

RELATIONSHIP AMONG YUGA, VEDAS, BANI OF GURU NANAK, AND THE EVOLUTION OF HUMANS

ARTICLE

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INTRODUCTION

According to Vedic Science, there are four yugas:
(Anonymous, 2022)

1. Satya Yuga,
2. Treta Yuga,
3. Dvapara Yuga, and
4. Kali Yuga

SATYA YUGA: Humans were adept in meditation and possessed unbelievable strength and longevity. They lived up to 100,000 years. Everyone enjoyed worldly comforts and lived in perfect harmony with the natural environment. It was a time of complete peace on Earth.

TRETA YUGA: Humans engage in nonviolent religious sacrifice to propitiate the gods and ultimately please the Supreme Person, Vishnu. The human society was divided into four classes of men: Brahman (intellectuals), Kshatriyas (administrators), Vaishyas (merchants), and Sudras (workers). The Brahmanas studied the Vedas and guided society with spiritual wisdom, the Kshatriyas served as rulers, politicians, and army generals; the Vaishyas worked in commerce and industry, and the Sudras served the other three classes. However, they were highly dutiful, moral, and compassionate toward their fellow beings. They lived up to 10,000 years. Although there was some division in society, it was nevertheless a time of peace and prosperity.

DVAPARA YUGA: Selfishness and irreligiosity were overcoming human's natural godly nature. People

ABSTRACT

First, I have tried to explain Yuga System and Vedas according to Vedic science; afterward, Guru Nanak describes the philosophies in these Yugas and four Vedas in his two slokas. It indicates a close relationship between the Yugas and Vedas in Hinduism. Guru Nanak explains the similarity in his bani (two slokas), written about Yuga and Vedas in Hinduism. However, at the end of each sloka, Guru Nanak explains that his philosophy is different from that of the Yuga system and Vedas. When we look into the evolution of humans, it appears that there were no humans when the Hindu gods (Setambar, Rama, and Krishna) appeared during these different Yugas.

became fearful and mistrusting of their leaders and fellow citizens. However, many holy kings on Earth still upheld justice and defended virtue. They lived up to 1,000 years.

Toward the end of the most recent Dvapara Yuga, Mother Earth became overburdened by corrupt leaders who had utterly abandoned the path of religiosity in favor of wanton selfishness and blind violence. Brahma then appealed to Vishnu, who informed him that the Supreme Personality of the Godhead, Krishna, would appear on Earth to destroy the evil kings and restore virtue to the world.

KALI YUGA: However, shortly after the departure of Sri Krishna to His realm in the spiritual sky, Kali Yuga broke out in full force. The social order was turned on its head. Instead of educating and protecting the populace, religious and political leaders abandoned virtue and became criminals in society. The only process of dharma that is still practiced and effective is nama-

sankirtana, or chanting the names of God, especially the maha-mantra: Hare Kṛṣṇa, Hare Kṛṣṇa, Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Hare Hare/ Hare Rāma, Hare Rāma, Rāma Rāma, Hare Hare. Kali Yuga is virtually devoid of peace. In Kali Yuga, people live up to only 100 years.

According to Puranic sources, Krishna's death marked the end of the Dvapara Yuga and the start of the Kali Yuga on 17/18 February 3102 BCE. Therefore, the Kali Yuga of 432,000 began 5,123 years ago and had 426,877 years left as of 2022 CE. (Thompson, 2021)

NANAKIAN PHILOSOPHY

Guru Nanak explains the Vedic Periods in the following two slokas as follows:

ਸਲੋਕੁ ਮਃ ੧ ॥

Slok M 1.

Sloka Mahla 1

In the first sloka, Guru Nanak explains the humans according to Vedic philosophy, where the body is a chariot, and the soul is a charioteer.

ਨਾਨਕ ਮੇਰੁ ਸਰੀਰ ਕਾ ਇਕੁ ਰਥੁ ਇਕੁ ਰਥਵਾਹੁ ॥

Nānak mer sarīr kā ik rath ik rathvāhu.

Nanak says:

The highest-evolved human had one body, the chariot, and one (soul), the charioteer.

ਜੁਗੁ ਜੁਗੁ ਫੇਰਿ ਵਟਾਈਅਹਿ ਗਿਆਨੀ ਬੁਝਹਿ ਤਾਹਿ ॥

Jug jug fer vatāīah giānī bujhēh tāhi.

