



Glimpses of true faces of Indian history (Ananda Publishers Private Limited)

From Indus to Seine

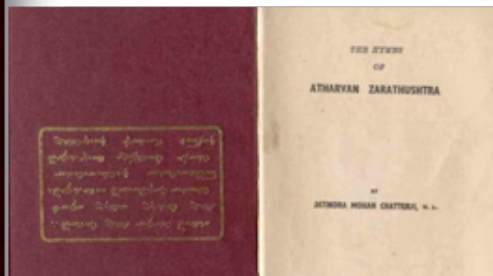
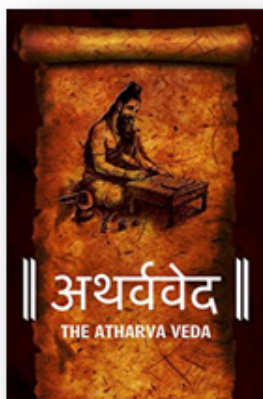
**From Vedas to the
lore of Atharvan
Zarathustra and the
making of Judaism**



In ancient Zoroastrian 'Yasht' (sacred fire ritual or the Vedic Yagna) we get this line:

'Usta-no zato Atharva, yo Spitamo Zarathushtra' (xiii. 94).

Fortunate are we that the great teacher the Atharvan was born, Spitama Zarathushtra



The Book is a thriller-adventure based on mysterious but true facts of Indian history. It offers all readers a lost story of Indian Civilization and its direct impact on the formation of World Civilization. The story goes like this....

A young group of scientist-scholars-explorers from a research team called SandHI (The Science and Heritage Initiative) IIT Kharagpur traces a westbound journey of the Indian civilizational impacts from Sindhu (Indus) to Siene (Sayan) in France. And then, in that process of substantiating all of that with archaeological, anthropological and linguistic evidences, the team faces a strong International chain of opposition and piracy that is continuously trying to suppress the 'real story' of Indian civilization. The team gradually uncovers the truth through a series of encounters and fights!

They come up with important discoveries:

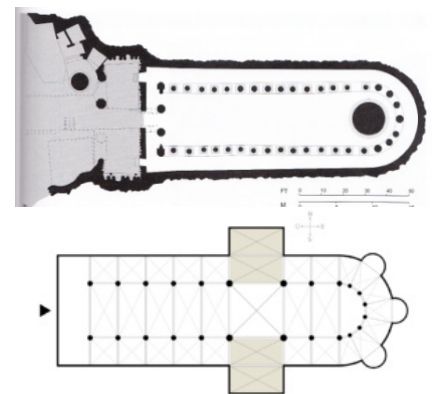
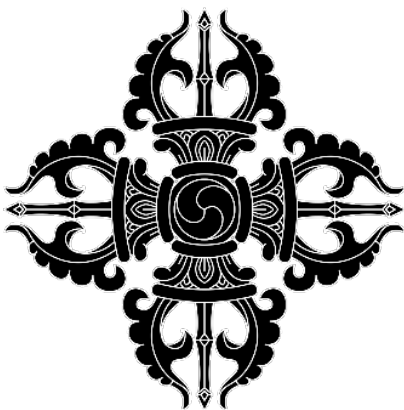
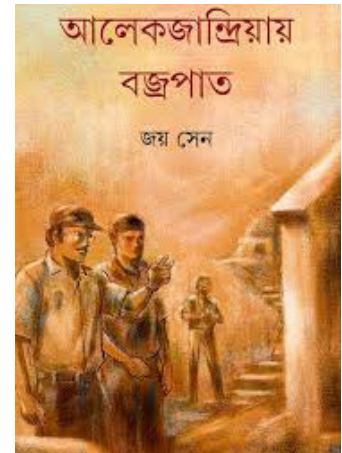
- With the help of some well-wishers and support from Japanese universities, the team is able to prove that the 'Aryan invasion Myth' is not true. They are able to trace the Gathas of Prophet Zarathushtra (Zoroaster of Iran) as texts written 6000 years prior to the Battle of Troy, thereby taking the Rig Vedic Civilization in India prior to the beginnings of the ancient Indus Valley (7000 BCE).
- The team also unlocks a great truth that a portion of the Atharva Veda of India was transformed to be a major portion of ancient Persian Gathas. They further found that the impact of these transformation later had moved from the eastern hill countries of Iran to immediate lands further east, i.e., the land between the two rivers, Tigris and Euphrates. This movement in the course of next 2000 years shaped the beginnings of Abrahamic religion and the entire Semitic thought systems, of course with deviations, counter-challenges and schisms.
- The team also traced a prehistoric date of 6500 BCE for the existence of the Persian Prophet. They traced the genesis of the story which are commensurate with the events predating the Battle of Troy by over 5000 years. The records by Plato, Diogenes in the Greek version, and by Megasthenes and Arrian in the Indian version of the narrative advanced the arguments in favor of an older date.

