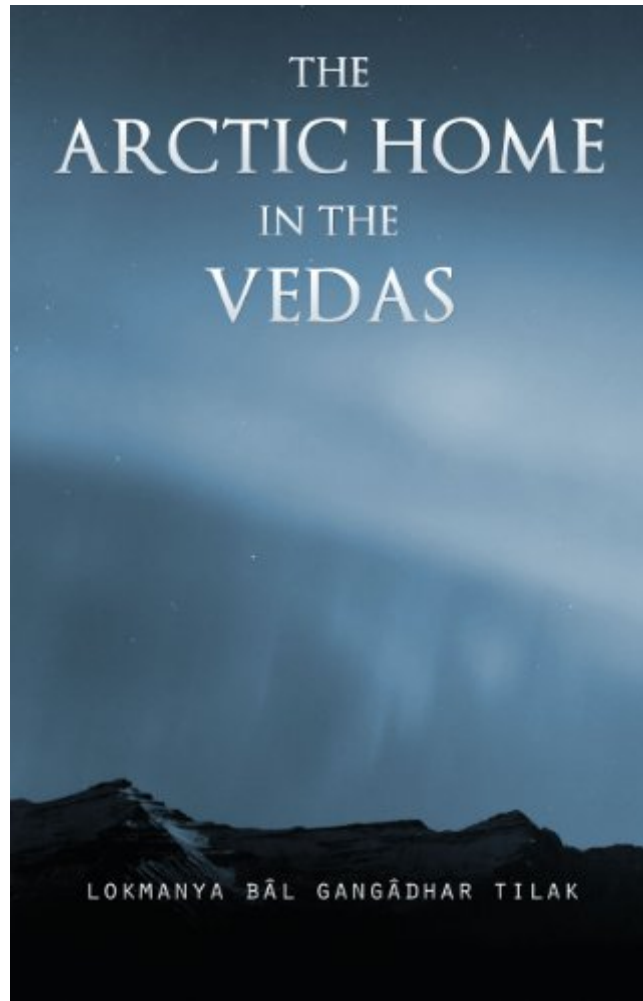




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The Arctic Home In The Vedas



Synopsis

The idea of a lost ancient civilization located at the North Pole at a time when its climate was friendlier to human habitation is suggested in many of the world's oldest myths and sacred scriptures. Drawing upon his vast knowledge of the Hindu Vedas and the Zoroastrian Avesta, Tilak makes a painstakingly detailed analysis of the texts and compares them with the geological, astronomical and archaeological evidence to show the plausibility of the Arctic having been the primordial cradle of the Aryan race before changing conditions forced the Aryans southward into present-day Europe, Iran and India. Although this theory has never gained widespread acceptance among mainstream scholars since it was first published in 1903, Tilak has made a compelling case which is not easily refuted. Bal Gangadhar Tilak (1856-1920), who was given the honorary title Lokmanya ("chosen leader of the people"), was one of the fathers of India's independence movement in opposition to British colonial rule. He was imprisoned several times for his vocal advocacy of violent revolt against the colonial authorities on the basis of Vedic scripture. His time in prison gave him time to work on his more scholarly projects, such as the present book. Although he did not live to see the ultimate victory of the movement he had helped to establish, he is widely acknowledged as having been one of the main driving forces behind it due to his influence on Gandhi and the other leaders who saw his mission through to its end in 1947.

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Customer Reviews

Bal Gangadhar Tilak is the Benjamin Franklin of India. He was an early advocate of Indian independence from Great Britain as well as a journalist, teacher, and scholar. In this work, Talak takes the Vedic Hymns and seeks to determine where the Indo-Europeans originated. His determination-somewhere north of the Arctic Circle. He makes his case by examining the hymns and applying what they say to known astrological data, historical climates, and past geologic conditions. It's a compelling case, especially when he compares Hindu myths to how the sky and stars appear in the far north. The book is dense with facts. In addition to the above, Tilak compares the mythologies of other Indo-European people to make his case along with some references to the Hebrew Old-Testament. A mind expanding book at a minimum.

Undoubtedly, this book is very innovative. Written well beyond its perceived time - portions of the book seem futuristic. Bal Gangadhar Tilak's approach is innovative and quite non-traditional. Tilak definitely was thinking differently from his kinsmen when he wrote the book. Though his theory is not exactly accepted, but it definitely leaves room for thought. The text in the Vedas is not easily understood - pre-dated Sanskrit was Dev-Bhasa "spoken differently with fewer complexities than its morph in latter periods like the Axial times and the rest of CE. There is much that needs to be explored around the Vedas "beyond the dogmas into what may have prevailed at the time they were written. This book is perfect for those looking to seek answers without being bogged down by ritualism, dogmas and blind faith.

I'm a little over 100 pages in, and the author's already got me pretty much convinced. He presents a pretty tireless array of verses supporting his thesis, most of which are rendered with little to no meaning above an almost pointless poetic esotericism without his arctic interpretation in mind. I'm very impressed at just the sheer quantity of evidence he is able to point to in order to support his case. I would have given it 5 stars just for the amount of valuable information I'm getting, but there are minor issues with the printing: (I got the Arktos 2011 Edition) There are frequent typos, spaces or periods that don't belong, etc (neither of which impede the understandability of the text; not a big deal, but noticeable), AND, more frustratingly, the author makes references in the first couple chapters to different graphs and figures he drew out to illustrate his explanation of certain

phenomenon related to precession which are not replicated in the text. Fortunately, I had read about these phenomenon before, and so was able to follow, with a bit of difficulty, and pick up the gist. Also fortunately, only a few pages each were devoted to talking about these non-replicated figures; it wasn't too big of a deal either. I'm glad I bought it, but, all the same, think the book's overall published quality could have benefited from a better editing process.

Mind blowing that history experience has been so narrowly awakened until I read Tilak's possibility (probability) that our cultures have evolved in a completely different scenario than usually portrayed

Interesting view.

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