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SUBCONTINENT OF INDIA: A PART OF THE EARLIEST AND MOST ADVANCED CIVILISATION OF THE WORLD

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Abstract

This paper examines the subcontinent of India from the point of view that it was partially home to the earliest and most advanced civilisation in the world. By examining this case, the paper clarifies the hold that the myths that have been around since centuries all over the world are not mere stories but in fact, they tell us a greater truth about the civilisation that existed at the end of the Ice Age. The topic studied in this paper includes the myths and folklores from around the world juxtaposed with each other in order to highlight the similarities. Each statement made in the paper is backed by scientific and archeological proof and thus the paper is divided into three major portions to prove the claim: (1) Mythical Parallels with History (2) Technological Brilliance in Ancient Scriptures (3) Archeological Proof. Data has been collected from documentary archives, interviews, books, newspaper archives, published reports and folklores. This paper challenges the argument that myths are inconsequential and are mere stories passed down since generations. It holds the view that a more technologically advanced civilisation existed before the time line that history gives us and if examined minutely, the proofs of its existence can be easily visible. This paper attempts to bring to light the existence of the mythical cities cited in ancient Indian texts and various other mythologies and how the Indian subcontinent was an integral part of it all.

Keywords

Technologically Advanced Civilisation, End of Ice Age, India, Mythology, History

1. Introduction

Joseph Campbell has rightly said that “Mythology is not a lie, mythology is poetry, and it is metaphorical. It has been well said that mythology is the penultimate truth — penultimate because the ultimate cannot be put into words. It is beyond words.” With these words in my mind this paper attempts to prove that a more technologically advanced civilisation existed in and around the Indian subcontinent before even the Indus Valley Civilisation that could push back the history of civilised man to the end of ice age. It includes the myths and folklores from around the world juxtaposed with each other in order to highlight the similarities. The paper is divided into three parts; Mythical Parallels with History, Technological Brilliance in Ancient Scriptures followed by Archeological proof in order to prove the claim.

1.1 Mythical Parallels with History

The history that we study today is not compulsorily the actual history and the various myths that we believe in are not necessarily fictional. There was a technologically advanced civilisation that existed even before the Indus Valley Civilisation of which among others, Krishna’s Dwarka was a part. If scrutinised closely there are proofs that point at the existence of an advanced civilisation like that of Krishna’s Dwarka. In fact, all the existing myths are actually parallels alluding to the very same civilisation that existed before us, of which we are the descendants (Smith, 1876), (Bakkavemana, Y., n.d.).

An archetype is a universal symbolic pattern. True to their universal nature, archetypal characters and stories appear again and again in myths across many diverse cultures (Däniken, E. V. 1968). One of them being the mythical story of the ‘Great Floods’ which is common in almost all the cultures of the world. Myths all-round the globe (Tharoor, 2014) like the Indian myths, Meso-American, the Gilgamesh and Sumerian epics, the Holy Bible and even among the Mayans, there are stories that talk about massive floods that submerged the earlier civilisation. Moreover, in all the Stories there is always one God who warns the ‘chosen one’ of the impending doom and instructs him to make a nautical structure and load all the things he wants to save, like in the Holy Bible (Genesis 7:1-24. (n.d.)), you have God instructing ‘Noah’ to build a boat to save the things he wants from being destructed and ‘Manu’ from the Indian Scriptures was the chosen one who was warned of the floods and instructed to save the things he wants to save by building a boat. There is also archeological evidence (Millman, Taylor, & Effron, 2012) to support the claims of the mythical massive floods, like Gobekli Tepe in Turkey (HISTORY, "Ancient Aliens: Gobekli Tepe (Season 12, Episode 16)", 2018) which was built by the survivors of the world wide destruction and is dated approximately 12,000 years ago, which was around the time of the end of the Ice Age. Places like the Meenakshi Temple in Madurai, Krishna’s Dwarka or the various structures and temples found in Mahabalipuram are direct allusions to the mythical floods as according to the

legends, these places were either built by survivors of the floods or by a civilisation that was destroyed in the floods. The massive floods that are being talked about in these myths can easily be referred to the floods that occurred at the end of the ice age, submerging vast stretches of land. According to the NOC, researchers have estimated that sea-level rose by an average of about 1 metre per century at the end of the last Ice Age, interspersed by rapid 'jumps' during which it rose by up to 2.5 metres per century. Ice Age according to experts lasted till about 11,700 years ago. This could have easily caused the floods that are talked about in the myths as the dates coincide.