The team struggled through many oppositions and discovered the aforesaid facts and their correlations after a long journey of thrills, adventure and terror! The book is a must read for all youngsters to know the true story of Indian Civilization!

2

Thunderbolt strikes Alexandria:

Buddhist
Missionaries and
'Therapeutae', the
first Christians



*'...Rock-sculpture and rock architecture have been practiced in many countries in the past, particularly in Egypt and Assyria, by the Greeks in Lycia, and the Romans in Petra, while in Persia under the Achaemenids, and later by the Sassanids as seen at Naksh-e Rostam.... but in none of these instances did the art of the rock-cutter show so wide a range or such audacity and imaginative power as in India, where some of the most **original** examples of architecture produced in this manner may be seen.... but the most striking fact in connection with the plan and the general design of the Buddhist Chaitya hall is its undeniable resemblance to the Greco-Roman basilica, a type of structure, which was being evolved in Europe about the same time.'*

Percy Brown
Indian Architecture Vol 1

‘...We can only say that there was always some contact between the Hellenic world and India, mediated first by the Achaemenid Empire, then that of the Seleucids, and finally, under the Romans, by the traders of the Indian Ocean. Christianity began to spread at the time when this contact was the closest. We know that Indian ascetics occasionally visited the West, and that there was a colony of Indian Merchants at Alexandria. The possibility of Indian influence on Neo-Platonism and early Christianity cannot be ruled out.’

A. L. Basham

The Wonder that was India

‘.... For Priyadarsi, the beloved of Gods, desires safety, self-control, justice, and happiness for all beings. The beloved of Gods considers that the greatest of all victories is the victory of righteousness, and that victory the Beloved of Gods has already won, here and on all his borders, even 600 leagues away in the realm of the Greek king Antiyoka, and beyond Antiyoka among the four kings Turamaya, Antikini, Maga and Alikasudara, and in the south among the Cholas and Pandyas and as far as Ceylon’.

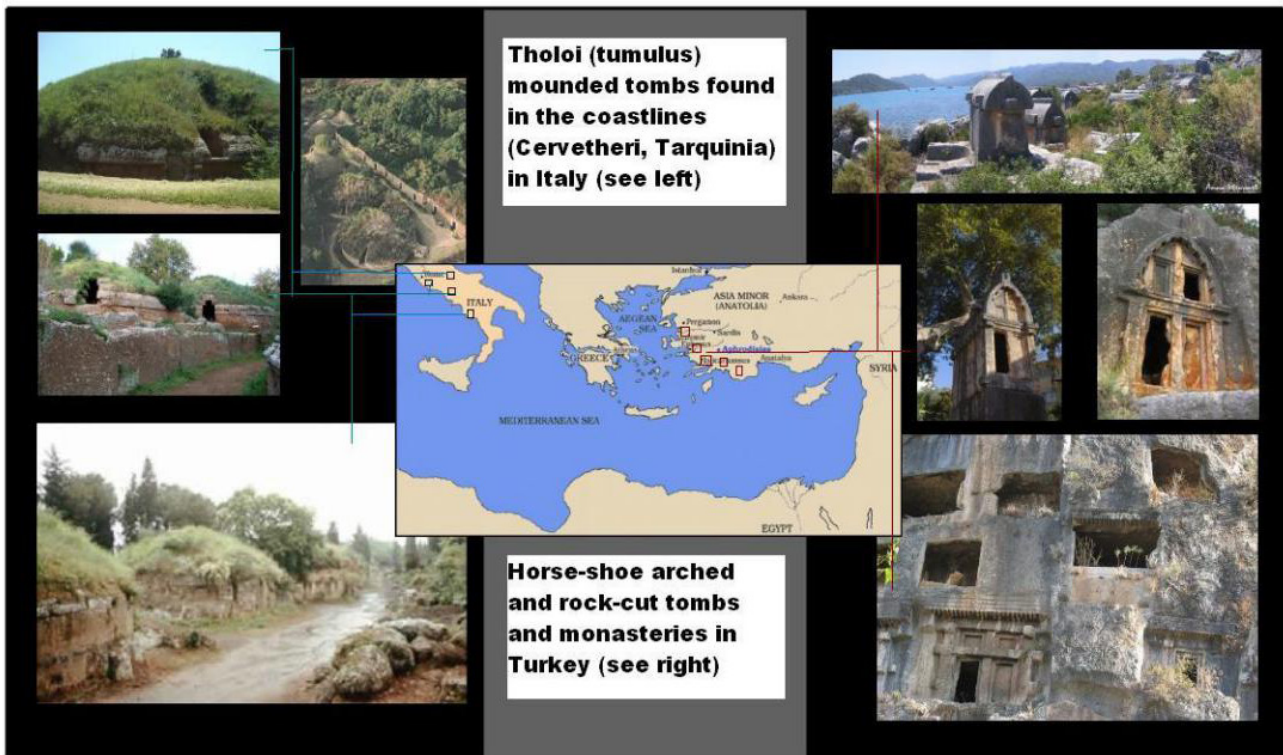
Les Inscription d’Asoka, Paris

On ‘Buddhist Missions to the Eastern Mediterranean’



