



Treta Yuga

The arc of eternity slowly descends as entropy set in. It is said that the soul, moved by time and successive births, gradually begins using up its energy. The world keeps moving away from the highest stage experienced in the first age.

Still, the Silver Age is a time of fruition. Thoughts are expressions of harmony in lifetimes of great beauty. For this reason 'three quarters' - *treta* - of the moonlight are still to be seen.

It is the rule of the Moon Dynasty whose memorials are depicted in most Indian arts.

"But one day the king and the queen found themselves in another land. Another dress and different faces with which they expressed their love, and though their life was good and all the courtiers smiled, a moment came when something changed. A single thought had lost itself between the mind of the king and the mind of the queen. Because of that a flicker of doubt crossed the face of the subject in front of them and she went away with a question in her mind. And it was called a Silver Age.

And within the mother - the subject who had knelt before them - the question played its own game and hardly without knowing it she turned her head and looked with too much love as her child prepared to leave. A tiny seed of damage had been sewn.

And the seed became a leaf and as the gardener dug his land he spotted it as it floated down the river. A single leaf had fallen from the tree though the summer hadn't yet gone, and within the sight he felt a signal that the nature which he understood and loved was changing.

And as he walked, the music played, the musician sang his songs. But just once he pushed his voice too far and the note he sang slipped slightly out of key. It was the beginning of a interference between the creator and his creation, the singer and his songs.

But the change was so very slight that they did not even know. As the queen ruled, the mother loved, the farmer farmed and the musician played, they did not see the moon waning in the sky. Not until the light began to dim did they notice that they could not see."

Olympia - Anthea Church

The Expansion of the Kingdom

The first dynasty ruled for a number of generations when the government was passed onto another family. The kings and queens that inherited the kingdom, assumed a non-divided society, still living the same *dharma*.

The population had now grown bigger and though everything ran with little effort, there was still an order holding things together. This was most visible through the inherent qualities of people. With the expansion of the population, the different degrees of perfection stood out, becoming visible in everyone's talents. The ages of Paradise displayed the color and beauty of diversity based on natural gifts and inclinations. The most elevated *sanskaras* and the complete potential of the soul had been expressed during the first age. The Silver Age *reflected* that initial period.

It was a simple and yet sophisticated society where relationships were based on trust. Because of their self-respect and honesty people's attitudes did not rouse expectation, distrust or need for recognition. They were self-realized beings who experienced satisfaction and contentment at all times.

The geography and climatic conditions were different during the first half of the world cycle. Bharat was the main continent, a mass of land surrounded by

seas and islands. The seasons were mild and nature provided more than enough for consumption. Cities were small and beautifully gardened. Communication in and between the cities was easy and fast by air, sea or land.

This period was also known as *Vaikunth*, because of its righteous people and structured society. Having embodied virtues and qualities at the highest levels, royalty was the sustaining core for values and customs. Their inner strength helped to preserve a system that would later turn into a variety of traditions. Power was understood to come from the depths of the soul; it wasn't simply conferred by external titles. Hereditary succession only confirmed the potential of those who naturally possessed the *sanskaras* of self-mastery, wisdom and love.

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Time also means the interaction and transformation of all living things. Everything is constantly subjected to change. The process of birth and rebirth together with the exchange among an increasing number of people makes the soul move away from its original state of completion.

An imperceptible process in due time creates space for the first bits of failure to emerge. A spiritual decline sets in; a very subtle movement begins to take shape within the human psyche.

The Fall

"And then every sin broke loose upon this age, and honor and truth fled hence, and in their place there sprang up every form of wrong and deceit, and treachery and brute force and the cursed lust of gain. Their canvas they set to the winds, of which the sailor as yet knew little...That soil which had been once shared by all, even as the sun's rays and the breezes, the niggard land-surveyor now marked out with long-drawn balks.

No longer did men demand from the rich soil only its crops and the food that is their due, but to the earth's very vitals they pushed, and quarried out the treasures which she had hidden and stored away hard by the nether gloom. By this time baleful still; then came war that arms herself with both, and with blood stained hands clashes her ringing panoply..."

Metamorphoses, Book One - Ovid

Having lost its spiritual identity and purpose, man began experiencing suffering. A change of consciousness blocked his vision, leaving gaps in expression. Emotional pain, unfulfilled desires were becoming part of the play. Insecurity was taking the form of fear, aversion. The inner strength that had for so long sustained the self and given support to others was vanishing. Mental turmoil was manifesting.

From the fragile identification with the temporary and perishable, there emerged feelings of fear, possession and ego. The capacity of seeing beyond, the super-sensorial perception disappeared.

"The Lord then said to Adam: When you were subjected to me, you possessed a bright inner nature, and for this reason you could see things from a distance. But after your transgression, this bright nature was taken from you; and you could not see distant things but only that which was close, within the reach of your hand, according to the capacity of flesh, which is gross..."
The Forgotten Books of Eden

Together with inner purity, man also lost his divine powers. Dissociation from his essence and loss of a spiritual dimension of existence limited his reasoning and perspective. The desire to recover was there, but the fall was followed by disintegration of the whole system. The ancient civilization was about to witness a complete reversal of nature, which up to then, had only reflected man's non-violence.