The myths all across the world were spread by the word of mouth for centuries and some continue to be un-recorded. Therefore it is possible that some content could have been added later on by our latter ancestors to the stories in order to bring in some rules and discipline in the form of moral lessons taught in the myths. However even if there is additional content added to the stories, the central idea or the gist of the story is not diluted. The central idea of having 9 main Gods who represented all the aspects of life are worshipped throughout the world. For example, the 9 great Gods of Egypt who were referred to as the Ennead of Egypt and worshipped, the Aztecs of Mesoamerica worship the 9 Lords of the Night, Buddha consulted the 9 unknown men, in Norse mythology the 9 Gods survived Ragnarok, the Etruscans of Italy worship 9 Gods, in Greek Mythology Zeus has 9 Gods in his council, the Indian culture has 9 manifestations of the Goddess who sustain the life of the people. Moreover, in Southeast Asia specially China, there is a festival in which the 9 Emperor Gods are worshipped (HISTORY, "Ancient Aliens: The Nine Emperor Gods (Season 11)", 2019). Taoists believe that the 9 were their rulers and offsprings of the Creator. This festival in China is very similar to the 'Navratri Festival' celebrated in India in honour of the 9 manifestations of the 'Goddess Amba'.

Another symbolism in myths all across the world is the mention of the "third eye". Universally the "third eye" is known as the centre of the universe and creation itself through which one can attain enlightenment. The Hindu myths are well versed with 'Shiva's third eye', along with the fact that a very important 'chakra' called the 'Ajna Chakra' located in between the eyebrows. It is also referred to as the "third eye" Chakra. 'Ajna' is our centre of intuition. The concept of "bindi" is also used in the exact spot in Hindu as well as the Buddhist culture. The 'third eye' was present on Buddha's forehead which is drawn in a circular shape much like a 'bindi'. In Mesoamerican culture the third eye is used to communicate with beings much like in the Hindu Culture. The Eye of Horus in Egyptian culture is popularly described as the 'all seeing eye' which is a similar concept to that of intuition. The most iconic feature amongst all is the fact that there is scientific evidence to show that the importance of the eye throughout cultures is not mere fantasy. If you look at the structure of the Thalamus in the brain, it is shaped exactly like the shape of an eye. The shape of the Eye of Horus and the Thalamus look alike (HISTORY, "Ancient Aliens: The Third Eye (Season

11, Episode 6)", 2019). The Hindu 'chakra' also coincides with the placement of the Thalamus in our brain. The Thalamus translates neural impulses from various receptors to the cerebral cortex and plays an important part in the consciousness of the being. So metaphorically it can be said to be the centre of the creation (our body), the extensive use of which can lead to enlightenment or all-pervading knowledge as mentioned in the Hindu scriptures.

1.2 Technological Brilliance in Indian Scriptures

The Indian scriptures are a source of a vast amount of knowledge, some of it we do not yet possess. This makes one question the statement that if the Indian Scriptures are written by mere primitives then how did they possess technology even more advance than the present time?

At the University of California at Irvine in April 2017 Aerospace engineer, Travis Taylor obtained the model of an aircraft whose design specifications are based solely on information gleaned from an ancient Indian text that is believed to have been recorded in 500 BC and before they were in practise but no written records were maintained (HISTORY, "Ancient Aliens: Vimana Model Aircraft Experiment (Season 12, Episode 11)", 2018). The aim of the experiment was to subject the model to wind tunnel analysis to determine if it a viable flying machine. While being subjected to winds with a velocity of 50 miles an hour, the craft exhibits a slight lift upwards yet remains relatively steady. The normal force by which we calculate the lift was positive between 0.03 and 0.06 pounds of force which means that it was capable of flight, making the vehicle aerodynamically sound, proved by experimental results.