The IIT Kharagpur team proceeded for another sequel of events in the Eastern Mediterranean after a successful discovery of events in the Ancient Near East (from India through Persia and in lands further west). The team reached the eastern Mediterranean by chance and discovered a set of striking similarities between the preaching of the Buddha and that of the Christ. Not only that, they also observed:

1. Strange similarities in spatial content, arrangement of furniture, chairs and the nature of collective worship between the more older order of Buddhist Chaitya Halls and the earliest rendition of Christian basilicas. Striking similarities were observed in forms of apsidal (semi-circular) ends and circuits of movements by worshippers (in the aisles and from the nave or *nabhi*) seen in both the earliest Buddhist rock-cut caves in India (200 BCE or earlier) and those in later Greco-Roman Basilicas. Such traditions of mass worship and mass initiates were also a central theme amongst the followers of Orpheus. Orphism was essentially Asiatic and a body of non-Olympian religious beliefs that emphasized the doctrine of transmigration of souls and principles of karmic reincarnation like Indian religions. Orphism was practiced in the ancient Cyclades and Anatolia and found its way into later European thought through the earliest Milesian sages of Greece and subsequently Pythagoras, Plato, Plotinus and Spinoza. A portion of these beliefs were practiced by Pythagoreans and another great religion called Mithraism mysteries, whose origins were probably in India and Persia, with variations in the Roman Empire predating Christianity. Many of these belief systems were transferred as the basis of Christian sacraments, which the Christians labelled as 'pagan' or barbaric later.
2. With the fold of the aforesaid broadband argument, the team traced a significant mention of a sect called the "*Therapeutes of Alexandria*", whose earliest mentions come from the work of Philo of Alexandria. In Philo's work entitled '*De vita Contemplative*' the writer refers explicitly to this historic sect existing from times that pre-date Christianity by a hundred year. They are further mentioned in the earliest works of the Orthodox Church) by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, as a group of early (or earliest) Ascetics and Contemplative group, who were strangely baptized by St. Mark as the 'First original Christians', and St. Mark intentionally did it for deriving the new Gospel of truth from this body of 'Elders', as they are mentioned in the New Testament! The team found another startling similarity between the etymological roots of words that represented 'spiritual healing' of the two ancient religions, Christianity and Buddhism, where the former (1) succeeded the later (2) in terms of words like:
 1. *Therapy, Cathera, Therapeutics, Eleutheros (Al-der or elders), Catherine, Kythera, Theresa*
 2. *Theravada, Thera Buddhism, Sthavira (Sanskrit) or Thera (Pali)*
3. Finally, the group reached the shoreline of Turkey, where they witnessed a plethora of rock-cut tombs and rock-cut caves in the Anatolian coastline used solely for monastic traditions and entombment with traces of cremation (urnfield or tumulus pits). These caves or tomb system forwarded a style similarly used by Buddhist and other ascetic traditions of India. The similarity have had been found all along the western and southern coastline of Turkey and northern Syria, and even in Villanovan or Etruscan Italy. These areas in inner Turkey are also known as the ancient Damascus Line, where St. Paul was probably converted from a revolting soul (Saul) to a great man of faith (Paul). The rock-cut tombs of Cappadocia, Myra and Sura; that of Telmessos, Fethiye and Amyntyas: that of Letoon, Caunos in Turkey and Lalibela in Coptic Ethiopia supplied the team with ample evidences of explaining the origin of earliest Christian traditions from some distant but definite influences of Monastic Buddhist establishments found in India.

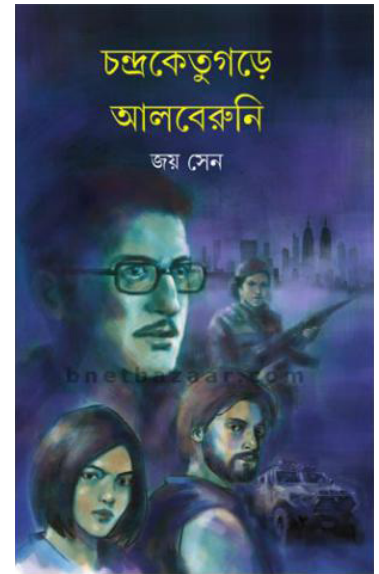


The team finally faced a similar opposition from a sustained international chain of piracy till they could prove their point regarding the ancient connection. After their previous adventure, 'From Indus to Seine', the team uncovered a far greater truth at Alexandria, which was a melting point of Indian and Egyptian wisdom and the making of the second branch of the Semitic order of religion based on some historic events at Galilee. These facts and figures were uncovered after a long journey of thrills, adventure and terror! The book is a must read for all youngsters to know the true story of Indian Civilization!

