Vishnu, its Shiva?

Who can count the Indras in them, ALL those Indras Side by Side, who reign at once in all the innumerable worlds; those others who passed away before them; or even the Indras who succeed each other in any given line, ascending to godly kingship, one by one, and, one by one, passing away?

Hindu scriptures declare there's Intelligent life out there, and this is gotta be absolutely the FIRST mention of ALIENS in World Literature ever!!

The obvious take-away from this concept is that according to the scriptures, there exist MORE than One Universes in our Creation and this topic has long been debated by modern Scientists. Let us see what our current notions of scientific theory have to say about it.

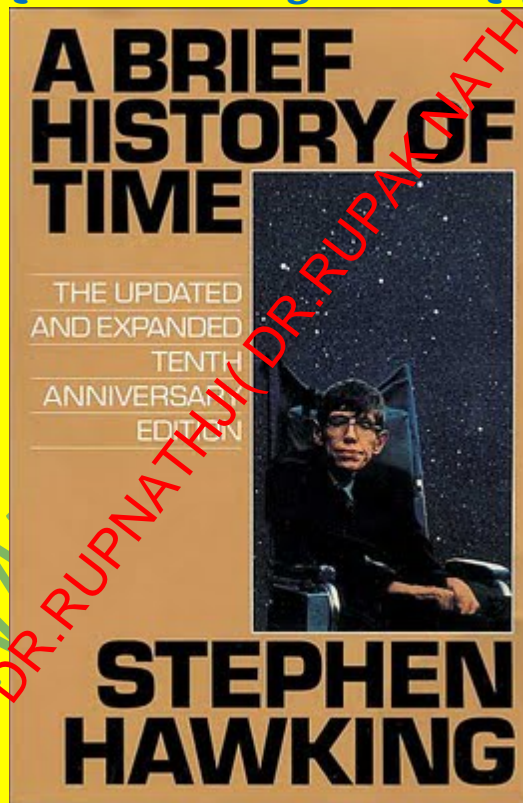
Multiple Universes in Science

By Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji

A large body of Scientific intelligentsia believes in multiple Universes existing perhaps in parallel dimensions.

Here, I would like to introduce you to perhaps the most brilliant mind of our times - Stephen Hawking, whose phenomenal work - A Brief History of Time, is by far the most important book on Space Science ever.

Stephen Hawking's Masterpiece



In this monumental work, Mr. Hawking talks about something known as Chaotic Boundary Conditions and the Anthropic Theory. He states and I quote-

'According to the Strong Anthropic Principle, there are either MANY different Universes or MANY different regions of a single universe, each with its own initial configuration and, perhaps, with its own set of laws of science.'

Simply put, it states that, the likelihood of development of our Single Universe from the big-bang is much less than the likelihood of Multiple Universes being born out of it!!

Multiple Universes emerging from the Big Bang



The notion of Parallel/Alternate Universes has been widely used in many Hollywood movies such as the recent Star Trek film (2009), FAQ (2004), and Jet-Li movie The One (2001).

What is interesting for me is that the mention of Multiple Universes comes from the scriptures much BEFORE modern Science came to terms with accepting their existence. Short of Time-Travel, the ancient Yogis could only have grasped the basic nature of our Universe through their rigorous meditation and penance!

Till now, Science has been unable to tell us, what existed BEFORE the Big Bang. WHERE did the explosion take place if there was nothing before it happened?? WHAT caused the explosion in the first place??

But if we grasp the concepts from Srimad Bhagvatam we can understand the Science as well as Faith behind this. The Scientific Spirit of ancient Rishis makes me bow down in reverence and if you read the texts with an open mind, will amaze you with their profound philosophical insight as well.

Ancient Yogis deciphering the Universe through meditation



Our ancient beliefs are not just Myths, but Parables for explaining profound Scientific principles to the common man.

We will cover more such interesting topics in the Posts to follow and I will try to touch upon as many diverse scientific disciplines as I can use to understand and decode the myths and legends from ancient Hindu tradition.

