

The Spiritual Scientist

An ezine for those who think!

Is Krishna Mythological?

Question: Is Krishna mythological or historical?

Answer: Krishna is neither mythological nor historical, but transcendental. He is the Supreme Person who lives eternally in his transcendental abode and he descended five thousand years ago to this world to re-establish cosmic order. The activities he performed during his descent can be called historical, though, accurately speaking, they are eternal, manifesting to human vision through history.

That Krishna is historical, not mythological, has been verified by rigorous research conducted over the last several decades in several independent and concurrent sources. Let's consider three such sources:

1. Archaeology: Underwater expeditions of the coast of modern day Dwarka discovered the submerged remains of the ancient Dwarka city as described in the *Mahabharata* and the *Srimad Bhagavatam*. The recovered artifacts like the seals and coins bearing names and insignias connected with Krishna demonstrate that the scriptural descriptions of Krishna are not mythological but historical.



2. Archaeoastronomy: The *Mahabharata* describes many unusual astronomical formations, especially the alignment of the sun, the moon and the six visible planets in one line at the onset of *Kali yuga* five thousand years ago. Today we have astronomical software that, when fed particular coordinates and dates, displays approximations of the sky as our remote ancestors saw it. Using such software, scientists have found that the *Mahabharata's* astronomical formations did indeed occur approximately five thousand years ago, with the unusual planetary alignment taking place in 3102 BC.

3. Literature: Krishna is mentioned not only in the Vedic literature themselves, but also in non-Vedic literature like the Buddhist *Sutrapitaka* and *Lalitavistara*. The Vedic literatures may be charged with trying to "build a Krishna myth", but not these non-Vedic literatures, for they often describe Krishna negatively. But even while trying to discredit Krishna and his teachings, they never deny his historical existence, thus indirectly yet strongly demonstrating his historicity.

Due to several such evidences, most scholars worldwide have now accepted Krishna's historicity. We will quote just two eminent scholars, one Indian and one Western:



"There is now a general consensus of opinion in favor of the historicity of Krishna."

- R. C. Majumdar in **The History and Culture of the Indian People**

"That Krishna himself was a historical figure is indeed quite indubitable."

- Rudolf Otto in **The Original Gita**



In fact, the research not only verifies Krishna's historicity, but also outlines his life's chronology:

3228 BCE Appeared in Mathura and went to Vrindavana

3218 - Moved to Mathura

3200 - Moved to Dwarka

3138 - Spoke *Gita* to *Arjuna*

3102 - Returned to Spiritual World, Kali Yuga began