3

Alberuni visits Chandra- ketugarh:

**Kashmir Shaivism,
ancient Malabar and
the origin of Islam**



‘.....At this time the Moslem Empire extended from Spain to the Middle East. It included several cities such as Alexandria, which had formerly been great centers of learning in Greek times, and other cities, such as Baghdad, which were go-ahead centers of new Knowledge. Thus the Moslems were able to make far great advances in science and in particular arts than were the Christian countries of that time.

For more than two centuries Spain was in the very forefront of progress. At the great Moslem universities, mathematics, astronomy, medicine and the science of navigation flourished. New navigational and time-keeping instruments, such as the astrolabe, were used in Spain long before they found their way to the rest of Europe. Spanish Architecture took on a new and somewhat oriental look; and Spain felt the full benefit of better irrigation schemes, better trade, better craftsmanship, better standards of hygiene.’

*Man’s Past and Progress (1961)
Colourama, Odhams Press Ltd. London*

‘.....Ancient Greece, the fountainhead of western civilization, sank into oblivion from the pinnacle of her glory, the vast empire of Rome was broken into pieces by the dashing waves of the Barbarian invaders – the light of Europe went out; (this were the dark ages beginning with the forth century) it was at this time another barbarian race rose out of obscurity in Asia – the Arabs. With extraordinary rapidity, that Arab tide began to spread over the different parts of the world. Powerful Persia had to Kiss the ground before the Arabs and adopt the Mohammedan Religion, with the result that the Mussulman religion took quite a new shape; the religion of the Arabs and the civilization of ancient Persis became intermingled...with the sword of the Arabs, the Persian civilization began to disseminate in all directions.

That Persian civilization had been borrowed from ancient Greece and India (the result of the intermingling of the first phase).... The wisdom, learning, and arts of ancient Greece entered into Italy, overpowered the northern invading barbarians of Europe and with their quickening impulse, life began to re-pulsate in the dead body of the world-capital of Romethe pulsation of this new life took a strong and formidable shape in the City of Florence – old Italy (of the Etruscans) began showing signs of new life. This is called the Renaissance, the new birth. But this new birth was for Italy only (born before during the two earlier waves); while for the rest of Europe, it was the first birth. Europe was born in the sixteenth century (after 1200 years of Dark Age in eastern and eastern Mediterranean Europe or Eurasia) A.D. i.e. about the same time when Akbar, Jehangir, Shahjahan and the other Mughal emperors firmly established their mighty empire in India.'

Swami Vivekananda
The east and the west

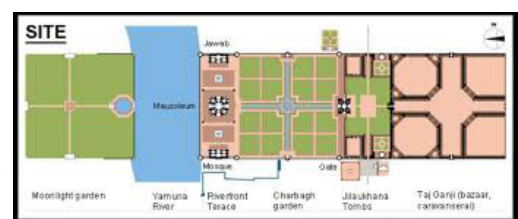
'...During the 15th century, various other causes were added to the decline of the papacy to produce a very rapid change, both political and cultural. Gunpowder strengthened central governments at the expense of feudal nobility. In France and England, Louis XI and Edward IV allied themselves with rich middle class, who helped themselves to quell aristocratic anarchy.'

'.....the new culture was essentially pagan, admiring Greece and Rome, and despising the Middle Ages. Architecture and Literary styles were adapted to ancient models. When Constantinople, the last survival of antiquity, was captured by the Turks, Greek refugees in Italy were welcomed by humanists. Vasco Da Gama and Columbus enlarged the world, and Copernicus enlarged the Heavens. The Donation of Constantine was rejected as a fable, and overwhelmed with scholarly derision. By the help of the Byzantines, Plato came to be known, not only in Neo-Platonic and Augustinian versions, but at first hand.....the long centuries of asceticism (and denial) were forgotten in a riot of art and poetry and pleasure.....the intoxication could not last, but for the moment it shut out fear (the medieval sense of fear). In this moment of joyful liberation the modern (Western) world was born.'