For now, I conclude this post with the amazingly inquisitive Nasadiya Sukta from the most ancient text of Humanity -the Rigveda [10.129] which highlights the quest of ancient *Rishis* to find Origins of not only this Creation but that of GOD Himself-

*At first was no Being neither Non-being,
There was yet no Air nor Sky spread.
So what was covering? Where was it present?
Was Water there, in the unfathomable depth?*

*There was no Death, nor Immortality;
Of Night or Day there was yet no sign.
The One breathed windless, self-sustaining,
Other than HIM was nothing divine.*

*Darkness was there, wrapping more Darkness,
And All was Water indistinguishable, Dark.
The Cosmic seed was wrapped in the Void,
Rising at last, by the power of Thought.*

Black Holes and Bhagavatam

By Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji

Time for new Gyaan people!!

In the last post, I had shared the description of our Universe and the TWO different

types of Creations. For easy understanding of the descriptions from our Scriptures, we'll now take each topic individually beginning with our Galaxy, the Milky Way.

Zoom out from Earth to the Milky Way

Ours is a *Spiral Galaxy* containing a Galactic Center, and various arms radiating outwards from it, in a spiral fashion.

Our Spiral Galaxy



As mentioned earlier, Puranic literature is full of Astronomical details and our Galaxy is quite vividly detailed in {Chapter 23, Canto 5 of the Bhagvat Puraan}.

When I went through the descriptions, I was pleasantly surprised to know that the *Rishis* of yore have described our galaxy EXACTLY the way it is described now by modern Astronomers!! Bhagavatam compares it with the Kundalini Chakra, the energy source seated at the base of Human Spine like a coiled serpent.

As a person's Yogic Powers advance, the Kundalini Energy moves upwards from one Chakra to another ultimately leading the Yogi to complete Enlightenment just as was achieved by Gautam Buddha.

Kundalini rising through the Chakras



This celestial creature forming our Galaxy, is called Shishumar and is supposed to rest with its body wound around itself in a right-handed coil with the center formed by its tail end.

To the students of Science, this shape may be familiar as that of the Benzene Ring, which resembles a Snake biting its own tail!! Incidentally the symbol is also known by the Greeks as Ouroboros and by Chinese as the Dragon representing the never-ending cycle of Life and Death, the different Seasons, Time etc.

Shishumar/Ouroboros/Dragon



Scriptural description of the Galaxy

By Paramahansa Dr. Rupnathji

The Bhagvatam gives complete details of the various Lokas of the galaxy giving precise LOCATIONS of the various divine and semi-divine denizens of our Galaxy! Let us see what these locations are and try to find out a useful address or two from the descriptions ;o)

The Galactic Center, is the tail-end of the coiled serpent and is supposed to be a seat of Immense Power and Energy. According to the Bhagavatam, this Galactic Center is formed by the Dnruva Loka.

It is important to note that according to modern Astronomy, Galactic Center is made up of very large mass and density which scientists believe to be a Supermassive Black Hole. Black Holes are the evolutionary end-point of MASSIVE stars and pack within themselves the power of thousands of Nuclear bombs combined!

Supermassive Black Hole in the Galactic Center

Now, Dhruva as we know is the Pole Star and according to Bhagavatam, it is supposed to be situated right at the CENTER of our Galaxy. At present, the Northern pole star is Polaris, which lies close to the Celestial North Pole, and is visible at the end of the constellation Ursa Minor (Little Dipper).