Scholars suggest that not only were the ancient Hindus able to perform brain surgery but other advanced medical procedures as well. Much of this medical knowledge was passed down orally and by practice until it was recorded in a Sanskrit text dating back to the 800 BC, known as the 'Shushruta Samhita', which literally translates into "The original knowledge cannot be credited to Shushruta but it was only compiled by him". In 2017, at a local library in Mahabalipuram, India, where this text was found after scrutiny according to Researcher Praveen Mohan, the text is a vast account that contains information about more than 11,000 malidies, talks about 700 medicinal plants, 64 concoctions from mineral resources, 57 preparations from animal resources and is considered as the foundation of Ayurveda, the traditional Indian Medicinal practice (History Channel, "Ancient Aliens: The God of Medicine (Season 12, Episode 11)", 2018). Researcher Praveen Mohan translated one stanza of the text which describes 8 different types of surgeries, Incision, Excising, Scraping, Puncturing, Probing, Extracting, Secreting fluids and Suturing. This means that there was advance medical practices and procedures 2600 years ago which we still have not gained expertise in. The book 'Shushruta Samhita' was written at least a 100 years before Hippocrates, the Father of Modern Medicine.

The Surang Tila Temple, Sirpur, India dates back to 7th century AD was unearthed after an earthquake occurred in the 11th century (History Channel, "Ancient Aliens: Story of Sirpur (Season 12, Episode 11)", 2018). The structure itself remained intact. Archeologists suggest that it is due to the advanced construction techniques used known as Vedic Architecture. The principles they used are derived from the ancient science of design that can be traced back to the ancient Indian texts. Dr. Arun Sharma, Former Superintendent of the Archeological Survey of India headed the dig. He says that the temple was constructed using Vedic Architecture. It was made using heavy stones which were joined by an Ayurvedic paste which was so strong that even after 1600 years the structure is intact, unlike cement which has a life of 70 years. The Ayurvedic paste is said to form a bond which is at least 20 times stronger than concrete. The details of making this paste can be found in an ancient Indian text known as the Mayamatam, a manuscript dedicated to construction techniques (Nene, "Building Materials of Ancient India", 2014). Another aspect that was used while constructing the temple to make it earthquake proof was the construction of several 80 foot long shafts at key points designed to form air pockets that can dissipate the impact of seismic events. The text Mayamatam was passed down orally centuries before it was recorded in the form of a text nearly 4500 years ago. The construction techniques used at the Surang Tila Temple are just one example of advanced technology detailed in the ancient Sanskrit texts. Other works are said to contain information far beyond the scope of early man, perhaps even providing concrete proof of an earlier and more advanced civilisation which possessed this knowledge and passed it down to us.

The Vitalla temples, Hampi, India in the ruins of Vijayanagar which are believed to be constructed between the 14th and 16th centuries AD. Attached directly to the temple is what is called the 'Rang Mandap' or the stage pavilion, having many pillars some reaching to a height of nearly 12 feet. The pillars, when struck, emit beautiful sounds. All the 56 pillars present are individually tuned to one of the seven notes of the SaReGaMa, an ancient Sanskrit musical scale dating back thousands of years that is still predominant in Hindi music today. Certain groups of these pillars have been crafted to represent the tonal vibrations of the scale for different musical instruments. Some being crafted to represent woodwinds, some to represent percussion etc. The British, when they were in charge of India were mystified by these pillars and actually cut one of them to look for what was inside, but discovered just granite and skilled craftsmanship. Recent analysis of the pillars have revealed that the pillars might be comprised an advanced geopolymer blend of granite with silicate particles and metallic alloys. However, the first basic geo-polymers were invented by scientists in the Soviet Union during the 1950s. Many people have tried to imitate it but not even one pillar has been successfully replicated till date (History Channel, "Ancient Aliens: The Vittala Temple's Puzzling Pillars (Season 12, Episode 8)", 2018).