Sir Bertrand Russel
The History of western Philosophy
The Eclipse of Papacy, page 475



वज्रासन

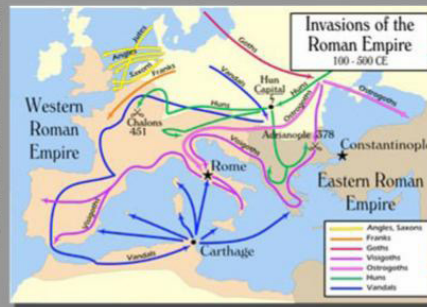


The idea of quadrangular Swastika, Shiva, and the principle of *Hasht-Vahist* (Eight folded Paradise) and Thunderbolt (square mandala) based on the ideas of Ashta/ Octo (Eight) principle of ancient Indian Sage Vashista

THE DARK AGES

Invasions of the Roman Empire

Only a few decades after Emperor Theodosius I declared Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, the Western Empire came to a painful and symbolic end when the Visigoths sacked Rome. Such former Roman strongholds in what are known today as North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, Spain, and Britain were thrown into political chaos and uncertainty, and the ensuing centuries were characterized by nearly endless warfare and plunder. Against this backdrop, the Western, Latin-speaking church, centered in Rome, expanded into the territories of modern-day Western and Central Europe, and grew in power and influence.



BY 7TH CENTURY BC, THE WESTERN EMPIRE HAD BROKEN UP INTO VARIOUS BARBARIC KINGDOMS

Limited Byzantine Gains in Goth Wars (535-553): Yellow



Goth War between Ostrogoths (Germanic rulers of Italy) & Byzantine. Byzantine prevails by 553, but the war was terribly devastating to both sides.

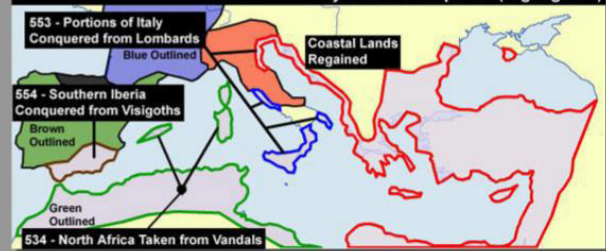
Invasion of Italy



Beginning of Lombard Rule in Italy (568)

Lombards, a Germanic tribe, migrated from the east, through the Alps and into Northern Italy, where Byzantine rule (after a costly victory in the Goth War) was weak or non-existent.

Byzantine Conquests (Highlighted)



Avars, a Central Asian Turkic people, were driven west into Europe by Persians & other, more powerful Turkic empires. They are paid off by the Byzantines to settle the area north of the Danube River, where they succeeded in driving Germanics out of the area. They also displaced large groups of Slavs who were also settled north of the Danube. The Avar raids force them into the Balkans, where they settled lands abandoned by Germanic peoples. This group of Slavs were forced to pay tribute to the Avars.



Team IIT Kharagpur is yet into another expedition, and this is the third one. The exposure to the Persian Zoroastrian texts originating from the ancient Indian **Atharva Veda** had produced much excitement and fresh historical revelation during the first expedition. With tremendous vigor, the team traced a further impact, traceable a few hundred years after Christianity. They reached:

- Lands north of Greater Khorasan, which was called '**Atharbaidan**' or 'Atorepatain', i.e. the Land of Fire Worshippers. In the Avesta's Frawardin Yasht ("Hymn to the Guardian Angels"), they found an ancient mention of âterepâtahe ashaonô fravashîm ýazamaide, which literally translates from Avestan as "we worship the *fravashi* of the holy Atropatene". The name "*Atropates*" itself is the Greek transliteration of an Old Iranian, probably Median, compounded name with the meaning "Protected by the (Holy) Fire" or "The Land of the (Holy) Fire". It is evident in the **Atharva Veda** and the **Fire of Atar-Bahram**, as worshipped by Zoroastrians. The Greek name was mentioned by Diodorus Siculus and Strabo. Over a period 3000 years or so (perhaps from 5000 – 2000 BCE), the name evolved to Āturpātākān (Middle Persian), then to Ādharbādhagān, Ādharbāyagān, Āzarbāydjān (New Persian) and to the present-day Azerbaijan. The people of the land celebrated the ancient Fire (with Temples at Baku and other places) and worshipped the Godhead '*Ashura Mahadeo*', a term later coined as Ahura Mazda. 'Ashura' soon became the cardinal principle of a religious inspiration in Iran. It became the celebrated 'Ashura or Ahura day' of the third and last order of Semitic religion, Islam.

- The team also found deep connection between Persia and Egypt-Abyssinia (known as ancient Cush) and Libya (Lib) in terms of:
 - The ancient sanctum located in present-day **Tell Atrib**, just northeast of **Benha** on the hill of Kom Sidi Yusuf, which later became the City of Athribis (Atharba) in lower Egypt.
 - A lost tradition that continued till late Ptolemaic **temple of Athribis** in Upper Egypt (the great times of Alexandria as a port city and a melting pot of Indian and Egyptian elements via the Gulf of Arabia)
- Finally, the team diverted its attention to the southern tip of Arabia, which holds the inner sanctum of Islam. Prior to the Prophet of Arabia, the region was seat of mercantile colonies and Arabic-Jewish trade settlements, which was initiated by the Phoenicians, who originated from the Eastern Persian Gulf and moved to the Levant (Lebanon). Before the advent of Islam, the city was known as **Yathrib (pronounced as Atharv)**. The word *Yathrib* has been recorded in Āyah (verse) 13 of Surah (chapter) 33 of the Qur'an.[Quran 33:13] and is thus known to have been the name of the city up to the Battle of the Trench. Muhammad later forbade calling the city by this name. Medina as coined later by the Islamic Prophet, had prominent Jewish tribes that inhabited the city for over 1500 years prior to Islam. The key tribes around the formation of Islam were Banu Qaynuqa, the Banu Qurayza, and Banu Nadir, who were almost exterminated, excepting **Bani or Banu (Ben) Shaiba (Shaivah)**, who were allowed continued as the **original gatekeepers** of Kaaba, the key sanctum.