Present Pole Star Polaris

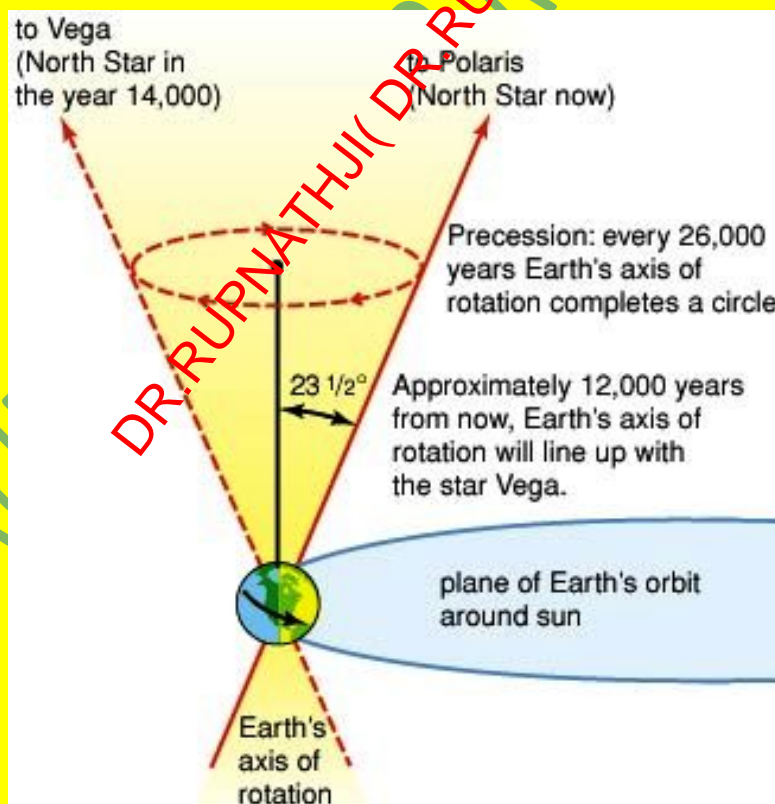


However, after researching its location, I found that this particular Star does not lie as far as the Center of the Galaxy and it dampened my excitement a bit :o(

But, as I kept trying to find out more, I came across a phenomenon known as the Precession of Equinoxes. Simply put, it states that the role of the North Star *PASSES* from one star to another. This means that *Other stars have occupied the position of the Pole Star before now!*

Precession of the Equinoxes is slow, taking about 25,770 years to complete a cycle, hence a single star typically holds that title for many CENTURIES, and since Hindu history measures time in billions of years, *One of these stars could have been located in the vicinity of the Galactic Center at some point in our Ancient History!!*