1.3 Archeological Proof

Dr. Glen of Durham University, a specialist on the Sea-Level Rise has a computer simulation that shows us how the coastlines looked at different stages of the Ice Age. In the simulation it was shown that 21,000 years ago there was a huge area along the present coastlines of North Western Indian shelf exposed as compared to present times (Hancock, "Underworld Archive"). The present coastlines are the ones formed 6,900 years ago. The simulation also shows that between 13,500 and 6,900 years ago the Gulf of Cambay got flooded.

Experts date the Indian Vedas to 1500 years ago and orally around 3000 years ago. So if an oral tradition can last that long why not for 6000 or even 9000 years. The language in which the Vedas are written has been evolving in India for more than 8000 years so the Vedas could not have been introduced by intruding Aryans only 3500 years ago. According to the scriptures 'Manu' is the survivor of the flood from a previous advanced civilisation, who took a sample of everything like 'Noah' and retreated to the mountains to restart a civilisation. 'Manu' is depicted in the Vedas as a long haired mystic and a Yogi. A picture of a saint seated in a recognised Yoga posture turns up on a seal more than 4700 years ago at MohenjoDaro. The yoga position which is depicted in the seal is known as the "Baddha Konasan" or the "Butterfly Position". A Yogic figurine was worshipped in the Indus Valley Civilisation. It is highly possible that Manu, a master of yoga is depicted doing an advanced yoga position of the Baddha Konasana on the seals of Mohenjodaro (Hancock, *Underworld: The Mysterious Origins of Civilizations*, 2002). Yoga is said to be codified by a saint 6000 years ago and therefore Yoga is actually older than that. As Manu is a part of the Vedas, it makes the Indus Valley Civilisation known to the Vedas as 'Dhola Vira' is dated back to around 5000 years ago, around the time when there was the flooding of the North-Western Indian Shelf and Manu retreated to the mountains to restart civilisation.

There is a repeated description of a mighty river that flowed from the glacial mountains and into the ocean in the scriptures along the banks of which there were mythical settlements. Geologists have found a lost river which around the end of the Ice Age flowed in the Rann of Kutch making it rich and fertile at that time (Hancock, "Underworld Archive"). Dr. A.K Gupta, a scientist at the Remote Sensing Centre at Jodhpur confirms the findings saying that the lost river is the river Saraswati which originated in the Himalayas and flowed down the channel which has since dried up. The latest satellite camera pictures give proof of the fact that the river Saraswati once flowed from glaciers to the ocean, just like the myths mention. It flowed parallel to the Indus River initially, took a south turn and flowed through the Rann of Kutch and then merger with the Arabian Sea. It was a mighty river at that time having a width of over 22 kms. The river flowed 10,000 years ago and continued up till 6000 years ago. N.S Rajaram, a historian confirms the findings of settlements along the Saraswati River Course to be Pre-Harappan. Thus we can say that the Vedic Age and the

Harappan Age coincide and the Vedic Age ended with the disintegration of Harappa. David Flawley, a Vedic scholar agrees that there are verses in the Vedas which depict literally the glacial meltdowns at the end of the Ice-Age. This would make the Vedas almost 11,000 years old (Hancock, *Underworld: The Mysterious Origins of Civilizations*, 2002).

The Meenakshi Temple at Madurai is said to be established by the survivors of a flood. The survivors belonged to an earlier and highly advanced civilisation according to the myths. It is said that that civilisation existed about 10,000 years ago. The exact dates of the submergence of the civilisation given in the myths are 11,600 years ago, which is the exact date given by Plato for the sinking of Atlantis.