(This is an indication of reincarnation) Body and soul are changed in different Yugas; try to understand, wise man.

ਸਤਜੁਗਿ ਰਥੁ ਸੰਤੋਖ ਕਾ ਧਰਮੁ ਅਗੈ ਰਥਵਾਹੁ ॥

Satjug rath santokh kā dharam agai rathvāhu.

During Sat Yug, the contented mind(body) was the chariot, and righteousness was the charioteer.

ਤ੍ਰੈਤੈ ਰਥੁ ਜਤੈ ਕਾ ਜੋਰੁ ਅਗੈ ਰਥਵਾਹੁ ॥

Fareṭai rath jaṭai kā jor agai rathvāhu.

During Traytaa Yuga, self-control was the chariot, and the power was the charioteer.

ਦੁਆਪੁਰਿ ਰਥੁ ਤਪੈ ਕਾ ਸਤੁ ਅਗੈ ਰਥਵਾਹੁ ॥

Duāpur rath ṭapai kā saṭ agai rathvāhu.

During the Dwaapar Yuga, penance was the chariot, and the truth was the charioteer.

ਕਲਜੁਗਿ ਰਥੁ ਅਗਨਿ ਕਾ ਕੂੜੁ ਅਗੈ ਰਥਵਾਹੁ ॥੧॥

Kaljug rath agan kā kūṛ agai rathvāhu. ||1||

During the Kali Yuga fire of desire, burning in the body is the chariot, and falsehood is its charioteer.

AGGS, M 1, p 470. (Arjun, Guru and Singh, 1983)

Guru Nanak explains the Vedic Periods by symbolizing the body as the chariot and its different charioteers.

In the second sloka, Guru Nanak explains the appearance of various godheads in different Vedas and the behavior of humans as follows:

ਸਲੋਕੁ ਮਃ ੧ ॥

Slok M 1.

Sloka Mahla 1

ਸਾਮ ਕਹੈ ਸੇਤੰਬਰੁ ਸੁਆਮੀ ਸਚ ਮਹਿ ਆਛੈ ਸਾਚਿ ਰਹੇ ॥

Sām kahai seṭambar suāmī sach meh aḥḥai sāch rahe.

In Sam Veda, the God's name is Setambar, who wore a white robe. People worshiped him, and everybody spoke the truth.

ਸਭੁ ਕੇ ਸਚਿ ਸਮਾਵੈ ॥

Sabh ko sach samāvai.

Everybody accepted truth to be practiced all the time.

ਰਿਗੁ ਕਹੈ ਰਹਿਆ ਭਰਪੂਰਿ ॥

Rig kahai rahiā bharpūr.

The Rig Veda says that God is permeating and pervading everywhere.

ਰਾਮ ਨਾਮੁ ਦੇਵਾ ਮਹਿ ਸੂਰੁ ॥

Rām nām devā meh sūr.

Rama is the highest god among all the deities (gods and goddesses) who shines like Sun.

ਨਾਇ ਲਇਐ ਪਰਾਛਤ ਜਾਹਿ ॥

Nāe laiāi parāḥḥat jāhi.

Chanting the name (of Rama) one gets rids of sins.

ਨਾਨਕ ਤਉ ਮੋਖੰਤਰੁ ਪਾਹਿ ॥

Nānak ṭaō mokhanṭar pāhi.

Nanak says that according to the above mythology one can get salvation.

ਜੁਜ ਮਹਿ ਜੋਰਿ ਛਲੀ ਚੰਦ੍ਰਾਵਲਿ ਕਾਨ੍ ਕ੍ਰਿਸਨੁ ਜਾਦਮੁ ਭਇਆ ॥

Juj meh jor ḥḥalī ḥḥandrāvali kānḥ krisan jādam bhāiā.

In the Jujar Veda, Kahna Krishna of the Yaadeva family seduced Chandravali by force.

ਪਾਰਜਾਤੁ ਗੋਪੀ ਲੈ ਆਇਆ ਬਿੰਦ੍ਰਾਬਨ ਮਹਿ ਰੰਗੁ ਕੀਆ ॥

Pārjāt gopī lai āiā bindrāban meh rang kīā.