Pole Stars of Past and Future

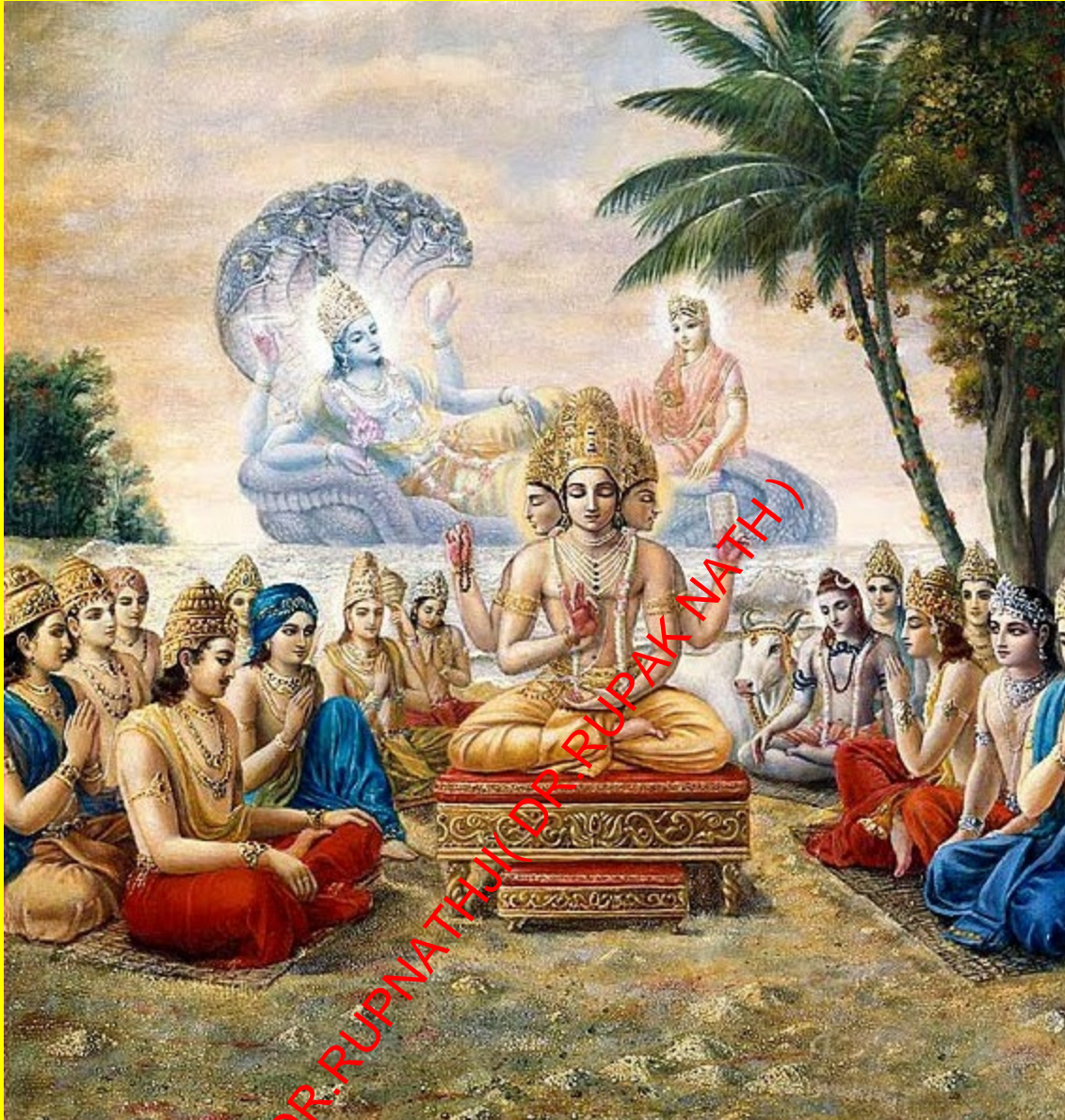


Identifying that Star is beyond my current research capacity, but I believe if we can find it, it would help us date our Scriptures in a more authentic fashion as well as give us a proof that our civilization is INDEED very ancient.

The scripture further states that *Dhruv-loka* is supposed to be the Supreme Seat of Lord Vishnu in the Mortal Realm where He reclines on the Divine Serpent *Sheshnaag* accompanied by Goddess Lakshmi in the Ocean-of-Milk called *Ksheer-Sagar*.

Demigods praying to Lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi seated on Sheshnaag

DR. RUPNATHJI (DR. RUPAK NATH)



Now, Black Holes have always been conjectured to be portals between different Universes, sort of like Gateways to different dimensions.

This makes me believe that our Supermassive-Galactic-Center-Black-Hole can fit the precondition of being the Abode of Lord Vishnu amazingly well, as it would connect Him with the Spiritual Realm outside as well as the Material realm contained within this Universe!

Moving on from the Galactic Center

By Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji

Near the central abode of Dhruva resides *Prajâpati*, worshiped by the demigods *Agni*, *Indra* and *Dharma* near the tail and the Holy Saptarishi Mandal at its waist.

On the right side of the Celestial Wheel are stationed the fourteen *Uttarayan Nakshatras* (Northern Zodiacs) from *Abhijit* to *Punarvasu*, and on its left side are found fourteen *Dakshinayan Nakshatras* (Southern Zodiacs) starting from *Pushya* and ending with *Uttar-Aashadh*.

The back of Shishumar is formed by stars collectively called *Ajavithi* and its belly is formed by the Sacred Ganges reverently known as the Akash Ganga.

If you look at the clear night sky, you'll observe a faint band of light stretching across the darkness, either through the middle or near the horizon which is considered it the symbolic representation of the *Descent of Heavenly Ganges* to the Mortal Realm of Earth.

Akash Ganga as seen from Utah, USA courtesy NASA Gallery



The stars called *Punarvasu* and *Pushya* form the right and left loins of the Shishumar; *Ardra* and *Ashlesha* form the right and left feet while *Abhijit* and *Uttar-Aashadh* form the right and left nostrils.