RISE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES - RECONTACT WITH INDIA



Harun Al Rashid

was the fifth Arab Abbasid Caliph that encompassed modern Iraq. He ruled from 786 to 809, and his time was marked by scientific, cultural and religious prosperity. Art and music also flourished significantly during his reign. He established the legendary library Bayt al-Hikma ("House of Wisdom"). The reign of Harun was one of the most brilliant in the annals of the caliphate, in spite of losses in northwest Africa and Transoxiana. His fame spread to the West, and Charlemagne and he exchanged gifts and compliments as masters respectively of the West and the East. No caliph ever gathered around him so great a number of learned men, poets, jurists, grammarians, cadis and scribes, to say nothing of the wits and musicians who enjoyed his patronage.

Harun himself was a scholar and poet, and was well versed in history, tradition and poetry. He possessed taste and discernment, and his dignified demeanor is extolled by the

historians. Harun is best known to Western readers as the hero of many of the stories in the Arabian Nights; and in Arabic literature he is the central figure of numberless anecdotes and humorous stories.



Arabic Manuscript of The Thousand and One Nights dating back to the 1300s



A page from al-Khwarizmi's Algebra

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
٠	١	٢	٣	٤	٥	٦	٧	٨	٩
٠	١	٢	٣	٤	٥	٦	٧	٨	٩

Corresponding Arab-Indic numbers along the centre with, below them, Eastern Arab-Indic numbers common to Persian and Urdu.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
alif	ba	ta	tha	ja	ha	ra	za	da	ra

In al-Khwarizmi's book 'Algoritmi de numero Indorum', or 'The Hindu art of reckoning', he introduced a more workable series of ten figures – the numerals 0 to 9 – than the system being used in Europe up to that date. It now became possible to describe any number precisely, the ten numerals permitting a more rational approach to calculations.



Al-Khwarizmi was an Islamic mathematician who wrote on Hindu-Arabic numerals and was among the first to use zero as a placeholder in positional base notation. The word algorithm derives from his name. His algebra treatise *Hisab al-jabr w'al-muqabala* gives us the word algebra and can be considered as the first book to be written on algebra.

The team traced important connections between King Solomon, the Queen of Sheba (Sabah), and their lost inhabitants who had once migrated from Malay – the celebrated Malabar Coast of India. To the ancient Sumerians, it was known as ancient Meluhhah. To the Egyptians, it was the celebrated 'God's Land' or the "Land of PUNT".

The team faced severe opposition from a Middle Eastern chain of international gangsters and piracy till they could prove their point regarding the ancient connection in Arabia with lands around it. These facts and figures were uncovered after the team completed a similar journey of thrills, adventure and terror! The third book is therefore a must read for all youngsters to know the true story of Indian Civilization!



This Time the Center is India:

Return of Global civilization to the heart of Asia

‘And perhaps, in our own day, such a time for the conjunction of these two gigantic forces (Indian and Greek principles) have presented itself again.

This time their center is India’.

Swami Vivekananda
Problem of India and its solution

*‘India of the ages is not dead nor has she spoken **her last creative WORD**; she lives and has still something to do for herself and the human peoples.’*

*‘And that which must seek now to awake is not an anglicized oriental people, docile pupil of the west and doomed to repeat the cycle of the occident’s success and failure, but still the ancient immemorable SHAKTI recovering her deepest self, lifting her head higher towards the supreme source of light and strength and turning to **discover the Complete meaning and a vaster form of her Dharma**’.*

Shri Aurobindo
The Foundations of Indian Culture

The three earlier phases and the present time

Over the ages, the Indian spirit has gone beyond its geographical borders to embrace the frontiers of humanity at a spiritual level. Such dissemination has happened in three distinct phases as highlighted by the three books:

1. From Indus to seine
2. Thunderbolt strikes Alexandria
3. Alberuni arrives at Chandraketurah

To have a recapitulation of what has been sequentially described in the books, three discussionare forwarded:

- First, in times of extreme remote antiquity, such an intermingling founded the basis of World’s first civilizations – that of Ancient Persia and the ancient Romans. The making of the forefathers of the Persian Achaemenid and Sumerian Empires, the Etruscans, the Sabians and their Romaic counterpart in both sides of the Aegean sea – Egypt and Anatolia. The predominant center of this explosion was West Asia. The great tides were the message made by Prophet Zoroaster, the First Patriarchs of Mesopotamia and others

like Orphism, Mithraism and the very closely interlinked chthonian imageries of Adonis-Sabazius-Dionysus-Bacchus-Osiris. That was **Phase One**.