Krishna brought the mythical Elysian Tree for his milkmaid (Chandravali) and reveled with her in the Bindraban garden.

ਕਲਿ ਮਹਿ ਬੇਦੁ ਅਥਰਬਣੁ ਹੁਆ ਨਾਉ ਖੁਦਾਈ ਅਲਹੁ ਭਇਆ ॥

Kal meh beḍ atharban hūā nāō khudāī alhu bhāiā.

In the Kali Yuga (Dark Age), it was Atharban Veda, Allah appeared, and He was called Khuda.

ਨੀਲ ਬਸਤ੍ਰ ਲੇ ਕਪੜੇ ਪਹਿਰੇ ਤੁਰਕ ਪਠਾਣੀ ਅਮਲੁ ਕੀਆ ॥
Nīl baṣṭar le kapṛe pahire ṭurak paṭhāṇī amal kīā.
*People started wearing blue robes/clothes like the
Turks and the Pathans, the rulers.*

ਚਾਰੇ ਵੇਦ ਹੋਏ ਸਚਿਆਰ ॥

Chāre veḍ hoᵉ sachīār.
(Brahmans claim that) all the four Vedas are true.

ਪੜਹਿ ਗੁਣਹਿ ਤਿਨ੍ਹ* ਚਾਰ ਵੀਚਾਰ ॥

Paṛeh guṇēh ṭinḥ chār vīchār.
*(Nanak says) After the critical study, one finds four
different philosophies in* them.*

ਭਾਉ ਭਗਤਿ ਕਰਿ ਨੀਚੁ ਸਦਾਏ ॥

Bhāᵉo bhagaṭ kar nīch saḍāᵉ.

ਤਉ ਨਾਨਕ ਮੋਖੰਤਰੁ ਪਾਏ ॥੨॥

Ṭaᵉo Nānak mokhaṅṭar pāᵉ. ||2||

*Finally, Guru Nanak recommends the following
method instead of the above mythical ones in Vedas
to achieve salvation:*

*To understand God with devotion and practice
humility.*

AGGS, M 1, p 470.

In the second sloka, Guru Nanak explains that:

1. In Sam Veda, the god is September, and people were truthful and practiced truth.
2. In Rig Veda, the god was Ram. People were chanting the name of the god Rama, and they got rid of sins and brought salvation
3. In Jujar Veda, god Krishna seduced Chandraavali by force and reveled with her in Bindraban Garden.
4. In Kali Yuga, it was Atharban Veda, and the god was Allah. People wore blue-colored robes/ clothes like that of Pathans and Turks.
- 5.

After that, Brahmans claim that the four Vedas are true, but Guru Nanak says there are four different philosophies in all the four Vedas.

Therefore, Guru Nanak recommends that instead of following the above Vedic philosophies, one should try to understand God with devotion and practice humility to get salvation. Here salvation means deliverance from harm, ruin, or loss, but not from sin or reincarnation.

BRIEF EVOLUTION OF HUMANS*

The origin of life started as a single cell and further evolution into multicellular life, i. e., animals and plants. Leaving aside various processes of evolution

in animals, let us go directly to the evolution of humans., According to Pontzer, 2012, our immediate evolutionary family is comprised of hominoids, the group of primates: “lesser apes” (siamangs and gibbons) and the “great apes” (bonobos, chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans). Our closest relatives are bonobos and chimpanzees.

Gibbons, 2012 says that humans share about 99% of their DNA with chimpanzees, making them our closest relatives. However, two species are closely related to humans: bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) (Fig. 1) and the common chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) (Fig. 2). However, it isn't easy to decide which one is closer. For detailed information about the evolution of Humans, go-to reference (Chahal, 2022)



Figure 1. Bonobo (*Pan paniscus*)
B2671A16-CCBA-4695-A580-9DF9259FA017.jpg



Figure 2. Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*).
Credit: B2671A16-CCBA-4695-A580-9DF9259FA017.jp

The further timeline of the evolution of humans from Hominins, a branch of the hominoid, is as follows: Hominins appeared about 6-7 million years ago.

Ardipithecus ramidus appeared about 4.4 million years ago.

Australopithecus Afarensis (Lucy) appeared about 3.6-2.9 million years ago.

Genus Homo and its species, *Homo habilis*, appeared 1.4-2.3 million years ago. (Fig. 3)



Figure 3. *Homo habilis*– Making tools.

