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Lord Krishna – An epic hero or a historical reality

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Abstract

There is no doubt difference of opinions exist regarding Lord Krishna's birth and death. Different views exist amongst historians who have been largely inspired and influenced by oriental scholars and their Indian followers but, if an unprejudiced study of the Puranas, Srimad Bhagavata and other records of Indian origin is made, interesting details regarding Krishna's birth date and time come to light. According to Matsya Purana (vide Adhyaya 271, slokas 51-52) the matter becomes quite clear when it says that the year and day on which Krishna passed away mark the commencement of Kaliyuga.

Key words: Lord Krishna Birth Time; Planetary Positions; Historical Reality.

Yasmin Krishna disam jatastasminneva (hi valsare); Tadahani pratipannam
Kaliyugam pramanam tasyame srunu

Without straining these authoritative quotations, we may safely assume that on the (traditional) day of Krishna's death, Kaliyuga commenced and that Krishna was born in the 126th year counted backwards from 3102 B.C. It may be assumed that the Kundali given by Prof. Rao was not probably verified as otherwise, he would have taken care to see that there was no inconsistency between the planetary positions and birth details.

Introduction

Today, man has created a machine called computer which, though most idiotic, can do mathematical calculations at an incredible speed. According to a popular ad of a computer company, the calculations which Johannes Kepler took ten years to complete, can be done today within minutes, using a computer. It has therefore been possible for the scientists, with the help of this fantastic machine, to determine the dates of ancient events with unthinkable accuracy, using the planetary configurations given in the Mahabharata, as inputs. They have developed so many software for this purpose and to name a few are: (1) Planetarium, (2) Ecliptic, (3) Lode star and the (4) Panchang Software.

In 2003, a two day seminar was held on 5th and 6th January, in Bangalore, on "The Date of Mahabharata War: Based on Astronomical Data Using Planetarium Software", and a few of the eminent researchers who submitted papers were (1) Dr. S. Balakrishna of NASA, USA; (2) Dr. B. N. Narahari Achar, Department of Physics, Memphis University, USA; (3) Dr. R. N. Iyengar, Department of Civil Engineering, IISc, Bangalore; (4) Dr. S. Kalyanaraman, Saraswati River Research Centre, Chennai and so on. These scientists agree that there does not exist any contradiction between any two descriptions of planetary configurations given in the Mahabharata.

We may easily dismiss the findings of some of the modern scholars that Mahabharata took place near about 2000 B.C., that Bhagavadgita was composed in 1000 B. C. and that Krishna was a mythical person, based as such findings are on untrustworthy and one sided data and because of the fact that the great historical documents, viz., the Puranas are completely ignored.

Materials & Methods

To reach a logical opinion we may cite some important quotes from Bhagavata, Matsyapurana, Vishnupurana, Harivanua and SrimadBhagavata.

In Bhagavata, tenth skanda, third chapter, it is said that Krishna was born when the Moon was in the constellation of Prajapathi, i.e., Rohini. By a careful study of the 26th sloka of first chapter, fifth amsa of Vishnupurana, it can be construed that Krishna was born on the night

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of Krishnashtami (8th day of dark half) in the lunar month of Sravana. Information furnished in Harivanua (1 Part, 52nd chapter) is clear and to the point so far as the lunar day, month and time are concerned. It is said that Krishna was born on the 8th lunar day of the dark half of Sravana, in the constellation of Rohini at midnight as given below: -

Ashtamyam Sravanemase Krisknapakshe mahatithou;
Rohinyamardharatre cha sudnmsa udayonmukhe

Bhagavata, we can also glean (Skanda 11, Chapter VI) that Krishna lived for 125 years, Vishnupurana (Amsa 5, Chapter 37) corroborates the same in suggesting that Krishna lived for 125 years. If we again refer to Bhagavata (Skanda 11, Chapter 7) and understand the 2nd sloka clearly we can find that Kali entered (i.e. Kaliyuga began) immediately after Krishna shuffled off his mortal coil. That Kali entered on the day Krishna passed away and that Krishna was born in Yaduvamsa at the end of the Dwaparayuga of the 28th Mahayuga, i.e., the Dwapara preceding the current Kaliyuga, becomes evident by a perusal of Vishnupurana (4th and 20th Chapters and V Amsa, 23rd Chapter). Thus by placing together details taken from the most important historical and cultural documents of ancient India, viz., Srimad Bhagavata, Vishnupurana and Harivamsa, it may be clearly inferred that Krishna was born at midnight, on the 8th lunar day of the cyclic year Srimukha, in the 126th year counted backwards from the date of commencement of Kaliyuga on 18-2-3102 B.C. corresponding to the 1st day of the lunar month Chaitra of the cyclic year Pramadhi. This corresponds to the midnight of 19th (20th) July 3228 B.C., and the below* horoscope is cast for this date.

In his Royal Horoscopes, Prof. B. Suryanarain Rao, by a careful study of the Bhagavata records, mentions that Krishna was born "in the Dwaparayuga after the lapse of 863874 years, 4 months and 22 days in the cyclic year Srimukha, on the 8th day of the dark half of the lunar month of Sravana, when the constellation Rohini ruled, at about midnight". Prof. Rao's findings may be considered as correct but, the Chart or Kundali he gives showing Saturn in Aquarius, Jupiter and Mercury in Virgo, the Sun and Venus in Leo, the Moon and Lagna in Taurus, Mars in Scorpio and Rahu in Libra does not fit in with the birth data.