- Subsequently, with the decay and degeneration of these West Asian civilizations the wave proceeded westbound. It led to the culmination of civilizations in the Eastern Mediterranean, when the two forces met again after the invasion of Alexander the Great. The ancient wisdom was re-newed and the new order of Indian spirit – the Gospel of Buddha met the minds of Ionian and Milesian philosophers and sects in Alexandria, then the most prominent trade-outpost. The wave of Judaism was old and ossified and looking for renewals. The great tide that was born of such confluences filled the gap and the new wave was Christianity. The Gospel of a new Messiah, symbolically and then historically had begun to flood the new epicenter of civilization – the Eastern Mediterranean. This is **Phase two**.
- Finally, More than a thousand years later, there was a time and a need of another renewal. Western Europe was coming out of its Dark Ages and her barbaric invaders from the North were slowly absorbing the fruits of a more materially and culturally advanced conquest of the Mohammedans in the Western Mediterranean. The conquest led to another great intermingling of the two great forces. The rise of Arabia and the resurrection of ancient Persia facilitated such intermingling of Indian wisdom with the Jewish and Moorish culture that flourished in Iberia. Islam was the chief driving and socially liberating force. This time, the center was West Europe and the new urges were born through which ancient centers of Florence and Venice was reborn and Europe was then born. Moorish navigation and engineering skills inspired new Europe to cross her western frontiers and discover the new world – the Americas. On these new soils the Western Euro-American civilization has flourished and evolved to a Modern Age till date. The modern world is born with its principle carrier – the materialistic Western civilization. This was **Phase Three**.

Today we stand at the terminal gateway of the 20th century. There is perhaps a new dawn. The center of development has rolled well beyond the West, the very continental masses of an older Europe and the Americas as an intermediary, which all have reached a material apex of cultural saturation and thus reaching a turning point. The primacies of civilization have now begun to shift well beyond the western coastlines of Americas and they have crossed even the Pacific to touch the shores of Asia Pacific. Events like the rise of Japan in the 1970s to the rise of China, of late, are the stronger indicators. The strongest is yet to reveal.

Conforming to our natural understanding, the roll of development has followed the movement of the sun and has made one whole circuit.

Between Phase three and Phase Four

We are at crossroads. The tools and avenues of current modern material civilization is facing challenges and apprehensions that are bringing entire humanity to the verge of an economic, environmental and ecological collapse. There is a growing feeling of uncertainty in every sphere of material knowledge. Uncertainty in Global economies and interrelated issues of underdevelopment linking basics like distribution of wealth-related access to health, education and opportunities are in awing proportions. The increasing superficial issues of ethnic, racial and 'developed-underdeveloped' conflicts are major hindrances to a healthy human world.

The new Agenda called 'The Overview Effect', first drafted by the Club of Rome is a serious pointer to the degree of lopsidedness in the current materialistic development processes with extremely detrimental impacts on climate and interrelated ecological biota of our planet.

As evidence, modern scientific theories and proposals have begun to grope in its inability to cater to holistic needs of target population and in its shortcoming to address the uncertainties of mechanisms of simulation, projections and accurate predictions. Chaos theory and Theory of Complexity have brought in the matter of unpredictability and energy imbalance in a system at the very center stage of scientific research.

'.....the predictability of science has been thoroughly questioned, and this has led to a more holistic approach to thinking about the world and about relationships and systems with it.'

Sophia and Stephen Behling, Prestel

A New Agenda – The Overview Effect: Sol Power: The Evolution of Solar Architecture
(1996)



Crisis of reductionism

For the last three centuries, with the rise of the 'Machine Age', scientists have used 'the **reductionist** approach' more and more. They have based their ideas on the Newtonian approach and the scientific philosophy advocated by Sir Francis Bacon. Human psychology has been based on the carnal material principles of Sigmund Freud. The spirit of reductionism has in effect produced a great crisis, an inconvenient truth, and a great price of rising inequality across civilization. The crisis is put forward by Carolyn Merchant, a renowned Historian of Science at the University of Berkley, California:

*'In investigating the roots of our current environmental dilemma and its connections to science, technology and the economy, we **must re-examine** the formation of a world-view and a science which, by re-conceptualizing reality as a machine rather than a living organism, sanctioned the domination of both man and woman. The contributions of such founding 'fathers' of modern science as Francis Bacon, William Harvey, Rene Descartes, Thomas Hobbes and Isaac Newton **must be re-evaluated**.'*¹

Page xvii, 'The Death of Nature'. New York,
Harper and Collins (1980)

Recovery of the ancient wisdom: the need

Therefore there is a need of a resurgence in values, in the moral, ethical and deep ecological order of humanity in the context of a planetary consciousness. This can be called a making of a cohesive strategy based on the micro-macro co-evolutionary perspective.