The Granite Temple at Mahabalipuram is around 13,000 years old. The myths commensurate that the structures found all along are a part of an old and lost city of the mighty Bali which was submerged by the sea. Local fishermen say that their fishnets get caught on pillars underwater which proves that there are dilapidated structures underneath (Hancock, "Underworld Archive"). However the permission to dive there was denied to the researcher Graham Hancock by the Government but he was allowed to dive a little further ahead at Poompuhar. At Poompuhar, Graham Hancock found a U-shaped structure, 3 miles long at a depth of 70 feet. 40 meters in length and twice the height of a man with precise masonry which was proved due to the presence of partially exposed construction blocks. The structure sticks up so unnaturally from the flat sea-bed surrounding it. 4 more man-made structures were found to the north and south of this gigantic structure. The structure dated back to 11,000 years ago (Hancock, *Underworld: The Mysterious Origins of Civilizations*, 2002) which was submerged due to rising sea levels, during the time when there was an advanced flourishing civilisation on the land, according to the myths.

In the Gulf of Cambay in 2001, 25 miles off shore NIOT scientists doing pollution studies found from their sonar readings at the depth of 120 feet traces of two cities the size of Manhattan with massive walls and plazas (Hancock, "Underworld Archive"). The samples collected date back to 9,500 years ago which means this civilisation was lost at the end of the Ice Age. These underwater ruins are also 5,000 years older than any city ever discovered on the face of the earth. Artefacts collected are all Pre-Harappan. This twin metropolis is situated exactly where Glen Mills sea level rise. The date shows that the area was flooded between 7,000 to 8,000 years ago (Hancock, *Underworld: The Mysterious Origins of Civilizations*, 2002). This refers to the end of the Ice Age and was one of the three major pulses of meltwater release that geologists have identified. One city according to Dr. Badrinarayan who is a consultant with the NIOT, is more than 8 km long and the second city is almost 9 km in length. Both of them are along river courses. Various tools which are thin and well-polished along with artefacts with carvings in the shape of deer etc have been found. Human remains include a fossilised jaw bone and vertebrae. The artefacts show that the people

were skilled in pottery, jewellery and other arts. A slab with raised markings was found that could push back the date of writing to the end of the Ice Age (Hancock, "Underworld Archive"). Sub-bottom profiling of the area reveals massive foundations of the structures with accurate calculated gaps. A side sonar scan shows sophisticated geometrical structures about 77 meters by 40 meters acting as a series of steps. The right angles of the structures prove that it is man-made. Another structure looks like a citadel of about 98 meters in height having platform features. One of the objects was carbon-dated back to 7,500 BC or 9,500 years ago, that is 4,500 years before Mesopotamia and Egypt. These dates would mean that the civilisation would be present almost 12,000 years ago which is the exact timeline of the massive U-shaped structure found in Poompuhar in the Bay of Bengal (Hancock, *Underworld: The Mysterious Origins of Civilizations*, 2002).

3. Conclusion

All these dates point in one direction which is, that a highly advanced civilisation flourished at the end of the Ice Age which was destroyed due to the massive glacial meltdowns, the stories of which are prominent throughout various myths. 'Manu', the survivor, kick-started the civilisation after going up-stream to the foothills of the mountains and was worshipped by the people of the Indus Valles figure was imprinted. The principle God of the Indus Valley Civilisation was 'Manu' who finds prominent mention in the Vedas. This proves a strong connect that the Vedas itself were the contemporary literature in the Indus Civilisation. Thus, I would like to conclude that with the above facts as backing, my hypothesis that a more advanced civilisation existed at the end of the Ice Age has been proved to be accurate. As far as further scope of research in this field is concerned, there is quite a lot of research yet to be done along this timeline throughout the coastal areas of India to be done by archeologists along with mythologists. However, the research would have limitations such as difficulty in attainment of approval from the respective Governments where the researchers would like to dive and explore. The permissions would only be the limitations according to me. However, a more extensive research in the area of local mythology can go a long way in helping the scope of this topic.

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