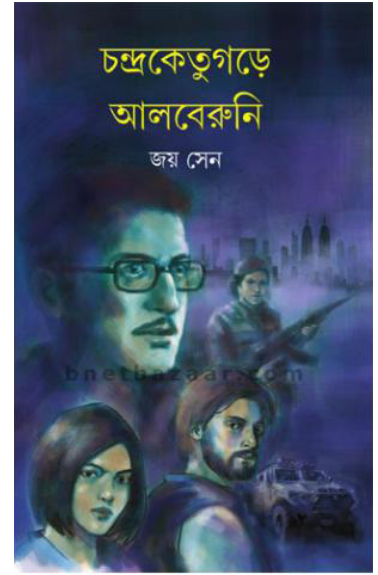


3

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

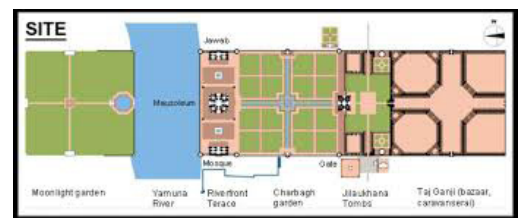
'...During the 15th century, various other causes were added to the decline of the papacy to produce a very rapid change, both political and cultural. Gunpowder strengthened central governments at the expense of feudal nobility. In France and England, Louis XI and Edward IV allied themselves with rich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

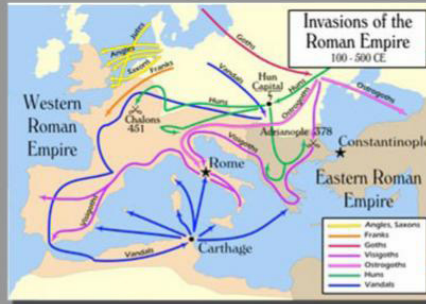


The idea of quadrangular Swastika, Shiva, and the principle of *Hasht-Vahist* (Eight folded Paradise) and Thunderbolt (square mandala) based on the ideas of Ashta/ Octo (Eight) principle of ancient Indian Sage Vashista

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

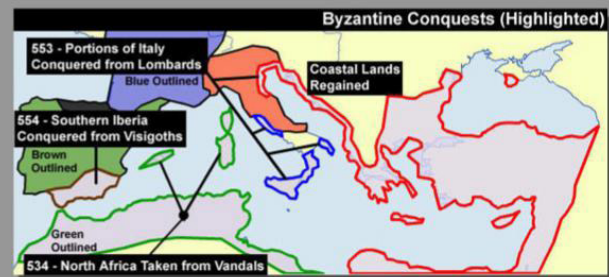
Goth War between Ostrogoths (Germanic rulers of Italy) & Byzantine. Byzantine prevails by 553, but the war was terribly devastating to both sides.



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.



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 '**Atharбайдan**' 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 (Lab) 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 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
٠	١	٢	٣	٤	٥	٦	٧	٨	٩
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
٠	١	٢	٣	٤	٥	٦	٧	٨	٩

In al-Khwarizmi's book 'Algorithmi 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!

Publisher: Ananda Publishers Kolkata (2020)

ISBN-13: 978-93-8987-607-9