Neurologists Robert Livingston² suggest that the evolution of life is a selection process acting on the **basis of behavior**. System theorists Erich Jantsch puts it further that in the history of human living, **the coevolution of macrocosm and microcosm** is of great importance. Eric Jantsch also says that conventional account of the origin of life usually describe the building of higher life forms in microevolution and neglect the macroevolution. But the two are complementary and part of the same evolutionary process as he points out. This is what chemist James Lovelock and microbiologists Lynn Margulis means by the 'mind of Goddess Gaia' – where individual minds are embedded in the larger minds of social and ecological processes, participating further in the universal mind of the Cosmos – symbolized by 'Gaia's mind'. Four transformations are evident:



Gaia's Hypothesis: The Seat of Delphi, Greece

1. Ecology and Bio-sciences

A realization based on 'deep ecology' is an idea of integral ecological economics and the need of an energy-sensitive processes holding a sustainable world.

2. Bio-Environment and Ecology of Planetary Sciences

The 'over-view effect' initiated by the Club of Rome and later by NASA scientists, leads us to an interconnected web of planetary consciousness in terms of human activity and global climate in relationship to the Sun, with deep involving interactions between earth's meteorology and atmospheric physics.

3. Bio-Chemistry and Bio-Physics

The 'ideas of dissipative structures', 'complexity' and 'Chaos Theory' have further augmented a deeper understanding of an integrated micro-bio-chemical and physical worlds; the concept of 'non-linear dynamism' and 'bifurcations' in current studies of bio-informatics and genetic engineering.

¹ Page xvii, 'The Death of Nature'. New York, Harper and Collins (1980).

² From 'Sensory processing, perception, and behavior' (1978), New York: Raven Press

4. **Bio-Nature and Participatory Quantum interconnectedness**

In effect, the shift is aiming for long-term wisdoms than short-term knowledge packaging. The very basis of 'quantum interconnect-ness' in emerging macro-physics and relativistic sciences is beginning to explain the cosmos in inter-connected 'non-local' orders and flexibilities not known before to material science so far.

The Evolving Green Order

We are now in the end of the third phase. This phase is characterized by excessive materialistic consumerism, philosophical and ethnic confusions and ceremonial hedonisms. In these excesses the basic purpose of human life is nearly lost. Perhaps it is time to realize this plight of the present and seek appropriate changes.

Our physical and associated mental worlds have crossed normalcy; they have become an unhealthy stage of mental idiosyncrasies; they are lopsided material excesses; they are filled with urges of competitive and comparative exploitations and comparative flamboyances. The stage of a simple minded approach to enjoyment and life has had taken a back seat. Humanity now has to revert back to normalcy – to a stage of simple and humane observations of watching life and this universe as a poetry of rhythm, cooperation and an ever-growing love for each other in the universe. Then only can bliss and peace be restored thus seeing the differences and variations of our existence not in opposition to each other but as verses of grey scales, singing steadily and quietly with inner rhymes and rhythms and mutual respect and they are then ever-written in a spirit of infinite bliss in the eternal book of truth.

The required shift

The present humanity has to under the larger scheme of cosmology, and position human evolution in it. This is the required shift in our planetary consciousness. The present plight and the ways to the required shift is evident in the words of the Swami Vivekananda:

'Who enjoys the picture, the seller or the seer? The seller is busy with his accounts, computing what his gain will be, how much profit he will realize on the picture. His brain is full of that..... that man is enjoying the picture who has gone there without any intention of buying and selling and these foolish ideas of possession will be ended.'

The money-lender gone, the buyer gone, the seller gone, this world remains the picture, a beautiful painting.

I never read of any more beautiful conception of God than the following:

"He is the great Poet, the Ancient Poet: the whole universe is His poem, coming in verses and rhymes and rhythms written in infinite bliss".

In such ascents of humanity, spirituality is the final goal taking material civilization not as a denial but as its outermost sheath. Spirituality is seen as a summit of harmonious relationship of the evolving human mind. The poet realized this 'completeness by forwarding this holistic pattern of spirituality which is seen not as a distant abstruse truth but as the innermost truth of existence'. In the words of that great poetic mind, Rabindranath Tagore, we hear the hopes of that return:

'I believe in a spiritual world – not as anything separate from this world – but as its innermost truth. With the breath we draw we must always feel this truth that we are living in God. Born in this great world, full of the mystery of the infinite, we cannot accept our existence as a momentary outburst of chance, drifting on the current of matter towards an eternal nowhere.'