Shravana and *Purv-Aashadh* form the right and left eyes respectively; while *Mula* and *Dhanishtha* form the two ears; *Magha*, the group of Eight Stars form its ribs on the left side while the Eight stars of *Mrigashirsha*, form the ribs on its right. The stars *Shatabhish* and *Jyeshtha* form the right and left shoulders, *Agasti* forms the upper jaw and *Yama*, the lower one.

The planet Mars forms its face; Saturn forms its organ of generation; Brihaspati

forms the hump on the shoulders while Surya - The Lord of the planets, (which I have taken as the reference point for the Labelled image of Shishumar below) forms its breast.

The Supreme Lord Narayan remains seated in its heart and the Moon is situated in its mind. The two *Ashvins* form either sides of its chest; *Ushana* or Venus forms its navel; Mercury is its *Prana*; *Rahu* is the neck and *Ketu* is all over its body in the form of different Comets.

The innumerable other stars we see are the numerous pores of its body. I have tried to label the image of our Galaxy according to the descriptions I have shared in this post. Please find below the Image that has resulted from this exercise.

Our Galaxy Shishumar

DR. RUPNATHJI (DR. RUPAK NATH)



What is astonishing for me is that without access to any form of modern technology like the Hubble Space Telescope and its like, the *Rishis* of Yore could still fathom the extent and shape of our Galaxy in such a detailed fashion!

It was only in 1610, that Galileo used the first telescope and determined that Milky

Way is formed of billions of dim stars that surround us. Before that, for centuries the astronomers had struggled with the basic questions about this band of light in the sky which were difficult to answer because of several reasons.

- One, as we live within the Milky Way, trying to fathom its dimensions is like living in one tiny corner of a gigantic box and analyzing its composition and shape!
- Second, the early telescopes weren't large enough and hence did not have sufficient range to clearly view the galaxy around us.
- Finally, the Milky Way contains large amounts of cosmic dust that obscures distant stars when we're using regular telescopes.

However, the 20th century brought great advancement in telescope technology and large Optical, Radio, Infrared, and X-ray telescopes allowed Astronomers to peer through the cosmic dust and look further into space. With these tools, they could piece together the puzzle of our Galaxy's shape but the point to be emphasized here is that all this became apparent only after the 20th Century!

Eye-of-God Nebula caught by Hubble Space Telescope



Yet, surprisingly, ancient Vedic rishis had not only described the shape of the Galaxy, they had also identified a huge POWER SOURCE at its Center; given descriptions of most of its major STAR SYSTEMS; as well as defined the relative positions of different Lokas in our ever-expanding Universe!!

Whether it was due to their Superhuman Yogic Powers, or a result of direct observation (Space Travel?!?), I do not know. But, I hope this post opens the eyes of my readers to a brand new perception of these religious texts and would encourage them to analyze our traditional culture and beliefs with a more open and scientific approach.

May Lord Vishnu guide me through this journey of self-discovery that I have embarked upon and help me unravel hidden truths from our ancient scriptures and bring them to fore.

Lord Vishnu with the Celestial Serpent



It is only fitting that I end the post with the traditional prayer to Supreme Lord Vishnu residing in this Coiled Galaxy Shishumar and also pay my obeisance to the Ancients who were able to decipher its structure on the basis of their Yogic powers..

Thou art the Substratum of all Luminaries,

Thou Createst and Destroyest all,

The Lord of all Celestials,

We meditate fully on Thee,

Planets, Galaxies and Stars are Thy body,

Divinity is established in Thee alone,

Thou art Ādipurush, the Foremost of all Beings,

All sins are destroyed by remembering Thee.

In this beginning, Desire took form,

The primal seed, born of the Mind.

Wisely sifting, Existence from Non-existence,

Sages have found all this in their Heart.

A Ray was stretched across the Void,

Know what was below, and what above.

Bearers of seed were there and Mighty forces,

Below was Strength, and Creative-will above.

Who really knows? Who can declare?

When did it happen? How Creation came on?

Even the Devas came after its emergence.

So who truly knows, Whence it was born?