Mr. Cyril Fagan calculate some of these ancient horoscopes, revealed that, by making a thorough astronomical search from 4000 B.C. to 2000 B.C., i.e., for 2,000 years on either side of the traditional date of Kaliyuga, he has been able to find that the position of the Sun, Jupiter and Saturn in Leo, Virgo and Aquarius respectively and Rahu in Libra could occur only in 3251 B.C., in which case, Krishna's birth should have occurred on 4-7-3251 B.C., and His death in February 3125 B.C., i.e., exactly 23 years before the beginning of Kaliyuga. These "justify" to some extent that Kaliyuga began "shortly after Krishna's death." On 4-7-3251 B.C., the positions of all the planets will be as per the Kundali given by Prof. B. S. Rao, but Mercury will be in Leo and Mars in Aries. The term "shortly after" death, used by Prof. B. S. Rao, may mean a couple of days or a couple of months or even a couple of years after Krishna's death.

According to Matsya Purana (vide Adhyaya 271, slokas 51-52) the matter becomes quite clear when it says that the year and day on which Krishna passed away mark the commencement of Kaliyuga.

Yasmin Krishna disam jatastasminneva (hi valsare);
Tadahani pratipannam Kaliyugam pramanam tasyame
srunu

Without straining these authoritative quotations, we may safely assume that on the (traditional) day of Krishna's death, Kaliyuga commenced and that Krishna was born in the 126th year counted backwards from 3102 B.C. It may be assumed that the Kundali given by Prof. Rao was not probably verified as otherwise, he would have taken care to see that there was no inconsistency between the planetary positions and birth details.

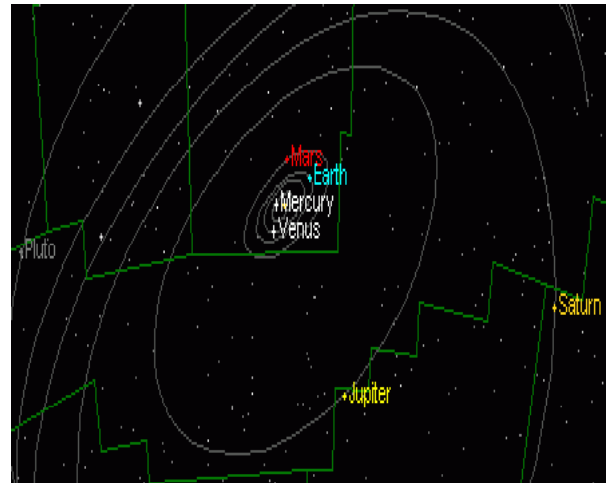
Result And Discussion

On the light of the above mentioned facts let us prepare the horoscope of Lord Sri Krishna; based on planetary positions at that time, Supreme God, incarnation God (Lord) Sri Maha Vishnu. His mission in his life (avathara) was Parithraanaya Sadhunam, vinasayacha dushkrutham, dharma-samsthapanarthaaya smabhavaami yuge, yuge = To protect the virtuous persons, to destroy sinners, evil doers, devils and demons; and to establish dharma (righteousness) in this world (Bhagavad-geetha sloka = Sanskrit verse).

Date of Birth = July—19—3228 (Before Christ); Time Midnight (i.e. 20th July). Sraavana, Krishna paksha Ashtami; Birth Star = Rohini. Place of birth = Mathura (27°25' North; 77°41' East. Ashtamyam, Sraavanamaase, Krishna-pakshe ashtami maha-thithau; Rohinyaam, ardh-rathre, cha sudnmsa udayonmukhe. (from Sri Bhagavatham by Sri Vyasa Maharshi)

Remainder of Moon's main period at the time of birth = 4 yr – 2 ms -24 days. Planetary Positions at the time of birth of Bhagavan Sri Krishna:

Lagna / Ascendant	50° 0'
Sun	139° 48'
Moon	47° 42'
Mars	91° 6'
Mercury	152° 48'
Jupiter	148° 54'
Venus	102° 54'
Saturn	224° 42'
Rahu	106° 24'
Ketu	106° 24'
Ayanamsa	+ 50.40'



Lord Krishna Birth

19th JULY Midnight (20th JULY) 3228 BCE

Mo As		
Ma Ve Ra		Ke
Su Ju Me		Sa

BIRTH CHART

Ke		
Mo As		
Ma		Me
	Ve	Ju
Su		Ra Sa

NAVAMSA CHART

Conclusion

It is impossible for ordinary mortals to evaluate the personality of Krishna — the Lord incarnate, statesman, counsellor, diplomat, philosopher, Yogeeswara, the expounder of the immortal Bhagavadgita, the destroyer of the wicked and the protector of the pious.

Whatever be the opinions of some of the modern scholars, there is no doubt that Krishna was a historical reality. A mere literary creation cannot by any stretch of imagination move millions of human beings and bring solace to countless souls. The clue to His personality can be found in the manner the benefics and malefic are disposed in His horoscope and the spheres of influences involved.

It is revealed that Sri Krishna was a historical reality. The so-called-scholars and modern politicians who argue that Sri Krishna was not epic hero but only fantasy figure must be vehemently opposed. Even photographs taken recently from satellites and sub-marines revealed unequivocally the remains of the city of Dwaraka and its palaces submerged under the Arabian sea on the west coast in Sourashtra region.

To conclude, it should be mentioned here that the discovery of the ruins of the city of Dwaraka by the renowned archaeologist Dr. S. R. Rao, under the Arabian Sea, provides another strong evidence that Lord Krishna and the story of Mahabharata were a reality and not simply poet's fancy.

The meaning of what He did can only progressively reveal itself to the generations that follow Him. The immortal Bhagavad-Gita, preached by the Lord, when Arjuna became uncertain as to his duty, has inspired and influenced the moral and spiritual thought and actions of innumerable persons and offered such persons solutions to their problems according to their own stage in evolution.

Acknowledgement

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