Homo erectus appeared about 700,000 years ago. (Fig. 4)



Figure 4. *Homo erectus*
Rendering-Artist. web

Homo heidelbergensis (an archaic of *Homo sapiens*) appeared 250,000 years ago.

Homo sapiens appeared about 200,000 years ago. (Fig. 5)



Figure 5. *Homo-sapiens*
Credit-Saugat Adhikari-7 Homo species.jpg

According to Adhikari, 2019, *Homo sapiens* survived and became the ancestors of modern humans, *Homo sapiens sapiens*. *H. sapiens* lived together, hunted food, and

could cope with the climatic changes that occurred. They discovered how to propagate certain plants and breed animals, changing history forever.

Homo sapiens sapiens appeared about 160,000 years ago in Africa.

Homo sapiens sapiens migrated to other parts of the world between 60,000 and 30,000 years ago.

Vedic Periods

According to Parthasarathy, 2021, Vedic Periods are as follows:

1. Satya Yuga or Krita Yuga: 1,728,000 solar years
 2. Treta Yuga: 1,296,000 solar years
 3. Dwapar Yuga: 864,000 solar years
 4. Kali Yuga: 432,000 solar years
- (In the ratio of 4:3:2:1)
- Total of One Cycle (Maha Yuga) 4,320,000 solar years
- Kali Yuga started in 3102 BCE, i.e., 3,102 + 2,022
= 5,124 years ago.

Therefore, Setambar appeared in Satya Yuga:

$$1,728,000 + 1,296,000 + 864,000 + 5,124 = 3,893,124 \text{ years ago.}$$

Rama appeared in Treta Yuga:

$$1,296,000 + 864,000 + 5,124 = 2,165,124 \text{ years ago}$$

Krishna appeared in Dwapar Yuga:

$$864,000 + 5,124 = 869,124 \text{ years ago.}$$

Kali Yuga appeared = 5,124 years ago.

Now the question is what Setambar, Rama, and Krishna were doing during 3,893,124; 2,165,124; and 869,124 years ago, respectively, when there were no humans? Because

Homo sapiens appeared about 200,000 years ago in Africa.

Homo sapiens sapiens appeared about 160,000 years ago in Africa and moved to Europe and other worlds (India) around 60,000 and 30,000 years ago.

On the other hand, Major religions of the world appeared as follows:

Judaism appeared more than 3,500 years ago.

Buddha appeared in 600 BCE
about 2,600 years ago.

Jainism appeared between 700 and 500 BCE
about 2,700 – 2,500 years ago.

Mohammad appeared in 570 CE,
about 1,400 years ago.

Guru Nanak appeared in 1469 CE,
i.e., 2022-1469 = 553 years ago.

CONCLUSIONS

Guru Nanak explains in sloka one that the human body is at the top of evolution, and its soul is a controller during different ages. With the change from one Period of Age to another, the character of people and their age were getting at a lower and lower state. The Kali Yuga was the worst one where people were thirsty of desire, and lying was their main character.

Guru Nanak explains in sloka two about the appearance of different gods during different Vedas. In Sam Vedas, it was Setambar, who wore a white robe, was chanted by people, and they spoke the truth. In Rig, Veda Ram was the highest of all gods and goddesses, and people chanted his name (Ram Ram) to get rid of their sins. In Jujar Veda, Krishna seduced Chandravali and revealed with her in the Bindraban garden. In Kali Yuga, it was the Atharban Veda, where Allah was God, and the people wore blue robes/clothes like those of the Pathans and the Turks.

In the end, the Brahmins say that all four Vedas are true, but Nanak says that when reading critically, one finds different philosophies in them. Finally, Guru Nanak says that only those who understand God with devotion and practice humanity can get rid of salvation (deliverance from harm, ruin, or loss, not from reincarnation).

According to evolution, humans (*Homo Sapiens*) appeared in Africa about 200,000 years ago. And its latest species, *Homo sapiens sapiens*, appeared in Africa about 160,000 years ago. *Homo sapiens sapiens* moved to Europe and other parts of the world (India) from 60,000 to 30,000 years ago.

Now the question is what Setambar, Rama, and Krishna were doing during 3,893,124; 2,165,124; and 869,124 years ago, respectively, when there were no humans?

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