*He, from Whom this Creation Arose,
Did He fashion it or did He not,
He, who surveys it from the Highest Heaven,
He surely knows or maybe even He does not!*

WAS HUMAN CLONING KNOWN TO VEDIC SAGES?

By Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji

Today at the high frontier of Genetic Engineering replacing and manipulating DNA has become the order of the day. Since the successful cloning of adult Sheep 'Dolly' in 1996 scientists are thinking to clone 'human being' amidst much controversy. But if I say cloning was known to man even in the Pauranic era! Does it sound absurd! Perhaps not. We get some indications in Hindu Shastras which are studded with fictionalised '*Maya Manab and mayabi danab*'. Even in *Rg Veda* we find *Indra* taking different forms of himself through the mechanism called *Maya*. The '*Maya*' or illusion in philosophical context has been a subject of discussions for about four thousand years. Does *Maya* has some scientific understanding like the modern science? This is still a conundrum. Vettam Mani the author of famous *Pauranic Encyclopaedia* quoted *Devi Bhagavata* and regional version of *Ramayana* in the context of Agni Deva who is said to have created '*Maya Sita*' for Rama so that the 'clone or *Maya*' Sita could pass the test of fire or *Agnipariksha*.

Moreover, *shastra* tells us that through this method 'pious' Sita remains untouched by Ravana.

Vettam Mani wrote that "One day Agni disguised as a Brahman approached them and said "O, Sri Rama, thou art born to kill the demon Ravana and save the world from his atrocities. Sita is going to be a cause for that. Time is not far for you to finish this duty of yours. Ravana is soon to come and kidnap your wife, Sita. You must, therefore, allow me to play a trick on Ravana entrust Sita with me and I shall keep her safe. In place of her you can keep a *Maya Sita* (Phantom Sita) which will be a live replica of your real wife. In the end when you take back Sita after killing Ravana you will be compelled to throw your wife into the fire to test her chastity. At that time I will take back the replica and give you back your real wife". Sri Rama was very much pleased to hear this.

Agni then, by his yogic powers created a Phantom Sita and gave her to him. Rama kept this as a secret even from Lakshmana. In the great Rama-Ravana battle Ravana was killed and Sri Rama took back Sita to his kingdom. Then respecting public opinion and wishing to establish in public the purity of his queen King Sri Rama put her into the fire. At that moment Agni took back the replica and gave back the real Sita to Sri Rama. Sita

thus came out from the fire unscathed. Later, on advice of Rama and Agni, the Phantom Sita went to the sacred place Puskara and started doing *tapas* (penance) there." Furthermore Vettam Mani explained this 'clone or Maya' Sita became known as *Svargalakshmi* and in Mahabharata era she became *Panchali* or *Draupadi*. (Source: *Pauranic Encyclopaedia* by Vettam Mani published by Motilal Banarsi Das, 1993 pp10-11&548-549)

From the above discussions it is derived that Agni through 'Meditation' created the replica of Sita which was not an illusion but a real clone which got a name and also a destiny like any other pauranic personality. It is interesting to note that the reference of 'Maya Sita' is available in regional version of *Ramayana* and not in Valmiki's version.

Pauranic sources like *Kurma Puran*, *Brahmabaibarta Puran*, and Regional *Ramayana* like *Adhyatmik Ramayan*, *Ramchari Manas*, *Orriya Balaram Ramayan*, *Dharma Kanda Ramayan* and *Kashmiri Ramayan* mention about *Maya Sita* concept.

Indian mythology has many examples where certain persons could not only create replica but can transform the 'subject' into any other animate as we find in *Ramayana* *Mirici* took the shape of Golden Deer to allure Sita. In another context we find when Lord Buddha was meditating *Mara* the *Devil* in order to detract Buddha's attention so he created many ferocious figures to frighten Buddha and also created most beautiful females to allure him. Thus we get an indication that creation of dangerous creatures and beautiful damsels was within the power of some persons.