"The divine portion that existed in them was now tenuous and debilitated by having mingled to a great quantity of mortality..."
"There were then earthquakes and floods of extraordinary violence, and in a single dreadful day and night all men were swallowed up by the sea and vanished..."
Timaeus - Plato

This period left traumatic impressions in the human soul. Everything was changing: longevity was reduced, untimely death became a reality. Attachment to name, physical appearance and status became means of deception. A superficial sense of self germinated into negativities that opened the season of human suffering.

"I give you all plants that bear seed everywhere on earth, and every tree bearing fruit which yields seed: they shall be yours for food. All green plants I give for food to the wild animals, to all the birds of heaven, and to all reptiles on earth, every living creature." Genesis 1:29

But now, *"every creature that lives and moves shall be food for you now, I give you them all, as once I gave you all green plants."* And therefore, *"fear and dread of you shall fall upon all wild animals on earth, on all birds of heaven, on everything that moves upon the ground and all fish of the sea"...*Genesis 9:2.3

Karma – the natural law of cause and effect – branched into *vikarma*, those actions motivated by one's selfish desires. The conception of sin and guilt arose as a result of the experience of *karmic* consequence. Customs and systems were transforming, as was man's condition:

*Now we cannot see as before: our eyes have become of flesh, they cannot see in the way they could"...." What is today our body compared to what it was previously, when we used to live in the garden?"...
The Forgotten Books of Eden*

Change in the mind of man echoed in the very structure of the cosmos and nature. Huge calamities showed, for the first time, the full force of the elements. Earth and seaquakes swept the continents, leaving no trace of the Golden Dwarka – the lost land of Atlantis.

The cataclysms tore continents apart, creating new pieces of land, mountains and seas. A deviation in the planet's tilt resulted in a change of the axis and in the gravitational field of the earth. The geophysical features, the flora and the fauna were greatly altered. Genetic mutations occurred, new species appeared.

*"Among other things, there was the drying up of great oceans, the falling away of mountain peaks, the deviation of the fixed pole-star, the cutting of the wind-cords (of the stars), the submergence of the earth, the retreat of the celestials from their station."
Maitri Upanishad 4*

*"These were the families of the sons of Noah according to their genealogies, nation by nation; and from them came the separate nations on earth after the flood...And the entire world spoke a single language and used the same words. As men journeyed from the East, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there."
Genesis 10:32;11:1,2*

The ancient land was destroyed. Some pieces of land sunk, others were separated by continental streams. Survivors were scattered, other migrated in search of safe land. Moved by fear and wonder, they sought to understand the reasons for changes in the cosmic order. A great power had certainly been manifested. Varuna, Indra, Brahma...the mystery had to be comprehended. The quest was to begin.

*"...It was then that men started to call out the name of God"
Genesis IV.2*

Inner conflict together with devastating calamities caused an unknown instinct to arise. Man began to see the forces of nature as a power that seemed to be connected to him and yet was greater than himself.

This is recorded history. For when people started to talk about the 'gods', they were no more in existence. And when temples, pyramids and sacrificial fires were later built and dedicated to the deities, it was all done on the basis of memories of a lost past.

The limits between recorded history and the obscure periods of prehistory reached us through these narratives, which contained but fragments of the collective remembrance of the ancients. Often in archetypal form, these stories tell us about a period of perfection and its disappearance:

*"He, who knew the seas and the countries of the world,
he was wise, he saw the mysteries,
and knew the secret things,
he brought us a tale of the days before the flood.
He went a long journey, was weary,
worn out with labor, and returning
engraved on a stone the whole story..."*
The Epic of Gilgamesh

The Old Testament comments on this period as the transition between the divine and the human. A time when the 'gods' saw that 'the daughters of men' had beauty and took them as wives; in which 'children began dying before their parents' as 'death had entered the world'.

"In those days, when the sons of God had relationship with the daughters of men and got children of them; they became the heroes of old, men of renown." Genesis V.4

These 'giants' of knowledge, who could still live up to 120 years, were the first sages and kings who were to shape the social structure that followed.

This period marks the end of perennial peace and happiness. The next generation still heard about the changes in their land, the floods and the earthquakes witnessed by their people.

"I soon realized that the ancient sages lived in a frightened state of mind, justified by the events they or their close ancestors had witnessed. The ancients' message was an anguished effort to communicate their awe engendered at seeing nature with its elements unchained."
Immanuel Velikovsky - In the Beginning

The last deities had left a legacy of warnings, besides remainders of a rich and profound knowledge. They sufficed to give an initial impulse to sciences and philosophies which have blossomed into still extraordinary cultures, dispersed through all the continents. This knowledge was used for building monuments, pyramids, astronomic observatories and calendars that still amaze the world.

It didn't take long for religious traditions to appear, as man was now trying to preserve the legacy and *dharma* of their ancestors.