

## The Ramayana Is Older and Earlier To 'The Iliad'

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**T**he great battle between the Trojans and the Greeks took place at the city of Troy. It was under siege of the Greeks for about ten long years. Lastly they defeated the Trojans and destroyed Troy in about 1200 B. C. Homer, is said to have written 'The Iliad' and 'The Odyssey' in about 750 B. C.<sup>1</sup>

In reality Homer was the traditional epic poet of Greece. But about Homer, there is no record in existence. Herodotus was the famous Greek historian. He placed Homer in the ninth century B. C. But later authorities placed him to the eleventh century B. C. The historians do not agree to his birth place, but it could be Smyrna, Chios, Argos, Athens or Salamis. He is said to be blind.<sup>2</sup>

According to The Mahabharata, Rama of the Ramayana the best among all Kshyatriyas, who defeated and killed the tyrants and cruel monsters and protected 'Dharma' belonged to the juncture of Treta and Dwapara age. The Aryans-Hindus divide this whole life phenomenon of the world in parts – Satyuga, Treta, Dwapara and Kaliyuga. Satyuga and Treta were over and it was Dwapara which had just begun Accordingly –

Completed years of Dwapara –	864000
and Kaliyuga upto 2020 -	5120
Total	- 8,69,120

However there is no historical proof of the Ramayana being so much old and ancient. But some years before 'Gujrat Samachar of 18 May 2007'<sup>3</sup> had published a report of NASA about Ramsetu which was built by Rama to cross over the sea to reach to Lanka. According to them, Ramsetu is 17,50,000 years old. They have given a number of photographs. As per the photographs the Indian Marine Department has come to the conclusion that there is definitely a bridge made of stone under the sea water. Because of Ramsetu issue, new things are coming to light. Again according to a press report 'Sandesh' of 17-11-07,<sup>4</sup> Rama was born on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan. 5114 B. C.

means 7135 years before. This report was published keeping history, geography, science and archaeology findings in mind.

Another important point is that Maharshi Valmiki was contemporary to Rama. Rama belonged to the 63<sup>rd</sup> generation of Ikshwak Dynasty. King Dashrath was his father. King Harishchandra King Dilip and King Raghu were his ancestors.

The Mahabharata is believed to be nearly five thousand years old. It is written in the Mahabharata that when Krishna went to Balarama angry after Duryodhana was killed by Bhima in a dual fight, Krishna is recorded to have said परापतम कलीयुगम विधि (paraptam kalyugam vidhi) means there by that the war of Mahabharata took place in the beginning of kalyuga – pandit Madhacharya was a great exponent of astrology. He wrote a book named 'Rajawali' means kings Dynasty. In that book he has written that kalayuga started nearly 3044 years before that vikram samvat. This simply calculates to 3044 + 2077 = 5121 year upto now.

As per the astronomical calculations of Hindus, the present period of the world, Kalyuga commenced 3115 years before on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. at 2 hours and 27 min B. C.<sup>5</sup> Shri Abuafazal was the prime minister of Emperor Akbar. He writes in 'Ayne Akbari' p. 249 that the first king of Kalyuga was Yudhishtira. It means Yudhishtira must have been 3044 years before the Vikram Sumavata started. In this way by 2020, The Mahabharata could safely be rated to 5030 years old. Alike Valmiki, Maharshi Vedvyas, the great poet and writer of the Mahabharata was also contemporary of the war of Mahabharata. He has mentioned the episodes of the Ramayana from Yudhkanda in Drounparva and Ayodhya Kanda in the Gita. A volume of studies in Indology by Prof. P. V. Kane, Pune 1941 – 'Epic studies' says that at least 86 citations of the Ramayana are found in The Mahabharata. Maharshi Vedvyas has clearly mentioned about the Ramayana

in Vanparva 11-149. The war between Rama and Ravana finds illustration in the Mahabharata in Drounparva.

The purpose of writing all this is to throw some light upon the legitimacy of the Ramayana being earlier and older poem to the Mahabharata. This simply concludes that if Mahabharata is of nearly 5000 years old, The Ramayana must be older than that.

German Prof. Jaccobi writes, "The Ramayana must have already been familiar as an ancient work before the Mahabharata had reached its final form."

He further says, "I am so sure that The Mahabharata became an epic under the influence of the poetic art of Valmiki."<sup>6</sup>

This all establishes that the Ramayana is at least an older poem to the Mahabharata say earlier than 5000 years. Where as the Trojan War and the events there of, belong only to 1200 B. C. This all leads to simple arithmetic calculation that the Ramayana is older and earlier to the Iliad by Homer. Mr. M. H. Fauche, a French scholar writes, "The Ramayana is earlier to Homer's 'The Iliad' and 'The Odyssey' not only that but he designed 'The Iliad' also on the lines of The Ramayana."<sup>7</sup>

Mr. Arther Lely writes, "The Iliad and 'The Ramayana' have so much similarity that one is

forced to conclude that 'The Iliad' is composed after reading 'The Ramayana'.<sup>8</sup>

#### References :

- 1) Boswell Taylor, 'Egyptians, Greeks, Romans' Brockhampton Pess, 1975.
- 2) Lore Derby, 'Preface of The Iliad'
- 3) 'Gujrat Samachar', 18 May 2007
- 4) 'Sandesh' (Newspaper), 17 Nov 2007
- 5) Count Bjornstjevna, 'Theogony of Hindus'. London. J. Murray, 1844. p. 40
- 6) Prof. Jaccobi, 'History of Indian literature', p. 503
- 7) Mr. M.H. Fauche, 'Preface to the Ramayana'.
- 8) Mr. Arther Lely, 'Ramayana and Homer'