

**Science in Scriptures —Analysing the Presence of Modern Technology in Ancient
Indian Mythology.**

Ankana Ghosh Dastidar¹

Assistant Professor

Department of Basic Science and Humanities

(University of Engineering and Management, Kolkata)

Ayon Chakraborty²

B-tech 2nd year CSE (University of Engineering and Management, Kolkata)

Abhishek Tripathi³

B-tech 2nd year CSE (University of Engineering and Management, Kolkata)

Abstract

Myths are the study and interpretation of sacred tales (which can often be religious) of any particular culture or civilisation and Mythology as the dictionary suggests is the study of these Myths. This paper attempts to study and analyse the various instances where the depiction of Modern scientific technology is being found in the various mythological scripts in India.

Key words: Mythology, Civilisation, Science, Modern day technology.

Introduction

Mythology primarily deals in the various human conditions that have been prevalent since times immemorial. Such as creation, ordering of the cosmos, human origin, human virtues and vices, sufferings, salvation, death and afterlife or reincarnation. India is known for its age long tradition and culture most of it talks about karma. All our epics and scriptures talk about the deeds both good and bad and how it affects human kind. At a superficial level these myths seem as enchanting stories for childhood. One might feel these as magical but what was magical then is called Science now. Hence these myths not only talk about the complexities of human characters and superhuman entities but also fascinate the readers with the scientific innuendos. It is an unanswered question as how in ancient age such intriguing scientific discoveries have been possible which took years for the modern science to comprehend. This questions the very existence of the modern scientific breakthroughs and the know-it-all claims that today's men have made. Inventions in the field of science and technology in ancient India have been phenomenal but many people of the later generations are sadly unaware of those. This paper attempts to describe few such scientific innovations (as referred in Mythological books) which ask the question, whether we have actually moved forward in matters of scientific intellect or if all these stories of advancements are just an illusion.

Aircraft

The invention of the aircraft is attributed to the Wright brothers in the year 1903. But in ancient India there are clear references of the existence of aircrafts known as "Vimana" .If we remember the mythological television series that gained popularity in the late 90's we would remember the visuals of how Ravana travelled by a Vimana from Lanka to Panchavati to

kidnap Devi Sita. Again in the battle field Megnad the son of Ravana was said to have been fighting from behind the clouds. Similar description of an aircraft is being found in Mahabharata. The “Vaimanika Sastra” written in Sanskrit is an entire book on “Science of aeronautics” discovered during the 20th century and had elaborate description of aircrafts which are even advanced than the modern day aircrafts.

Value of Pi

The Vedas are considered to have an answer to every problem possible .It might seem to be a statement of over-confidence but it is proved right in many instances. In praise of Lord Indra a Sloka in the 10th book of Rig Veda is found. The technical translation of that Sloka gives the value of pi up to 28 digits accurately. It is not until the invention of the computers that the western mathematicians could get this value up to 16 digits accurately. Those who think that a computer can do any calculation should use the fastest computer available and write a program to calculate the value of pi up to 28 digits accurately only then the difficulty level can be judged.

Marine Engineering

Rig Veda mentions ships with 100 oars which sailed over seven oceans and returned to India. Visitors to India from Greece and Rome during the pre-Christian times wrote that the Brahmins of India knew that the earth is in the form of a globe and one can reach the same place after sailing through the seven oceans. The Buddhist Jataka stories wrote about large Indian ships carrying seven hundred people. In the Artha Sastra, Koutilya wrote about the Board of Shipping and the Commissioner of Port who supervised sea traffic.

Nuclear Weaponry

During the battle in ancient time the weapon that caused greatest damage was the “Brahmastra”. It was a weapon of mass destruction created by Lord Brahma. In Ramayana Lord Shree Ram used Brahmastra several times. Also in the battlefield of Kurushretra it was used by Arjuna, Karna, Ashwathama, Dronacharja and Bhisma . It is said in Mahabharata that Brahmastra emits heat and fire of the sun which is very similar to the modern day nuclear bomb. The heat created by the flash of a brahmāstra resembles the fire exhibited in the sun globe at the heat produced by a brahmāstra.

Similar examples

Apart from the above examples there are references of several other aspects which are considered as invention of the modern age like Clonning. It is said that the Kauravas who were 100 siblings were result of Clonning. Also a fierce demon named Raktabij who can't be killed as on being killed it rose again from its blood. It is also mentioned in Mahabharata that the wheels of Yudhishthira's chariot never touched the ground, this hints towards the modern day concept of antigravity vehicles on which huge research are being conducted. The building of the Ramsetu is an example of complex civil Engineering. A hint of organ transplant is found in the story of Ganesha who got the head of an elephant after Lord Shiva severed his head out of rage.

Conclusion

There are many such examples that can be found in the mythological books. Only the prominent ones are being discussed here. But the fact is how it is possible for the men to develop such technology 9000 years back. If we consider that these are all imaginary then the question is how come the vivid description which is quite similar to the modern day scientific knowledge possible. But the major question is if all these existed even 7000 years ago then how they all vanished? Was forgetting a deliberate choice or is it nature that rebooted itself?

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