Dr. Satkari Mukhopadhyaya, an expert Indologist and Pandit of various ancient scripts, a Linguist having knowledge of 20 classical and regional languages said that 'there is no scientific proof available whether those ancient people had any knowledge of Cloning or not. But we get some idea that replicas were created which has many reference and much of it is related to illusions or *Maya*. No scripture has ever directly dealt this concept but indications are many. This is no hearsay that yogis can create an identical person as himself and one person can be present at two places at the same point of time.' Pt. Mukhopadhyaya further said that " yogis can even create specific aroma not out of magic but perhaps controlling and manipulating through the method of permutation and combination of *panchabhuta*. In Benaras the Guru of veteran scholar Gopinath Kabiraj Swami Visuddhananda was known as GANDHA BABA, who could create any 'wished' aroma in his hand."

It's true that our body is created out of five elements, which is universal for all animates. And everything be it tree or animal and even man has these ingredients. These ingredients are perhaps placed in such a manner that certain form emerges. However, that's the subject of Genetic Engineering which layman cannot comprehend. But as in modern science changing DNA or manipulating in forms and sequence etc. can create a 'desired' creature, similarly, perhaps, ancient people who could muster the *panchabhutas*, could create replicas be it at illusionary level or otherwise.

Though it is poohpoohed that Pauranic sources are myths and mere imagination, yet they give a concept which is fathomable by scientific mind of this century. For example Ramayana talked about *Pushpak Vimana* (aerial chariot), which was created by Viswakarma for Kuber and later Ravana stole it and used it to kidnap Sita and take her to Lanka through the aerial route. And again, we find, after defeating Ravana, Rama took the aerial chariot and once he used it for aerial survey to know the cause of epidemic which endangered infants in his kingdom(see *Uttara Ramayana*). This is quite similar to the modern 'aerial survey' in case of flood etc. Many ancient documents talk about divine weapons which may prove to be 'fact'in the next century. Thus concepts hidden in the ancient documents do indicate that there are many potential concepts available which can be tooled by our scientific community to achieve a technological landmark.

In ancient texts we find that concepts were there but no formulas of creation were passed down to us! Thats perhpas, ancient sages knew the human tendency of misusing their acquired powers. As today we are talking about creation of human clone in thousands, at the hour when population explosion is knocking at our doors disbalancing the nature in many way and causing world wide distress!

Nevertheless,its matter of interest whether there is any hidden knowledge available in ancient texts which can enthuse the modern Genetic Engineers! Actually Genetic Engineering by the term as we know today is not decipherable in ancient texts. But if one reads through the roots of creation there are some concepts available which can become a subject of 'scientific quest' for exploring newer frontiers of human knowledge and research. Let us have a look at the Geneology from Pauranic sources.

Pauranic Shastras state that all living beings sprang up from Kashyapa--the Chief among Prajapatis or the creator of animate world. However, Mahabharata claims all being were created out of four Gotras or clans: namely *Angiras*, *Kashyapa*, *Bhrigu* and *Vasistha*. Other *Gotras* evolved later.

It is said that Kashyapa had 21 wives. Kashyapa's first wife Aditi gave birth to 12 Aditias,

8 Vasus and 12 Rudras who were termed as divine beings. Daityas were born out of Diti, the second wife of Kashyapa. And Danavas were mothered by Danu. Thus we see the socalled divine and demons came out as offsprings of one Kashyapa. Is it not astonishing!

Man came out of Manu another wife of Kashyapa. Again we see varied creatures and vegetation also came as Kashyapa's progenies. Vinata gave birth to the mighty bird Garuda and Surasa mothered nagas. Another wife of Kashyapa Ira gave birth to Grass on earth. This is also one of the reason that the *Durva* Grass is an important aspect of Hindu rituals and worship. Then again from Surabhi the cow emerged. Furthermore, Kashyapa and Anala became parents of trees and creepers of the world.

It may be noted that Aditi, the mother of Gods, Diti the mother of Daityas, Danu the mother of Danava and Anala who created vegetation are interestingly daughters of Daksha. And all the sisters from their single husband Kashyapa gave birth to offsprings who varied radically. For modern man all these sound very absurd and ridiculous! But again when we deeper further it indicates some conscious planning of Science which is 'pre-scientific'!

Ancient sages suggest that all things in this world are created out of *Panchabhuta* or five elements. But DNA or RNA order or sequence cannot be the same for all. Does it indicate that there was some knowledge system available in ancient times which made possible allowed them the 'manipulation' of some scientific order to create different offsprings out of one father Kashyapa. All these seems to be enigmatic!

Let us look into the *Panchabhuta* and its divisions which created all the things. *Pauranic Encyclopaedia* while discussing *Isvara* quoted *Devigita* extensively to explain concept of creation and Godhead. *Devigita* announces that from primordial principle the five elements were born. Those are Air, Fire, Water, Ether and Earth. These five elements got divided into two part each giving a total of 10 parts. Then half of the five elements divided itself in four parts. 'These 1/8 parts are joined to the other halves and by combining them in other fractions, the material bodies (*sthulasriras*) of all being are made' said Vettam Mani. Then the Cosmic Body, which is the sum total of those individual material bodies went towards creating inner conscience and body parts like ear etc. Mani further said that "*Antahkarana*, due to differences in state assumes four forms. When once conception and doubt arises in a subject, then it is called mind. When there is no doubt, but there is assuredness it is called understanding (*buddhi*)".

Then came from coarse (*sthula*) five sense organs and five organs of actions namely mouth for words, foot, hand, excretory and genital organs. *Devigita* also mentions about five *pranas* or breath of life and their location in human body. Those are *Prana* located in the heart, *apana* in the anus, *samana* in the navel, *udana* in the throat and *Vyana* all over the body.

Thus we see ancient sages during their discourse tried to reach the *sukshma* or fine aspects from the *sthula* the gross aspect. Though in the context of modern Genetic Engineering, they were on a different track, but for sure they give us the *tattwa jana* or knowledge of composition and materials which are a definitely a pointer for modern researchers.

It is perhaps the time when subject and language scholars, pandits and scientists should probe together the hidden knowledge to 'regain' the lost heritage of the world which cannot be drabbed anymore as black-magic! Moreover, concepts and initial ideas are the first thread for any quest, and Vedic sources are replete with 'ideas' and many of them are yet to be explored!

Chandra Grahanam & Surya Grahanam

By Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji

An eclipse is an astronomical event that occurs when one celestial object moves into the shadow of another.

A **Solar eclipse** occurs when the Moon passes between the Sun and the Earth so that the Sun is wholly or partially obscured. This can only happen during a new moon, when the Sun and Moon are in conjunction as seen from the Earth. At least two and up to five solar eclipses occur each year on Earth,

A **Lunar eclipse** occurs whenever the Moon passes through some portion of the Earth's shadow. This can occur only when the Sun, Earth, and Moon are aligned exactly, or very closely so, with the Earth in the middle. Hence, there is always a full moon, the night of a lunar eclipse.

There is also an interesting legend, regarding the occurrence of Grahan. :

It happened during the Samdura Manthan (churning of ocean) episode in the Puranas. Rahu (Demon) and Mohini, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, are the main characters in the incident. The Amrit (elixir) that was obtained from churning the ocean was cunningly stolen by Asuras (Demons). Lord Vishnu took the form of Mohini, a beautiful damsel, to win back the Amrit. She achieved her mission by enamoring the Asuras, they fell for her beauty and handed over the Amrit to her. Mohini returned to the Devas and started



distributing it. Devas sat in a line and mohini gave a portion to each one of them. Rahu, an Asura, who found out that they were tricked took the form a Deva and sat in the line between Chandra (Moon God) and Surya (Sun God). When Mohini approached Rahu, Chandra and Surya realized that Rahu was not one among them and soon identified him as an Asura. Mohini soon severed the head of Rahu which flew into the sky. Rahu's, depicted in the form of a Snake head occasionally, continued to live and decided to avenge Surya and Chandra. Thus periodically Rahu engages in a war with Surya and Chandra. The Chandra Grahan (Lunar eclipse) and Surya Grahan (Solar eclipse) takes place when Rahu gobbles up Moon and Sun respectively. Surya and Chandra then fights to free themselves.



Maa Gayatri

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